

Talking Points for Department Heads and Elected Officials

Purpose: These talking points can help Mobility Advocates, department heads, elected officials, and other leadership provide a high-level overview of why their city or county should take on the work to develop a Mobility Action Plan that proposes strategic actions to boost upward mobility from poverty. These points can be adapted as needed.

What Is a Mobility Action Plan?

- A Mobility Action Plan (MAP) is a document that details the strategic actions we will take to boost upward mobility and promote racial equity in our community. It is developed through a Mobility Action Planning process that our government will undertake with cross-sector partners and community members.
- We will use a set of evidence-based, community-level Mobility Metrics developed by the Urban Institute, in combination with other local data and community and stakeholder engagement, to draft a MAP for our community. The MAP will propose new evidence-based strategies to achieve our community's goals.

Why Should We Take on This Work?

- Now is the time to tackle inequities in our community that result from longstanding structural racism, discrimination, and disinvestment. Addressing these inequities will boost the economic competitiveness and prosperity of everyone in our community.
- Our government and many other governments across the country have contributed to inequities by developing racist and discriminatory policies and failing to rectify the disparities that these policies have created.
- These inequities disproportionately impact [people of color, people with low wages, immigrants, youth, people with mental and physical disabilities, people who are justice-involved, the elderly, and people living in rural communities] in our community. When inequities exist in our community, everyone suffers, and our economy is not as strong as it can be.
- With a comprehensive approach that changes the way we and our partners work, we can boost mobility from poverty and reduce racial disparities. Government cannot do this alone—we need everyone in our community to work together.
- Our leaders have the right tools and teams in place to provide resources that promote upward mobility from poverty.

How Do We Do This Work?

- We will undertake an [insert length of time] Mobility Action Planning process, where we will develop partnerships with cross-sector actors across policy domains, conduct deep and meaningful community engagement, access and use data to inform our decisions, and continuously learn and improve from our challenges and successes.

- Boosting mobility from poverty is a pressing need in our community that demands action now. Although we will work with urgency to tackle challenges in our community, boosting mobility from poverty for everyone will likely take years. We commit to doing this work as long as it takes to improve prosperity, health, belonging, and quality of life for everyone.

Who Does This Work?

- We will develop a coalition of committed regional actors, including other local governments, anchor institutions [like the local hospital and university], nonprofits and community-based organizations, research organizations, philanthropic partners [like the local community foundation], members of the private sector, and advocacy groups.
- Collaborating with these key partners will grant us greater access to
 - a diverse group of community members who can help us learn about what's working and what's not,
 - better data that can provide a more complete picture of conditions in our community,
 - more resources and capacity for boosting mobility from poverty, and
 - the levers we need to make lasting systems change.