



Do Regional Collaboratives Move the Equity Dial?

Lessons from the federal Sustainable Communities Initiative and California SB375

February 2014

***PolicyLink Center for Infrastructure Equity
HUD Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities
Harris County RTA
Mile High Connects
Causa Justa: Just Cause***

About PolicyLink & the Center for Infrastructure Equity



- PolicyLink is a national research and action institute advancing economic and social equity by Lifting Up What Works®. Founded in 1999, PolicyLink connects the work of people on the ground to the creation of sustainable communities of opportunity that allow everyone to participate and prosper.
- The PolicyLink Center for Infrastructure Equity advances policy and develop leadership in communities of color to ensure that public investments:
 - Deliver quality streets, transit, housing, parks, water and other community infrastructure to low-income communities of color;
 - Leverage revenue to reduce costs for low income households;
 - Create jobs and business opportunities for workers and entrepreneurs of color;
 - Improve health outcomes in communities of color; and
 - Flow from decision-making processes that build leadership and foster community engagement in communities of color.

- **HUD – DOT – EPA Interagency Partnership**
- **Equity provisions:**
 - 10 % budget community engagement of communities of color, low income communities
 - Representation of communities of color and low income communities on governance structures
 - Fair Housing and Equity Assessment: must address Areas of Racially Concentrated Poverty in the Plan

- **AB 32** – Set 2020 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets into Law
- **SB375** - Requires regions to do long range plans that meet GHG reduction goals. Regional Transportation Plans and Housing Elements must be co-developed.
- **ABSB 732** created the Strategic Growth Council.

Equity & Ladders of Opportunity

- Equity is *just and fair inclusion*.
- An equitable society is one in which all can participate and prosper.
- The goals of equity must be to create conditions that allow all to reach their full potential.
- Achieving equity requires a strong commitment to community engagement and participation.
- **The Obama Administration's interagency approach is a pathway to realize an equitable society.**

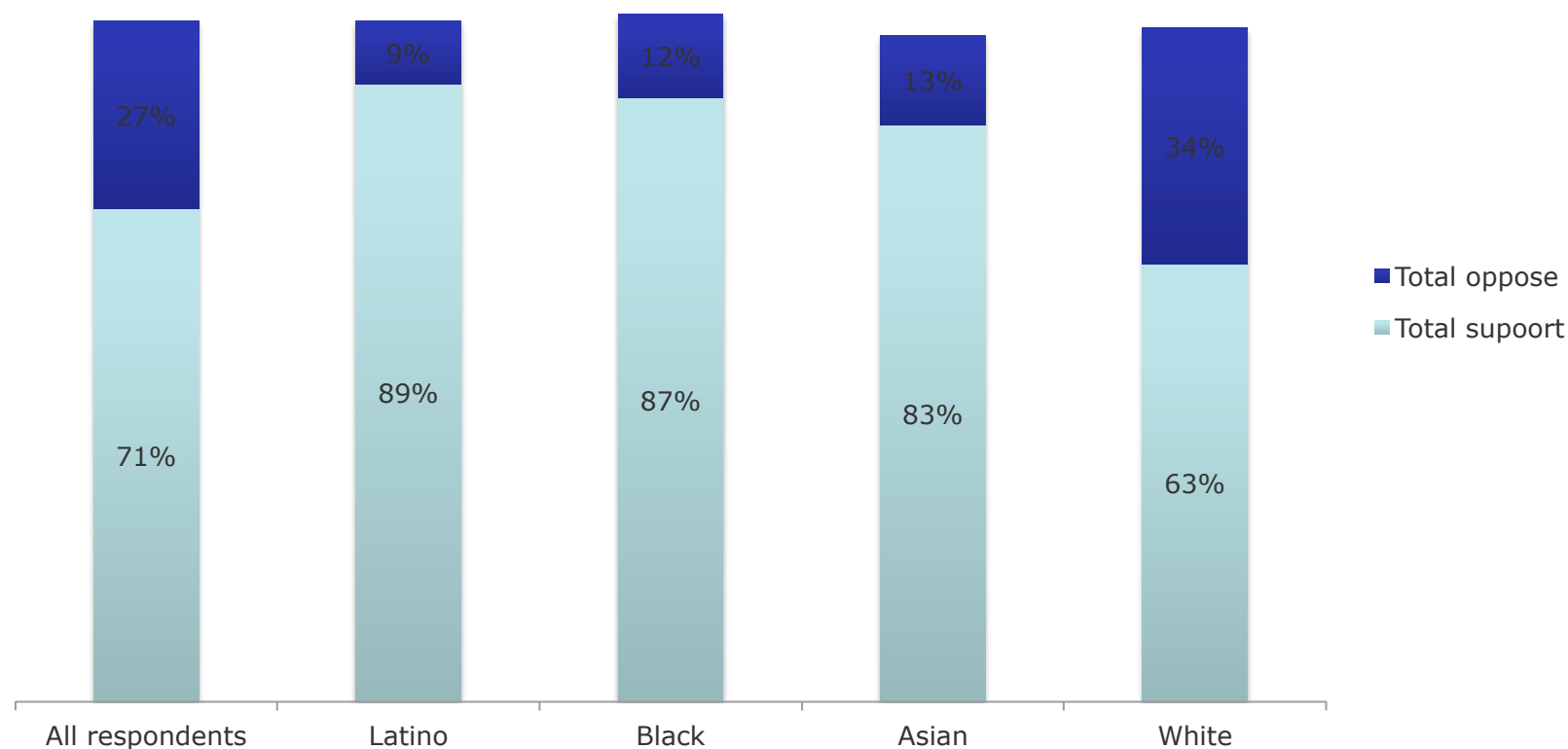


- **What collaboratives/coalitions are developing in your region/place to advance equity, and what are key elements of your work?**
- **What opportunities do you see for advancing equity policy or practice?**

Support for An Agenda for Equity and Economic Mobility

In a national poll, Americans were asked:

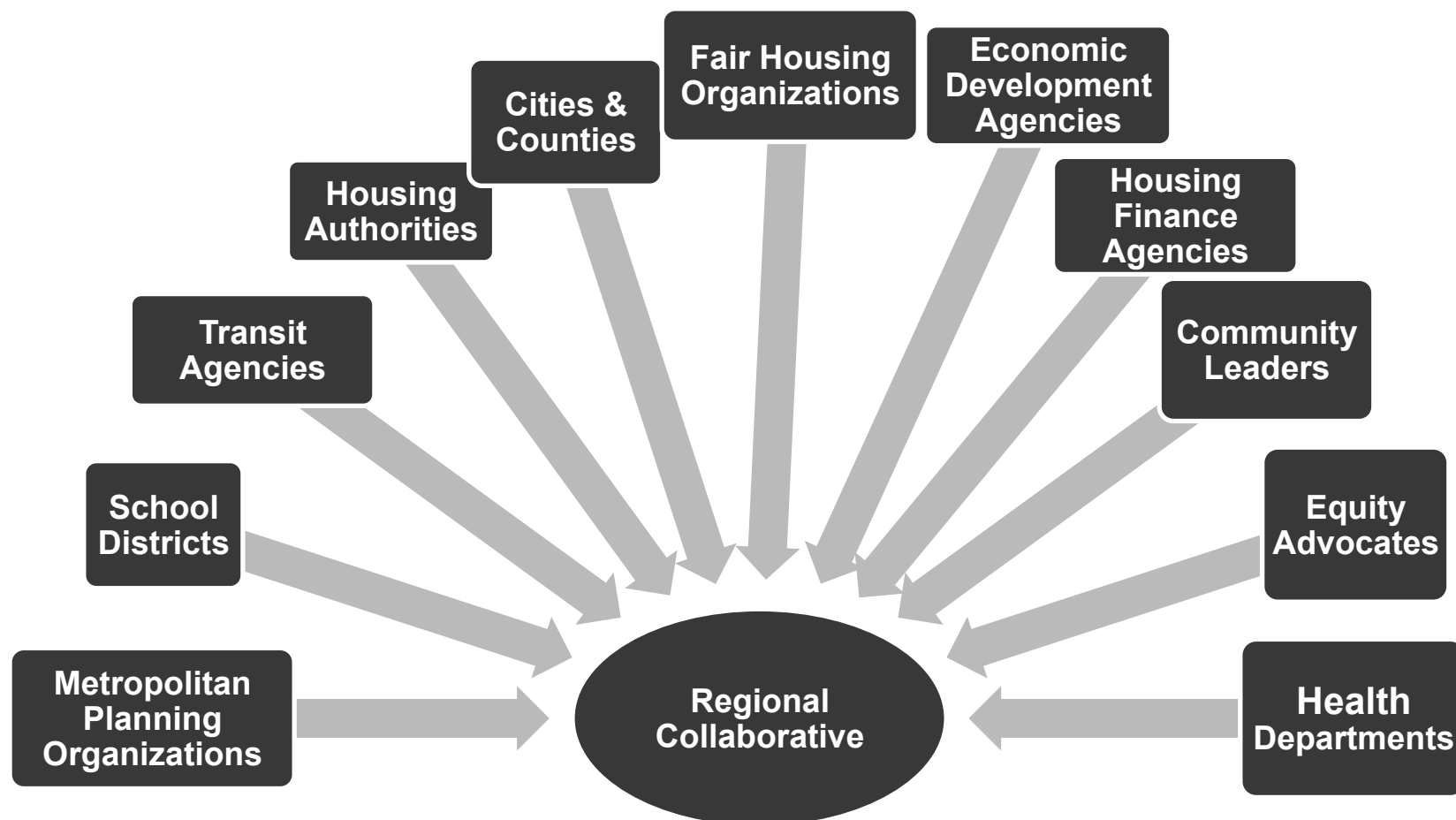
"Would you support or oppose new steps to reduce racial and ethnic inequality in American through investments in areas like education, job training, and infrastructure improvement?"



Source: *Building an All-In Nation: A View from the American Public*, A poll commissioned by Rockefeller Foundation, PolicyLink, and the Center for American Progress, 2013.

Fair Housing and Equity Assessment

FHEA approach engages broad range of local/regional entities that address economic mobility.



Local Example: Local Hire in Rhode Island

- The state government is Rhode Island's largest employer, with nearly 15,000 employees in 2011.
 - People of color represent 24 percent of the population but 15 percent of the state government employees and only 8.5 percent of senior staff.
- Responding to dramatic demographic changes in Rhode Island, in 2013 Governor Lincoln Chafee issued an executive order aimed at increasing government job and contracting opportunities for people of color.

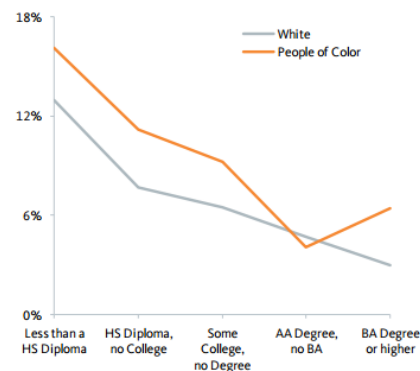


Governor Chafee's Office

Governor Chafee signs Executive Order on Diversity

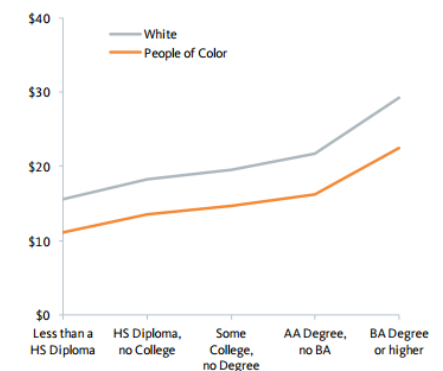
People of color at nearly every education level have higher unemployment and lower wages than whites

Unemployment rate by educational attainment and race/ethnicity, 2006–2010



Source: IPUMS. Universe includes the civilian non-institutional population ages 25 through 64.

Median hourly wage by educational attainment and race/ethnicity, 2006–2010



Source: IPUMS. Universe includes civilian non-institutional full-time wage and salary workers ages 25 through 64.

Excerpt from *An Equity Profile of Rhode Island*, by PolicyLink and PERE. See:

<http://www.policylink.org/site/apps/nlnet/content2.aspx?c=IkIXLbMNJrF&b=5136581&ct=13223311>

How equity assessments influence regional transportation decisions:

- **Puget Sound:**
 - Influenced policy in the Transportation Improvement Plan to prioritize investments to increase access to opportunity
- **Chicago:**
 - Establishing a regional fair housing toolkit to provide technical assistance for jurisdictions to revise land use and zoning policy

For More Information



Kalima Rose
Senior Director
PolicyLink Center for Infrastructure Equity
kalima@policylink.org

www.policylink.org