Partnership for Equitable and Resilient Communities

Reimagining Public Investment

Who: For far too long, Black, Indigenous, and Latino/a/x people living in low-wealth, under-resourced communities in the United States have been excluded from decision making in how federal, state, and local investment dollars are spent within their communities. The resulting impact is that people living in these communities continue to face inequitable access to education, employment, wealth, and opportunity. Investment matters. So, too, does the power to direct that investment.   This is exactly why the Partnership for Equitable and Resilient Communities was created.

What: The Partnership for Equitable and Resilient Communities (PERC) is a results-driven partnership between community, philanthropy and government that advances racial equity and justice by shifting power and resources to Black, Indigenous, and Latino/a/x people living in low-wealth, under-resourced communities. Utilizing a culturally competent approach, PERC seeks to engage impacted communities in decision making by creating comprehensive community plans, layering funding streams across programs, and creating pathways between community and government where they haven't previously existed. Our North Star is that ALL Black, Indigenous, and Latino/a/x, people living in low-wealth, under-resourced communities in the United States have the resources they need to live fulfilled lives.

When: The PERC initiative will officially launch in December of 2022

Where: Cleveland, Ohio; Durham, North Carolina; Saint Paul, Minnesota; and Selma, Alabama are the first of 16 planned PERC sites.

Why: The quest for racial equity in this country requires the disruption of systemic barriers that have prevented Black, Indigenous and Latino/a/x groups from fully participating in this country's economy. For example, Brookings found that "the median white household has 10 times the net worth of the median Black household" ($171,000 to $17,000 respectively). While Black households have about 3% of all household wealth in America, the 400 richest American billionaires have more total wealth than all 10 million Black American households combined." To ground systems change work, we must work in alignment across federal, state, and local lines to cultivate a new collaborative table that is accountable to the constituents who have been marginalized.

How: Backbone organizations in each PERC city will be awarded up to $5 million (national philanthropy will match local giving 1:1) for planning and implementation. The grant can be utilized for capacity building, i.e., hiring staff, paying community participants for their time, data migration, creating and implementing small tests of change, and similar activities. Urban Strategies, Inc. (USI) will lead community members and partners through a results-driven process to align public & private investments with existing (or newly developed) initiatives. Further, all sites will engage in a learning community together to share and scale successes and work through challenges in real-time. In addition to grant dollars and the learning community, cities involved in PERC will have access to capital and credit enhancement tools, site-specific technical assistance, data and evaluation partners, and communications support.

Our Partners:

Amalgamated Foundation	Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation
Arnold Ventures	Urban Institute
Communities First Fund	Urban Strategies Inc
Funders for Housing and Opportunity	City of Cleveland
The George Gund Foundation	City of Durham
The JPB Foundation	City of Saint Paul
Marguerite Casey Foundation	City of Selma
McKnight Foundation	
Melville Charitable Trust	