



Agenda for California: **An African-American Perspective** 2019





June 1, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

As early supporters and “All-in California” ambassadors focused on ideas that will improve the greater good of this state – specifically the lives within the unique and diverse pockets of the Black community – we appreciate your commitment to be a champion for those who have been left out of the California “Dream for All”. It is this ethos that presided over our convenings with more than 50 Black leaders, and several follow-up meetings with key industry experts, to develop this document: **“Agenda for California: An African-American Perspective”**.

Our goal with this document is to help guide your Administration’s efforts for Black California by putting forth an agenda that provides policy priorities that are achievable, scalable, and evidence-based. Animating the California “Dream for All” will take innovation, imagination, and political will. In essence, we are providing a foundation from which you can build. As such, the essential policy areas that we believe represent a high return on investment for this demographic are: Healthcare, Ending Child Poverty, Early Childhood Education, Fighting Homelessness, Redevelopment and Economic Development, Census and Redistricting, and Justice Reform. Several proposals are identified as particularly promising because of their potential impact across sectors.

California has the fifth largest Black population in the United States, with an estimated 2,571,208 people who identify as Black. Last year, California’s economy became the fifth largest economy in the world, surpassing the United Kingdom. Yet, at the same time of this state’s unprecedented economic expansion, California has the highest rate of poverty in the nation and more than one fifth of this poverty is borne by Black Californians. In the moral crisis that is homelessness, Black Californians make up nearly 7% of the state’s general population yet are nearly 30% of the homeless population. Californians are struggling to get by. And Black Californians, facing a host of upstream factors, have a particularly distinct struggle.

At your inaugural address, you noted “California has always helped write

America's future. And we know the decisions we make, would be important at any time. But what we do today is even more consequential. [T]he country is watching us. The world is waiting on us. The future depends on us. And we will seize this moment." We are putting forth an agenda that reckons with the complex risk factors that originate in racism, sexism, poverty, and geographic inequalities; it empowers Black Californians to seize this moment.

We invite you and your team to review its recommendations, and use it as a resource to inform your Administration's efforts to target policy for Black Californian's in this state's plans for the "Dream for All".

Together, this is our opportunity, the future depends on us. And we will seize this moment.

With hope,

Mark Ridley-Thomas

Hon. Mark Ridley-Thomas
Ambassador, All-in California

Laphonxa Butler

Laphonza Butler
Ambassador, All-in California

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Agenda for California: An African-American Perspective

2019

I. INTRODUCTION

Despite California's longstanding reputation as a diverse state, significant racial disparities persist in healthcare, intergenerational poverty, housing, and employment opportunities. The *Agenda for California: An African-American Perspective* provides policy priorities that are viable, scalable, and evidence-based. Together they can help raise California to equitable levels of access to the California Dream.

California has the fifth largest Black population in the United States with an estimated 2.6 million people who identify as Black.¹ This agenda acknowledges the complex connections between structural risk factors that originate in racism, sexism, poverty, and geographic inequalities. Recognizing the power of institutional disinvestment and the need for bold action helps to identify and address the connections between child poverty, limited educational success, and access to healthcare, housing, and safe neighborhoods.

The *Agenda for California: An African-American Perspective* outlines both broad policy approaches and concrete proposals for seven policy areas:

1. Healthcare;
2. Ending Childhood Poverty;
3. Early Childhood Education;
4. Fighting Homelessness;
5. Redevelopment and Economic Development;
6. Census & Redistricting; and
7. Justice Reform.

The policy recommendations discussed here are grounded in evidence and recommended by experts in each of the respective policy areas. Recommendations can be sorted into three general categories:

¹ Campaign for College Education Opportunity (2019) State of Higher Education for Black Californians Report. <https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:0fb74d02-8720-497e-aa3c-9abb5dd3a42a> last accessed May 3, 2019.

- A. Diagnostic recommendations address either data limitations or assess needs. They require a short-term investment to bring additional responsibilities online but will ultimately produce more effective long-term solutions.
- B. Services-related recommendations address a non-economic need that can amplify outcomes. Economic security recommendations support long-term financial security for vulnerable populations.
- C. Economic security recommendations support long-term financial security for vulnerable populations.

Please see Section IV for a chart of recommendations that can be actualized in multiple policy areas.

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Healthcare

Ongoing racial disparities in health outcomes signify the challenge of living in a populous and high-cost state. African-Americans have the highest rates of heart disease, stroke and diabetes. In the area of maternal health, African-American women are 3-4 times more likely to die from pregnancy complications. They also report a lack of culturally competent prenatal and perinatal care from providers.² Improving access to quality healthcare requires additional providers and expanded eligibility.

The evidence-based healthcare recommendations within the Agenda are comprised of five areas that will benefit all Californians, including a critical mass of African-Americans:

- Collect data and report on health status and access by race and ethnicity
- Expand the number of people of color in the healthcare workforce
- Increase Medi-Cal funding and reimbursement to improve participation, access, and quality
- Expand and integrate behavioral healthcare with physical healthcare
- Increase coverage and affordability

Ending Childhood Poverty

Strategic disruption of intergenerational poverty for a quarter million Black children living in severe poverty requires an approach that

² Co-Creating an Oasis: A New Context for Care of African-American Mothers. Accessed April 11, 2019.

empowers parents to provide for their children financially. Two primary causes of parents' economic insecurity are the lack of secure employment³ and the cost of quality childcare. *47% of Black children in California have parents without secure employment.*⁴ Lack of childcare is also a primary reason for limited job prospects. Despite having the smallest race-gender pay equity gap in the country, California's annual pay disparity for Black mothers translates into approximately three years of additional childcare costs (35 months),⁵ which they would be able to afford in an equitable world. Ending child poverty requires attention to ensuring that families in deep poverty have access to resources that facilitate an ascent out of severe poverty. We highlight here three policy areas that expand options for parents to support themselves and their children's needs:

- Ensure Black Parents' Financial Stability and Upward Mobility
- Increase Access to Quality Childcare and Early Childhood Education
- Limit the Impact of Childhood Trauma from the Criminal Justice System

Early Childhood Education

Any journey begins with the first step, and early childhood education is the first step towards improving educational attainment for children. *Replicating local successes throughout the state and empowering parents* are two cost-efficient approaches to improving educational outcomes among African-American children.

The number of young Black children who are not enrolled in early childhood education has grown slightly over the past four years to 52% of Black children 0 to 4 years of age.⁶ Reversing this trend is essential to academic achievement for African-American children across the state who face chronic absenteeism and suspension issues.

The Agenda lists three policy areas that contains low-investment, high-return recommendations:

³ For purposes of this report, secure employment is defined as working 35 or more hours per week for 50 out of 52 weeks.

⁴ Data Source: Kids Count Data Center. Unless otherwise noted, cited data is from the year 2017 and based on U.S. Census Data. Accessed April 11, 2019.

⁵ Data obtained from the *National Partnership for Women and Families*. Last Accessed February 18, 2019.

⁶ Data Source: Kids Count Data Center. Unless otherwise noted, cited data is from the year 2017 and based on U.S. Census Data. Accessed April 11, 2019.

- Promote early access to early childhood education facilities and resources
- Engage families
- Engage communities

Fighting Homelessness

African-Americans' need for stable housing plays a critical role in our efforts to improve early childhood education, end childhood poverty, and increase access to healthcare.⁷ Two approaches can move the needle on both the likelihood of Black residents exiting homelessness and improving access to permanent housing: *collection and analysis of data with particular attention to racial disparities in homelessness and persistent homelessness*; and *effective use of data and enforcement to root out fair housing law violations and illegal evictions*.

Over the past five years, 54% of rental housing construction in Los Angeles has targeted high-end renters. Meanwhile, rents for lower-priced neighborhoods like South Los Angeles *have increased more than 40%* during the same time period, affecting many long-term African-American renters.

Based on this reality we suggest interrelated recommendations that fall into four categories:

- Expand affordable housing
- Increase tenant protections
- Promote culturally-sensitive delivery of homeless and supportive services
- Provide incentives for local jurisdictions to collect and systematically analyze data

Redevelopment and Economic Development

Existing market supply and developer interest are insufficient remedies to the challenges African-Americans face within California's housing crisis where fighting blight and preventing gentrification remain daily concerns. To reinvent redevelopment, we must address a key unintended consequence of the California Redevelopment Act's demise, which also had the benefit of promoting economic stability among families and addressing California's

⁷ Homeless students' chronic absenteeism and graduation rates are significantly below other groups, and African-American students are in the same "orange" classification according to the *California School Dashboard* for 2018.

housing crisis. Hundreds of publicly-owned sites that currently lay fallow can be leveraged in cooperation with municipalities to address the housing needs of working families and communities of color. These communities have been disproportionately affected by the housing crisis. Swift and substantive intervention can keep Black Californians from sliding further into homelessness.

To address this key unintended consequence with cross-cutting impact, the Agenda proposes three concrete strategies:

- Establish a state land repurposing commission to identify underutilized properties suitable for affordable housing and developments
- Set aside an allocation of state resources for local revitalization tools
- Implement new legislation strategies

Census & Redistricting

National controversy regarding the 2020 Census, including the failed addition of a citizenship question, highlights the challenge of a fair count for populations at risk of underrepresentation. This is particularly challenging for African Americans who have been historically undercounted in decennial censuses. Black communities are changing demographically and politically. However, outreach strategies are not keeping pace.

The Agenda outlines three broad recommendations to ensure a fair count in the state of California:

- Evaluate and improve statewide census outreach strategies
- Integrate Black voices in the Census discussion
- Build a non-traditional inclusive, innovative redistricting process that actively partners with public and private sectors

Justice Reform

Over the last three decades, California's incarceration rate has rapidly and consistently increased, exacerbating African American disadvantage. While African Americans comprise only 6% of the state's population, they account for 16% of all arrests and 29% of the state prison population. Mass incarceration destabilizes families and disempowers communities. Currently, an estimated 503,000 children in California have a parent or family member that is incarcerated. A disproportionate share of

these children is African American. These children are a greater risk of experiencing homelessness and are vulnerable to a host of adverse mental and behavioral health issues at rates much higher than their peers.

To reduce our state's reliance on incarceration and promote the well-being of children, the Agenda outlines four policy areas:

- Reform pretrial procedures
- Adopt alternatives to incarceration
- Eliminate barriers for successful reentry
- End arrests on school campuses

III. POLICY BRIEFS

HEALTHCARE

"Health cannot be a question of income; it is a fundamental human right."
— Nelson Mandela

I. Health Equity for Communities of Color

While California has made great progress in expanding insurance coverage and access to healthcare for residents, communities of color still face significant obstacles in access to quality healthcare. African-Americans have the highest rates of heart disease, stroke and diabetes. Limited access to quality care is a notable ingredient of ongoing health disparities.

For instance, in South Los Angeles, the physician gap, including both primary care and specialty care, is 1,200. Thirty-three percent of community residents report difficulty in accessing medical care. This gap helps to explain why Black children experiencing poverty are less likely to receive adequate treatment for vision, hearing, dental care and other health conditions that often compromise physical and cognitive development. These children are also twice as likely to experience developmental delays as their higher income peers and are significantly more likely to be in poor health.

II. Recommendations for an Equitable System

To lead the nation in creating a health system that is equitable for our

communities of color, three overarching principles must guide the introduction of forward-looking policy. First, the state must focus on decreasing disparities by ensuring a full continuum of care for Black Californians, incrementally expand insurance coverage, and lastly, increase the affordability of health insurance for low-and middle-income residents. Taken together, the following recommendations are guided by the aforementioned principles and are consistent with the Governor Newsom's recently stated positions on healthcare reform.

1. Collect data and report on health status and access by race and ethnicity

- Require California's Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) and the Department of Public Health to publish health disparities reports.
- Require health professions schools to report on diversity of student enrollment.

2. Expand the number of people of color in the healthcare workforce

- Appoint an OSHPD director charged with diversifying the state's health professions. Increase participation and the size of awards in existing loan-repayment systems.
- Increase state funding for graduate medical education in underserved communities.
- Create a California Health Service Corps with scholarship funding for health professions' students.

3. Increase Medi-Cal funding and reimbursement to improve participation, access, and quality

- Appoint a director of the Department of Health Care Services charged with reforming the Medi-Cal program.
- Convene a Medi-Cal reform commission (to include public and private safety net hospitals) charged with making recommendations for how to move toward greater parity with other insurance programs.
- Consider making Medicare reimbursement levels the benchmark for Medi-Cal.

4. Expand and integrate behavioral healthcare with physical healthcare

- Increase developmental screenings and follow-up for children

0-5 years of age, starting with children in foster care, public housing, WIC programs, MLK Community Hospital, Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) Head Start and Early Head Start agencies working in conjunction with LA County Health Services and the LA County Department of Children and Family Services.

- Increase outreach and awareness of text-based reminders for doctors' appointments and integrate this system across departments and school districts.
- Provide parenting support for teenage foster mothers with appropriate parenting programs focused on helping parents heal from their own trauma.
- Ensure developmental screenings and follow-up for every child 0-5 years of age in the child welfare system.
- Integrate the funding and delivery of behavioral and physical healthcare in the Medi-Cal program; promote co-location of services.
- Allow mental health and substance abuse systems to participate in health information exchanges, preserving appropriate privacy of data while improving communications among providers.
- Expand capacity to treat mental health and substance abuse disorders, including training more behavioral healthcare professionals and promoting telemedicine models.

5. Increase Coverage and Affordability

- Gradually expand eligibility for Medi-Cal and Covered California to include undocumented immigrants.
- Add public insurance options alongside private options.
- Expand public subsidies for individuals purchasing insurance through the state insurance exchange.
- Lay the groundwork for transitioning California toward a single payer system.

Rationale:

In South Los Angeles, the prevalence of diabetes is 92 percent higher than the rest of California; the mortality rate is nearly double that of the nation. A study by the UCLA Center for Health Advancement projects that by 2040 the incidence of diabetes among African-Americans will increase by 180 percent. Throughout California, African-Americans with diabetes are twice as likely as members of other ethnicities to undergo a diabetic amputation.

Limited access to quality care is a notable ingredient of ongoing health disparities. This is clear in the area of maternal health for African-American women. Their rate of low birth weight is 68%

African-American women are 3 to 4 times more likely to die of complications from pregnancy than non-Hispanic white women.

higher than other demographic groups. Black women themselves report a lack of culturally competent prenatal and perinatal care and high levels of chaos and disorganization from providers.⁸

These findings suggest that improvement is needed in preventive, primary, and specialty care. California ranks 48th among the 50 states in Medicaid rate reimbursement. Low Medicaid reimbursement rates prevent the buildout of a sustainable continuum of care—inability to cover costs prevents both physicians and mental health practitioners from providing medically necessary services. Non-Safety Net Hospitals consistently refuse to accept higher level of care transfers. According to the California Hospital Association in 2013, Medi-Cal had approximately 69 physicians available per 100,000 beneficiaries, below Council of Graduate Medical Education minimum standards. By 2015, that number had dropped by nearly half, to 39 physicians per 100,000 beneficiaries. Providing coverage to Californians means little if no providers are willing to accept it.

Only half of adults with a behavioral health condition receive needed treatment. Sixty-eight percent of people with a behavioral health condition have a medical condition—a fact that points both to the difficulty in managing medical conditions and to the likelihood of increased utilization and costs. Patients with behavioral health conditions have healthcare costs 2-3 times those without these conditions. The fragmentation of behavioral health from physical health makes services difficult for patients to access. Limited reimbursement and a shortage of providers, related to the fact that Medi-Cal is the largest payer of behavioral health services in California, further restricts access.

From a health outcomes perspective, expansion and integration of behavioral and physical health services are prudent courses of action. Coupled with health disparities data along with the expansion of options

and subsidies for insurance, and attention to issues of access and quality care, the cascading dividend would be abundant. For instance, fewer children from poor Black families experiencing health challenges will result in fewer children chronically absent from schools and fewer children showing up to kindergarten with undiagnosed delays.

ENDING CHILD POVERTY

“The question is not whether we can afford to invest in every child; it is whether we can afford not to.”

– Marian Wright Edelman

I. California’s Child Poverty Crisis

Child poverty is a fiscal and moral crisis that challenges the values, ideals, and ethos of our nation and state. According to the California Poverty Measure (CPM) 2016 estimates, nearly 20% of all California’s children live in poverty, with close to five percent living in deep poverty.⁹ Child poverty is most pronounced among communities of color. Almost one-third of Black (28 percent) and Latino children (31 percent) in California live in poverty compared to 18% of Asian and 12% of white children.¹⁰

28% of Black children in California live in poverty.

Notwithstanding the deep racial and ethnic disparities in annual child poverty rates, these figures are still an understatement of the economic challenges experienced by Black children on a national scale. Longitudinal studies that follow children from birth through age 17 show that Black children fare much worse than any other demographic. Black children are significantly more likely to live persistently in poverty before the age of 18.¹¹ Almost 80% of Black children live in poverty for at least one year during childhood, compared to 30% of white children.

II. Recommendations to Alleviate Child Poverty

Alleviating child poverty in the state of California must not only include

8 First5LA and Social Quest (July 2018), “Co-Creating an Oasis: A New Context for Care of African American Mothers.” Retrieved from https://www.first5la.org/uploads/files/african-american-birth-outcomes-research-deck-updated-2319-1_116.pdf

9 Christopher Wimer, Marybeth Mattingly, Sara Kimberlin, Jonathan Fisher, Caroline Danielson, and Sarah Bohn. (July 2018), “2.1 Million Californians Live in Deep Poverty,” Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality.

10 Anderson, Alissa (July 2018). “California’s Persistently High Child Poverty Rate is Even Higher for Children of Color,” California Budget and Policy Center.

11 Ratcliffe, Caroline (2015), “Child Poverty and Adult Success,” Urban Institute.

positioning families to receive more income but also address racial and ethnic disparities in the communities where Black children live. This includes the enactment of policies that improve education, broaden access to healthcare, offer workforce development opportunities, enhance restorative justice, increase access to nutritious food supply, and strengthen families. These policies are critical to lifting children and families of color out of poverty. The following recommendations will assist in the alleviation of child poverty:

- 1. Ensure Black Parents' Financial Stability and Upward Mobility**
 - Fund supportive services for low-income workforce and education program participants.
 - Prioritize parents living in poverty for workforce and training programs.
 - Establish a targeted child tax credit (TCTC) for families in deep poverty (distributed monthly).
- 2. Increase Access to Quality Childcare and Early Childhood Education**
 - Guarantee access to childcare for low-income families by adding 30,000 slots in 2019-20 and an additional 15,000 slots per year thereafter.
 - Expand the Childcare Bridge Program to meet the needs of children in foster care.
- 3. Limit the Impact of Trauma from the Criminal Justice System**
 - Encourage all local governments to waive outstanding juvenile court fees and fines.
 - Examine strategies and opportunities to increase contact visiting between children and their parents at local jails that give children the opportunity to touch and hug their parents.

Rationale:

California's child poverty crisis has significant long-term implications on the success of Black families and children. Persistent exposure to poverty prevents Black families from accessing educational opportunity and limits their mobility up the economic ladder. Moreover, children who spend more than half of their childhood in poverty fall further behind. Current research shows that only three percent of people who are persistently

poor as children complete college by age 25 and only 35 percent are consistently employed before age 30.¹² The poverty disadvantage erodes one's access to opportunity throughout a lifetime. The strategies proposed in the *California Lifting Children and Families out of Poverty Task Force Report*¹³ is a tremendous first step that supports opportunities to have a larger impact on communities with challenges that often contribute to family poverty. However, ending child poverty will require a comprehensive, multi-pronged approach with the potential for direct and indirect impacts on families caught in multiple public systems, giving them a chance to flourish.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

"Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom."

— George Washington Carver

I. The Need for Early Care and Education

Bolstering funding for Early Care and Education (ECE) represents a smart investment that offers substantial returns for improving educational outcomes and reducing socioeconomic disparities in California. High-quality ECE can lift children and families out of poverty and help close the achievement gap by increasing school readiness, reducing special education placement, and boosting high school graduation rates.¹⁴

Despite these benefits, communities of color continue to lack access to quality early childhood opportunities. Children of color make up more than 70 percent of all children under age five but comprise close to 90 percent of children eligible for subsidized care.¹⁵ This is most pronounced for Black children in California who could benefit the most from expansions to ECE resources.¹⁶ More than half of all eligible Black children under the age of five are not enrolled in state-subsidized childcare and development programs.

Half of all Black children under the age of 5 are not enrolled in preschool.

12 Ibid, 2015

13 California Lifting Children and Families out of Poverty Task Force Report, November 2018, 11-13.

14 Reardon, Sean, Christopher Doss, Josh Gagne, Rebecca Gleit, Angela Johnson, and Victoria Sosina, (2018), "A Portrait of Educational Outcomes in California," Stanford University.

15 California Assembly Blue Ribbon Commission on Early Childhood Education: Final Report (2019).

16 California Budget & Policy Center analysis of data from the California Department of Education, Department of Finance, Department of Social Services, and US Census Bureau, and 2017 American Community Survey.

II. Recommendations to Improve ECE Access

Current research supports two important policy approaches that affect African-American children's chances for academic and life success: 1) access to quality early childhood education; and 2) parents who are healthy and economically stable. Recognizing that our schools cannot tackle this issue alone, we propose to establish a broad early childhood development coalition comprised of public, private and community leaders with the stature and position to address school readiness, attendance, summer learning and reading proficiency through a countywide, coordinated impact approach. These recommendations are designed to ensure that more Black children arrive for kindergarten ready to learn. To accomplish this, policy recommendations proposed focus on the whole family. Working with parents and the communities in which they live ensure that Black children access the ECE supports they need to thrive in kindergarten and beyond.

The following policy recommendations can be categorized into one of three areas:

1. Promote early access to ECE facilities and resources

There are several opportunities to promote access to ECE facilities and resources during pregnancy and ages 0-5:

- Expand home visiting for children in foster care with an emphasis on supporting foster and birth families.
- Develop a "Talk, Read and Sing" campaign at hospitals and Early Head Start agencies.
- Increase availability of high-quality learning resources in all public libraries, recreation centers and childcare centers.
- Collaborate, develop and implement Kindergarten/School Readiness Assessments in conjunction with CA HHS Dept. of Early Childhood Development.

2. Engage Families

Improving outcomes for the greatest number of children requires an investment in strategies that strengthen families. Two strategies can effectively engage families:

- Increase awareness of proven and promising programs that support parents in being their children's first teacher and brain builder and increase family engagement.

- Develop and launch a public awareness campaign directed at parents to help them understand the importance of daily attendance and how absences add up and impact overall educational advancement in association.

3. Engage Communities

Children and families thrive in safe, healthy, and engaged neighborhoods and communities. The following two strategies can help build community capacity to ensure children enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school.

- Engage every mayor in the state to develop a citywide summer learning initiative modeled after community programs already reaping benefits in several cities throughout California.
- Promote enriching summer programming through libraries, museums, parks, recreation centers, health departments, and arts commissions and other departments.

Rationale:

California is home to 467,747 Black children under the age of 18; almost 30 percent of those children are between the ages of 0 to 4. However, half of all Black children under the age of five are not enrolled in preschool.¹⁷ This has significant implications in widening the academic achievement gap. Current research finds that racial disparities in academic achievement are evident long before children enter school.¹⁸ This suggests that access to high-quality early childhood experiences before kindergarten can help mitigate educational achievement gaps before they begin to form.

This effort will require the essential assurances of Quality Teaching in every setting, Seamless Systems of Care, services and family supports for young children, and Community Solutions to barriers faced by the children least likely to succeed. This will require bold investments of time, talent and dollars from key state and county stakeholders, champions, philanthropic partners as well as strong proof points and metrics that will help guide our work to move the needle towards school readiness and grade level reading proficiency by third grade.

¹⁷ Kids Count Data Center. Data is from the year 2017 and based on U.S. Census Data. Accessed April 11, 2019.

¹⁸ Reardon, Sean, Christopher Doss, Josh Gagne, Rebecca Gleit, Angela Johnson, and Victoria Sosina, (2018), "A Portrait of Educational Outcomes in California," Stanford University.

FIGHTING HOMELESSNESS

“Involuntary poverty is a form of violence. And chronic homelessness is the most extreme manifestation of involuntary and absolute poverty.”

— Mark Ridley-Thomas

I. California’s Affordable Housing and Homelessness Crises

Last year, California’s economy became the fifth largest in the world, surpassing the United Kingdom. At the same time California’s poverty rate was the highest in the nation, with 19% or almost seven million Californians struggling to get by. This is a paradox that is present throughout California’s 58 counties and 482 municipalities. The Golden State has an estimated nightly homeless count of 130,000 people, which accounts for one-quarter of the nation’s homeless population, and of which more than two-thirds were unsheltered, living on the streets and in vehicles. In 2018, the annual Point-in-Time Count revealed that African-Americans made up 9% of the general population and 40% of the homeless population in Los Angeles County.

Unsheltered Californians are merely the visible edge of a deeper affordable housing cliff. The homeless crisis is occurring against the backdrop of a fast escalating affordable housing crisis. According to the California Housing Partnership’s 2019 Housing Need Report, California has a deficit of 1.4 million affordable rental homes. The situation in Los Angeles County is no less dire, with a shortfall of almost 516,946 affordable rental units.

II. Recommendations to Reduce the Disparity of Black Homelessness

The recent formation of a Task Force on Housing and Homelessness co-chaired by Mayor Steinberg of Sacramento and Supervisor Ridley-Thomas of Los Angeles County, will examine sound models throughout the state with an eye towards multiplying and replicating good practices, is a powerful recent statewide development.

Black residents make up 9% of Los Angeles County’s general population, but they comprise 40% of the homeless population, a rate 6 times higher than the White or Latino population.

However, to scale up our resources to strengthen the crisis response system and bolster the social safety net, including the availability of

affordable housing, statewide policy must be attentive to structural causes of these disparities. Accordingly, homelessness can be understood in many ways to represent a final common pathway for those vulnerable individuals most buffeted and challenged by persistent inequities, not only in housing, but in other inextricably connected arenas such as employment, education, and contact with the criminal justice system.

The following recommendations will assist in addressing the collective failings of systems and institutions that contributed to these disparities:

1. Expand Affordable Housing

- Set a five-year goal to sufficiently meet the need for extremely-low income and very-low income housing units in each local jurisdiction’s Housing Element.
- Streamline zoning and temporarily waive CEQA permitting for the five-year period until goals are achieved in each jurisdiction.
- Scale up and identify funding for low and middle income homeowners to build Accessory Dwelling Units in their backyards.

2. Increase Tenant Protections

- Support the package of bills providing protections for tenants, including County-sponsored “source of income non-discrimination” bill, anti-rent gouging and legal defense (right to counsel).

3. Promote culturally-sensitive delivery of homeless and supportive services

- Identify and expand access points, including multi-disciplinary street outreach teams, drop-in centers, libraries, crisis housing, faith communities, mobile showers and barber shops, where Black people who are at risk of homelessness or homeless can safely and effectively connect to services and housing.
- Provide avenues for Black people involved in the criminal justice system, child welfare and other public systems, to access alternative housing to help them avoid homelessness.
- Develop culturally-tailored opportunities for small business, entrepreneurship and other employment opportunities, subsidized and unsubsidized.

4. Provide incentives for local jurisdictions to collect and systematically analyze data for previously undetected disparate

impacts on Black populations across the housing spectrum, including risk factors for homelessness, persistent homelessness, evictions and displacement, at the neighborhood level of analysis.

Rationale:

California is home to one-quarter of the nation's homeless people. Within California, Los Angeles County is the epicenter of the homeless crisis, accounting for 40% of the state's homeless population. Los Angeles County drives California's numbers, and California drives the nation's numbers. Answers to the homeless question in California will have ripple effects throughout the country. As noted earlier, Black people are over-represented in the homeless population, making up over a third of Los Angeles County's homeless residents. Creating solutions and avenues to help Black people exit homelessness will provide opportunities and mechanisms to solve homelessness for other populations.

REDEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

"Without capital, inequality is locked in." – Darrick Hamilton

I. Community Revitalization Tools for the 21st Century

For more than 60 years, redevelopment was the primary tool available for addressing disinvestment and physical blight in local communities throughout California. Redevelopment agencies relied on property tax increment to pay for affordable housing and economic development project. Agencies were also authorized to assemble property using eminent domain to facilitate the implementation of redevelopment projects. Redevelopment agencies leveraged outside funds and partnered with neighborhood-based non-profit organizations to create jobs, affordable housing, and commercial or industrial projects designed to address the needs of the community.

Given its mandate to focus on physical blight and economic decline, many of the communities designated for redevelopment were low-income communities of color. For example, in Los Angeles, 87% of residents

The elimination of redevelopment coincided with a massive increase in the housing affordability gap and a dramatic increase in homelessness throughout the State.

in redevelopment project areas were people of color compared with 58% of the population in non-project areas. The poverty rate in Los Angeles redevelopment project areas was also higher than the rest of the city, 26.1% compared to 14.2% respectively.¹⁹ Of the 24 active Los Angeles redevelopment project areas in 2012 when redevelopment was dissolved, 37% focused on African-American communities.²⁰ The loss of redevelopment funds has had a profound impact on the African-American community, which is facing unprecedented levels of homelessness and access to affordable housing and well-paying jobs. California is the least affordable market in the nation for African-American renters and potential home buyers. African-Americans have the lowest home ownership rate in the State at 33% compared to 62% for the whites.

African-Americans are also disadvantaged when it comes to securing high-paying employment opportunities that supports homeownership and a middle class life style. Although the country is currently experiencing the second longest economic expansion since the Great Depression, California unemployment rates for African-Americans is at 6.0%, nearly double the rate for Caucasians at 3.3% (2018Q4).²¹ The historically higher unemployment rate for African-Americans is a stark contrast for a state with the fifth largest economy in the world. As California continues to deliberate on legislative initiatives to enhance local revitalization tools, the following recommendations acknowledges that investing in local communities will support increased affordable housing production and job creation.

II. Recommendations for Redevelopment and Economic Development

1. Establish a state land repurposing commission to identify underutilized properties suitable for affordable housing and development.

- Work with state agencies, county and city governments, school districts, redevelopment successor agencies, special districts and authorities to support affordable housing and developments that generate family-supporting jobs, and develop an action plan to effectuate the redevelopment of the underutilized properties identified by the land commission.

¹⁹ "Reconsidering Redevelopment: A Closer Look at Neighborhood-Based Economic Development in Los Angeles", Public Council Law Center, et.al., 2012

²⁰ CRA/LA.org

²¹ "Black unemployment is at least twice as high as white unemployment at the national level and in 14 states and the District of Columbia", Economic Policy Institute, Valerie Wilson, April 4, 2019.

2. Set aside an allocation of state resources for local revitalization tools

- Include tools such as Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts (EIFD) and Community Revitalization and Investment Authorities (CRIA) to expand the capacity at the local level to produce affordable housing and to build the infrastructure that will attract the industries of tomorrow.

3. Implement new legislative strategies

- Require that legislation to improve local revitalization tools include provisions that not less than 30% of tax increment revenues be used for the production of affordable housing, and that not less than 20% of construction and permanent jobs are made available to local residents.
- Ensure that legislation preserves the authority of local governments to guide redevelopment programs, and enhance oversight by preserving the voluntary participation of affected taxing entities.

Rationale:

Beginning in 1950's, local jurisdictions across the state operated redevelopment agencies that were tasked with reducing blight, increasing public and private sector investment, and incentivizing the development of low and moderate income housing in neglected communities. In 2009, at the peak of the unemployment rate during the Great Recession, redevelopment agencies were investing more than \$1.4 billion annually in the production of affordable housing. Redevelopment was the only comprehensive tool that local communities could deploy to address the needs of low-income and minority communities, many of which were African-American communities.

In 2012, redevelopment agencies were eliminated in an effort to balance the state's budget and restore property tax revenue for local government services. At the time of dissolution, the more than 400 local redevelopment agencies throughout the state were receiving approximately \$5.6 billion yearly, or approximately 12% of all property taxes for redevelopment purposes.²²

²² "Affordable Housing and Community Development Investment Program", Senate Committee on Governance and Finance, March 20, 2019

The elimination of redevelopment coincided with a massive increase in the housing affordability gap and a dramatic increase in homelessness throughout the state. Experts attribute this to the elimination of the requirement that 20% of tax-increment revenue generated by redevelopment be dedicated to low and moderate income housing production. In addition, local governments have been handicapped in their efforts to foster meaningful revitalization of historically under-invested communities without dedicated revenue streams that came with redevelopment for this purpose.

As part of the 2019 state legislative session, multiple bills have been introduced that contemplate the re-establishment of redevelopment-type programs. The renewed effort at the state level creates an opportunity to capture future tax increment with the objectives of financing the creation of a more diverse and inclusive housing stock, supporting investments in infrastructure and transit-oriented development, as well as creating jobs in economically distressed communities. Additionally, the Governor has issued Executive Order N-06-19, which directs the creation of a digital inventory of excess state properties to identify parcels where the development of affordable housing would be viable and deliver the greatest impact. It is in the best interest of local jurisdictions to seize this opportunity to create additional and comprehensive opportunities for underserved communities.

CENSUS AND REDISTRICTING

"If we look about for agencies that which can reasonably be expected to give us at least partial collection of authoritative data, the most conspicuous is undoubtedly the United States census."

— W.E.B. Du Bois

I. The Fight for a Fair Count

The message that "our lives matter and our votes count" could not be timelier. With an estimated 2.6 million Black people residing in California, California constitutes the 5th largest Black population of all the states. Given the current climate of racial hostility and the unprecedented federal animosity

**Over 1 million
Black Californians
are in
Hard-to-Count
communities.**

toward the state, the need for focused and strategic attention on the 2020 Census Count and the subsequent redistricting process could not be more urgent. Furthermore, national controversies regarding census count and questions, specifically the failed addition of a question probing citizenship, highlight the importance of counting every individual from traditionally underrepresented and undercounted communities.

African Americans in California live in racially diverse areas and are woven into the founding fabric of the Golden State. Mestizo Native Americans of African heritage were the founding members of the municipalities that became San Francisco, San Jose, Los Angeles, and San Diego. The growth of agriculture, public infrastructure, various forms of heavy manufacturing, mining, petroleum exploration, the public sector, the arts, and the entertainment industry in California have all benefited substantially from the labor, participation, leadership, and consumption of the state's African American residents.

In public discourse, there are fewer references than appropriate about these myriad and ongoing contributions to the 21st century. Since the Census of 2010, Black immigration to California has centered on young professionals in the technology and entertainment sectors. Black wealth has expanded to new heights. Simultaneously, Black poverty, displacement, and homelessness have also increased over the same period, as the gap between the wealthiest African Americans and those living in poverty also grows.

Moreover, the state of California presents an opportunity to explore the diversity within the Black community. For example, Black Californian's experience poverty at a higher rate than the state average, 18.9 percent compared to 14.3 percent, but California is also home to some of the most affluent Black neighborhoods in the country (i.e., View Park-Windsor Hills, Baldwin Hills, Ladera Heights).²³ In addition, the state of California holds the largest African foreign-born population, offering another cleavage where census counts and projections can offer insight.²⁴ It may also be the case that recent rhetoric surrounding attempts to use the Census to determine the citizenship status of foreign-born individuals make it harder to accurately reach and count African foreign-born communities in California. The many enclaves – such as differences in socioeconomics,

religion, region, national origin, etc., that exist within the Black community throughout the state make an accurate census count one of the most useful tools in understanding how and where the distribution of resources is most effective.

The Census of 2020 is a chance to better understand African American migration to, from and within the Golden State. Transforming engagement and investment in civic education will make certain the Census of 2020 is accurately accounting for Black Californians.

II. Recommendation for an Equitable and Just Outcome

In light of the history of the decennial count, reapportionment, and redistricting politics it is imperative that we build an inclusive and innovative redistricting process and plan that actively includes Black Californians. Both the public (federal, state, local) and private (not-for-profit and for-profit) sectors must be partners in the process as well as academic, netroots and grassroots entities.

Furthermore, entities that do offer commentary on the broad concerns impacted by the count fail to include African American voices in their discussions. For instance, programs focused on undercounted populations, such as the state of California's partnership with FUSE Corps to evaluate "statewide census outreach strategies" are essential; however, partnerships are needed that specifically focus on accurately locating and counting African Americans.²⁵

The following recommendations outline a broad strategy to ensure a fair count in the state of California:

- Build a non-traditional inclusive, innovative redistricting process that actively partners with African-American organizations in the public and private sectors.
- Start a coordinating body exclusively for Black Hard-to-Count (HTC) areas.
- Appoint a coordinator for the African diaspora and refugee immigrants count programs who represents the interests of Black Californians.

²³ See PPIC report, "Poverty in California." <https://www.ppic.org/publication/poverty-in-california/>

²⁴ <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/african-immigrants-america-demographic-overview>

²⁵ <https://fusecorps.org/fellowship-openings/evaluating-census-outreach-operations-to-count-every-californian/>

Rationale:

The undercount and the aftermath are costly to the fiscal health of the state of California. Among the states with large Black populations living in HTC areas, California ranks fourth with over one million black residents (38 percent of the Black community) living in areas considered hard-to-count.²⁶ Cities, such as Stockton and Oakland, are especially troubling as approximately 60 percent of Black communities are in HTC areas.²⁷ The undercount is generally problematic, and it is even more damaging to the African American population and its priority interests. Chief among these concerns is political representation, district boundaries, and governmental investment.

Black California has deep HTC communities and struggles to adequately engage on high civic priorities absent intense outreach. Additionally, it will be vital to ensuring that intimidation of immigrants or distrust in the federal process do not reduce the chance of a reputable count for not only foreign-born Blacks, but also African Americans who live with and around foreign-born Blacks or other HTC groups, such as populations where English is a second language.

As has been the pattern of California's history, its African American inhabitants are positioned to build a brighter future by making their count and the voices of the marginalized and the vulnerable be heard loudly in federal and state policy decisions.

JUSTICE REFORM

"Prisons do not disappear social problems, they disappear human beings."
— Angela Davis

I. California's Prison Expansion

The California prison population more than quadrupled between 1980 and 1991, helping to create the largest imprisoned population in the western world.²⁸ Sentencing reform and an increased focus on the enforcement of

26 <http://civilrightsdocs.info/pdf/census/2020/Table1a-States-Number-African-Americans-HTC.pdf>
27 <http://civilrightsdocs.info/pdf/census/2020/Table2b-100-Largest-Places-Percent-African-Americans-HTC.pdf>

28 Zimring, Franklin E., and Gordon Hawkins. "The growth of imprisonment in California." *Brit. J. Criminology* 34 (1994): 83.

nonviolent crimes, such as the sale of illicit drugs, drove the surge, which continued to swell into the 21st century. Today, more than eight million California residents have an arrest record and an estimated 700,000 are in jail, in prison or under some form of correctional supervision.²⁹

African Americans have consistently comprised a disproportionate share of the persons arrested, held in jail, sentenced to prison and subjected to correctional supervision in California. For example, African

Americans comprise 6% of the state population but 16% of all arrests.³⁰ Similar disparities experienced across the criminal justice process compound, resulting in African Americans comprising a staggering 29% of the state prison population.³¹ The disproportionate incarceration of Black Californians is even more pronounced in the geographic areas with large African American populations. For instance, the incarceration rate for African Americans in Los Angeles County is 13 times more than for whites.³²

29% of all people incarcerated in state prisons are African American

The prison surge and its demographic disparities harm the conditions of Black life in California. To start, most incarcerated persons are released from prison with more chronic medical problems than they had before admission.³³ Indeed, every year spent in prison reduces an individual's life expectancy by two years.³⁴ Moreover, parental incarceration negatively impacts a child's well-being. Currently, an estimated 503,000 children in California have experienced the incarceration of a parent. A disproportionate share of these children is African American children.³⁵ According to the Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality, one in ten black children in the US has a parent behind bars.³⁶ Parental incarceration has been causally linked to diminished educational outcomes and

29 <https://correctionstocollegeca.org/resources/dont-stop-now>

30 <https://www.ppic.org/publication/new-insights-into-california-arrests-trends-disparities-and-county-difference/>

31 *ibid*

32 <https://www.dailynews.com/2017/11/15/theres-a-huge-race-gap-in-la-county-incarceration-rates-study-shows/>

33 Massoglia, Michael. "Incarceration, health, and racial disparities in health." *Law & Society Review* 42, no. 2 (2008): 275-306.

34 https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2017/06/26/life_expectancy/

35 <http://www.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/aecf-asharedsentence-2016.pdf>

36 <https://www.themarshallproject.org/documents/4316517-Pettit-Sykes-2017-incarceration-report>

increased child mortality, as well as a series of childhood mental and behavioral health issues, namely substance abuse, obesity, asthma, and depression.³⁷ Additionally, incarceration destabilizes families. Children of incarcerated parents are at greater risk of experiencing homelessness.³⁸

In 2011, under the duress of a federal consent decree, the state of California was forced to reduce the size of its prison population. Assembly Bill 109 (AB109), more commonly referred to as realignment, transferred a significant number of state incarcerated persons to local jails. However, despite this and other reforms racial disparities endure. The California state prison population still exceeds 111,000 people, and the harmful legacies of over-incarceration continue to shorten the life chances of formerly incarcerated persons, their families and their communities.³⁹ Research suggests that even moments of “unwanted” contact between individuals and the criminal justice system, such as interactions between citizens and law enforcement in the form of detainment, arrest and correctional control, produce a range of negative effects like stigma, depression, lost earnings, unemployment and homelessness.⁴⁰ Therefore, policy solutions addressing mass incarceration of African Americans in California must consider both incarcerated individuals as well as those who experience other forms of unwanted contact with the criminal justice system.

II. Recommendations to Promote Safety and Justice

Increasing employment opportunities, expanding access to housing, and improving educational experiences reduces arrest and incarceration rates while also improving reentry outcomes for formerly incarcerated people. The faster an individual acquires employment post release, the less likely they are to recidivate.⁴¹ Moreover, people returning home from incarceration without support are more likely to experience homelessness, and to have been homeless immediately prior to their arrest. The following recommendations will aid in reducing our reliance on incarceration, and promote alternatives to incarceration by renewing state commitments to health, housing, employment, and education:

37 <https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/research/2019/01/mass-incarceration-threatens-health-equity-in-america.html>

38 <https://fragilefamilies.princeton.edu/sites/fragilefamilies/files/researchbrief48.pdf>

39 <https://www.ppic.org/publication/californias-changing-prison-population/>

40 Owens, Michael Leo and Hannah L. Walker. 2018. “The Civic Voluntarism of ‘Custodial Citizens’: Involuntary Criminal Justice Contact, Associational Life, and Political Participation. *Perspectives on Politics* 16(4): 990-1013.

41 Visser, Christy Ann, Sara Debus, and Jennifer Yahner. *Employment after prison: A longitudinal study of releases in three states*. Washington, DC: Urban Institute, Justice Policy Center, 2008.

1. Reform Pretrial Procedures

- Incentivize local jurisdictions to decarcerate their jail populations with pretrial reform.
- Establish a state-wide data infrastructure to evaluate reform across law enforcement, judiciary, and pretrial systems.
- Scale up and establish community-based pretrial service models, not under the jurisdiction of any law enforcement agency, that promote court attendance.
- Advocate for the elimination of a cash bail system and for the installation of an equitable model that preserves the right to innocence for all people.

2. Adopt Alternatives to Incarceration

- Identify and provide funding for innovative community-based alternatives to incarceration that promote health and safety.
- Decriminalize drug possession at the state level.
- Adopt a health-based approach to substance use and abuse.
- Establish a moratorium on prison building.
- Convene a taskforce of experts, including those who are formerly incarcerated, to develop a statewide plan for increasing alternative forms of accountability outside of incarceration.

3. Eliminate Barriers for Successful Reentry

- Develop and launch a public awareness campaign directed at employers to encourage them to hire individuals who have been formerly incarcerated.
- Limit the use of background checks in the hiring process, especially for applicants who have not had any law enforcement contact for at least seven years.⁴²
- Eliminate the collateral consequences of a felony conviction. For example, restore the right to jury duty to persons with a felony record and facilitate access to public housing.
- Establish, incentivize, and expand educational programs for formerly incarcerated persons.

4. End Arrests on School Campuses

- Incentivize school districts to move away from punitive system responses to adolescent development and school behavior.
- Adopted a statewide school climate bill of rights that prioritizes

42 <https://a07.asmdc.org/press-releases/california-gives-all-workers-fair-chance-employment>

the need for care and services over punitive discipline to promote a healthy learning environment.

- Explore strategies to end policing on school campuses statewide and scale the network of culturally competent community-based youth diversion and development service providers.

Rationale:

For African Americans in California, the choice to invest in prisons instead of systems of care and opportunity have had an indelible impact. Over 44% of individuals who are incarcerated in Los Angeles County jails have not been convicted yet remain incarcerated because the right to pretrial freedom is not accessible to all. A study by the UCLA *Million Dollar Hoods Project* determined that African Americans are the most likely to remain incarcerated during pretrial proceedings due to an inability to post bail.⁴³

Additionally, 70 percent of the people in Los Angeles County jails suffer from some form of mental or physical illness.⁴⁴ And, in addition to costing more to treat mental and physical ailment in jails than in clinics, the use of incarceration to house homeless populations perpetuates the disproportionate arrest of individuals who are more likely to face mental and physical illness. For instance, in 2016, one in six people arrested in the city of Los Angeles was homeless, and the majority of these arrests were for minor crimes, constituting a 31% increase over a four-year period.⁴⁵ The criminalization of homelessness through such means as anti-vagrancy laws has cities such as Los Angeles and San Francisco spending millions of dollars per year rounding up people who have nowhere to live.⁴⁶ Furthermore, since having a criminal record can serve as a barrier to finding sustainable housing after incarceration, these same laws are perpetuating homelessness to a point where formerly incarcerated people are ten times more likely to experience homelessness than the general population – with the highest rate of homelessness befalling formerly incarcerated Black women.⁴⁷

Finally, punitive systems of discipline in middle and elementary school leads to a disproportionate amount of interaction between Black youth and the criminal justice system. In Los Angeles Unified School District, one in four arrests between 2014 and 2017 involved a child in middle school or elementary school. While Black students account for just under 9% of the district's total population, they account for over 25% of those who encounter school police officers.⁴⁸ As of 2015, African American youth in the San Francisco Unified School District, who account for 8.1% of the total enrollment, make up 40% of in-school suspensions, 44% of out-of-school suspensions, 25% of expulsions and 30% of referrals to law enforcement.⁴⁹ Reducing punitive system responses to school behavior, and replacing them with networks of care, has been shown to increase positive student outcomes.⁵⁰ Shifting the focus statewide to address the root causes of incarceration and dismantle the school to prison pipeline will require bold leadership and sustained investment. Recognizing the inherent contradiction of trying to provide freedom for a fee, healthcare during confinement, and education amid arrests, there is a clear need to think imaginatively about alternative systems that promote health, safety, and justice in California.

48 <http://milliondollarhoods.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Policing-Our-Students-MDH-Report-Final.pdf>

49 <https://ocrdata.ed.gov/Page?t=d&eid=30511&syk=8&pid=2539>

50 Mallett, Christopher A. "The school-to-prison pipeline: A critical review of the punitive paradigm shift." *Child and adolescent social work journal* 33.1 (2016): 15-24.

43 <http://milliondollarhoods.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Policing-Our-Students-MDH-Report-Final.pdf>

44 <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/editorials/la-ed-mental-illness-20180228-htmllstory.html>

45 <https://www.citylab.com/equity/2018/08/the-homelessness-problem-we-dont-talk-about/567481/>

46 <https://www.citylab.com/equity/2018/06/how-not-to-fix-homelessness/563258/>

47 <https://www.citylab.com/equity/2018/08/the-homelessness-problem-we-dont-talk-about/567481/>

IV. CROSS -SECTIONAL POLICY RECOMMENDATION CHART

Table of Cross-Sectoral Policy Recommendations⁵⁰

Policy Recommendation TYPE	Early Childhood Education	Ending Child Poverty	Health-Care
DIAGNOSTIC			
Collect and report data that is race/ ethnicity- specific			X
SERVICE-RELATED			
Ensure that systems are designed with end-users in mind by providing opportunities for leadership that mirrors the client population			X
Implement strategies to increase contact visiting between children and their incarcerated parents that give kids the chance to touch and hug their parents	X	X	X
Provide trauma informed programs focused on helping children and adults heal from trauma	X		X
Ensure developmental screenings and follow-up to every child in the child welfare system	X	X	X
Integrate the funding and delivery of behavioral and physical health care in the Medi-Cal program; promote co-location of services	X		X
ECONOMIC SECURITY			
Increase the number of people of color in the healthcare workforce		X	X
Prioritize parents living in poverty and justice-involved individuals for workforce and training programs		X	
Fund supportive services for low-income workforce and education program participants		X	

⁵⁰ Several recommendations are identified as particularly promising because of their potential impact across sectors. For example, recent funding proposals to revamp regional housing planning and commitments to build 3.5 million new housing units open a tremendous opportunity to address California's housing crisis.

Fighting Homelessness	Redevelopment and Economic Development	Census and Redistricting	Justice Reform
X		X	X
X	X	X	
			X
			X
X			
			X
X			X
X			X

V. EDITOR AND CONTRIBUTORS

Agenda for California: An African-American Perspective

AMBASSADORS, ALL-IN-CALIFORNIA

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**GAVIN NEWSOM NAMES PROMINENT AFRICAN-AMERICAN LEADERS TO TRANSITION PROJECT
(ALL IN CALIFORNIA)
Nov 22, 2018**



By Anthony Epps, Contributing Correspondent

Mayors London Breed (San Francisco), Michael Tubbs (Stockton), Willie Brown (Ret. San Francisco), Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, State NAACP President Alice Huffman, and UC Regent Laphonza Butler have been named to the “All In California” transition process for Governor-elect Gavin Newsom.

This group of leaders, representing the unique and diverse pockets of the African-American community, is tasked by the All In California Transition Project to recruit leaders from their regions with different experiences and competencies. The second task of the project is to develop policy that is important to the African-American community and the respective areas in which African-Americans live.

2018 polling information from the African-American Voter Registration, Education, & Participation Project and the California Policy & Research Initiative consistently indicates that Black voters in the Golden State want state action on reducing homelessness, expanding affordable housing units, and increasing access to mental health services.

Additionally, African-Americans are leading governmental, healthcare, mental health, financial services, technology, law, and service sector organizations that will be asked to consider their participation in State government as volunteer and full-time appointees on a wide range of issues. California is a complex jurisdiction. Forty million residents, 4 million square miles, three-quarters of the Pacific Coast, \$2.798 trillion in economic activity, and a public higher education system that is the envy of the world. California is also home to more than 130,000 individuals who experience homelessness on an annual basis (not including students in those well-regarded public institutions, 10% of whom experience homelessness on a yearly basis), in need of millions of thousands of additional units of affordable and market rate housing, and managing in an era of scare government revenues for schools and social services.

The All In California Transition began its work this week and will continue through Newsom’s inauguration. The Governor-elect himself has kept very busy since the election. He has named his two top staff persons: Chief of Staff Ann O’Leary of Palo Alto and Cabinet Secretary Ana Matosantos of Sacramento. Newsom served as Acting Governor for several days while Jerry Brown was away from the state and joined Brown as President Trump visited fire-scorched Butte County to expand the federal aid provided for disaster relief.

Newsom also is reported to be considering several new policy initiatives for the early days of his administration, including launching an effort to overhaul California’s system of taxation. The Governor-elect appears to be concerned about the shifts in tax revenue that occur during economic downturns. These drops in revenue strain public services when need expands. Recent declines in the stock market and slowdowns in home sales may be forecasting decreased economic activity.

The incoming Newsom Administration inherits nearly a decade and a half of volatility and instability that was managed with parsimony and tight-fisted budgeting. The California of the future will be shaped in the next few years. (not-for-profit and for-profit) sectors must be partners in the process as well as academic, net roots and grassroots entities.

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NOTES

**AGENDA FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN CALIFORNIA MEETING PARTICIPANTS
NOVEMBER 30, 2018**

Dr. Elaine Batchlor, Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital
Bob Blake, Bob Blake & Associates
Roslyn Blake
Charisse Bremond, Brotherhood Crusade
Pamela Bright-Moon, Los Angeles County Arts Commission
Hon. Aja Brown, City of Compton
Pastor Marla Brown
Laphonza Butler, All-in California Ambassador
Dr. David Carlisle, Charles Drew University
Cassandra Chase, Chase Consulting Group
Lisa Collins, Focus on the Word
Pastor Bam Crawford, BAM Crawford Ministries
David Crippens, DLC and Associates
Dominique DiPrima, KJLH The Front Page
Jackie Dupont Walker, Ward Economic Development Corporation
Curtis Eamest, Office of Council Member Curren Price
Deborah Flint, Los Angeles World Airports
Hon. Mike Gipson, 64th Assembly District
Michael Green, SEIU 721
Prof. Ange-Marie Hancock Alfaro, University of Southern California
Hon. Marqueece Harris-Dawson, City of Los Angeles
Kellie Hawkins, Englander Knabe & Allen
Todd Hawkins, The TODD Group
Jamarah Hayner, JKH Consulting
Cynthia Heard, YWCA Greater Los Angeles
Carl Henley, Los Angeles NAACP
Pastor Norman Johnson, First New Christian Fellowship
Alex Johnson, Los Angeles County Office of Education
Hon. Reggie Jones-Sawyer, 59th Assembly District
Dorinne Jordan, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Hon. John, Kennedy, City of Pasadena
Lena Kennedy, LL Kennedy & Associates
Michael Lawson, Los Angeles Urban League
Darryl Lucien, Lucien Partners
Kerman Maddox, Dakota Communications
Janice Martin, Second Supervisorial District Ecumenical Liaison
Hon. George McKenna, Los Angeles Unified School District
Hon. Robert Pullen-Miles, City of Lawndale
Angela Reddock, Reddock Law Group
Hon. Mark Ridley-Thomas, All-in California Ambassador
Sebastian Ridley-Thomas, African American Voter REP
Renata Simril, LA84 Foundation
Zanetta Smith, CalPRI
Brian Stiger, County of Los Angeles
Jeffrey Wallace, LeadersUp



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