Equitable, Inclusive Growth Policies and Strategies for American Cities

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Starting points for equitable economic growth

• Policies to equitably increase income and wealth require recognition of, and responses to, racially concentrated poverty and increasing diversity.

• Strategies to create jobs and opportunities for wealth must go well beyond conventional modes of economic development.

• Workforce development is important but not, by itself, sufficient: institutions need to change as well.
America will face a skills gap unless education levels increase.
A Framework for Equitable Urban Growth Policies

The competitiveness of cities and regions depends on people of all races and backgrounds having legitimate opportunity to thrive:

- Create and sustain “good quality” jobs
- Support locally owned and operated businesses, with emphasis on opportunities for women and communities of color
- Increase presence and impact of diverse entrepreneurs in the larger export, innovation and tech economy
- Build on local assets and talents, serve needs unmet by market
- Create local wealth building ventures and supportive policies
- Cover the entire metro region, not just central city or lower income neighborhoods
Four areas of strategy and local/regional policy

- Entrepreneurship
- Anchor Institutions
- Public Capital Investment
- Sustainable Development
Entrepreneurship

Promoting racial and ethnic diversity in the creation of new firms and the expansion of existing ones, from neighborhood small businesses and business services to innovative technology start-ups.

Examples in Detroit, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Northeast Ohio
Anchor Institutions

Increasing the positive local economic and social impact of universities, medical centers, and other large organizations that are permanently based in the city.

Examples in Cleveland, Philadelphia, Baltimore
Public Capital Investment

Implementing more effective and equitable practices for hiring, workforce development, contracting, and procurement tied to public spending and investment.

Examples in New Orleans, Portland, Oakland
Sustainable Development

Developing local and regional plans and policies that align equity, environmental sustainability, and economic development.

Examples in Baltimore, San Francisco Bay Area
Equitable Growth is Necessary – and Possible

Thank you!

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