

# Building on the American Rescue Plan Act: What's Next for Reducing Child Poverty

April 20, 2021

The Campaign for  
**GRADE-LEVEL  
READING**

# Moderator



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President

The Children's Partnership

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## Co-Presenters



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Willner Family Professor of Psychology and  
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President  
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## Co-Presenters



**Terry Mazany**

Network Director  
Community Foundation  
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Co-Director  
National Center for Children  
in Poverty  
@NCCP



**Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson**

President and CEO  
Children's Defense Fund  
@RevDrStarsky | @ChildDefender



**Supporting  
Research to  
Improve the Lives  
of Young People**

**Adam**

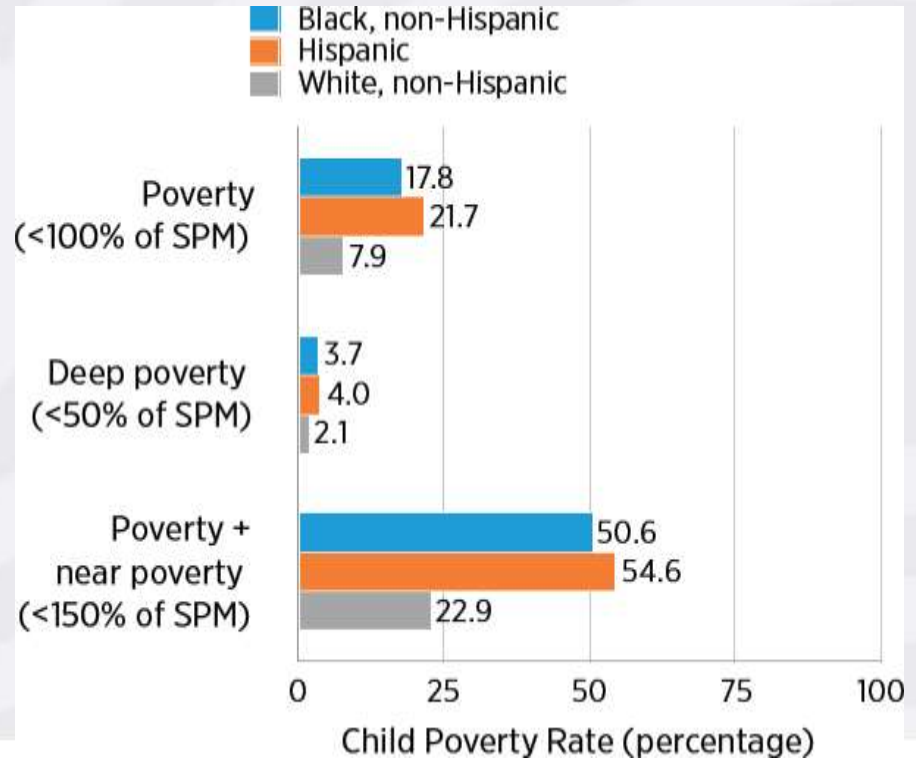
 **Gamoran**  
 **@agamoran**  
**@wtgrantfdn**



**William T. Grant**  
FOUNDATION

# Reducing Child Poverty

- ⦿ Child poverty in America is all too common
- ⦿ Poverty is closely bound up with racial and ethnic inequality
- ⦿ Poverty is harmful, for individual children and for society

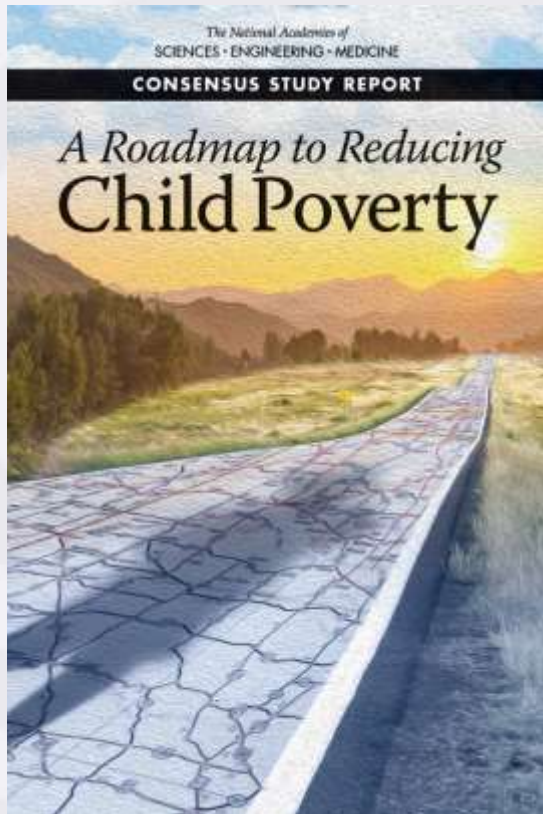


SPM = Supplemental Poverty Measure

Source: *A Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty*

# Reducing Child Poverty

- ④ Research can play a key role in pointing the way to reducing child poverty
- ④ As funders, we should demand that research not only measure the extent of poverty and identify its sources, but examine specific responses to poverty
  - What programs and policies will reduce child poverty in our nation?
  - How can those programs and policies be implemented?



## From Research Evidence to Policy Action





# Reducing Child Poverty: What's Next?

- ④ Make permanent the new policies of the American Rescue Plan Act
  - Expansion of the child tax credit, the child and dependent care tax credit, and the earned income tax credit will all expire after 2021 unless they are extended
  - Likewise, expanded health care subsidies expire after 2022
- ④ Ensure effective implementation of the American Rescue Plan Act
  - National level
  - Local level

# Contextual Factors

Context can greatly influence the impact and success of anti-poverty programs and policies.



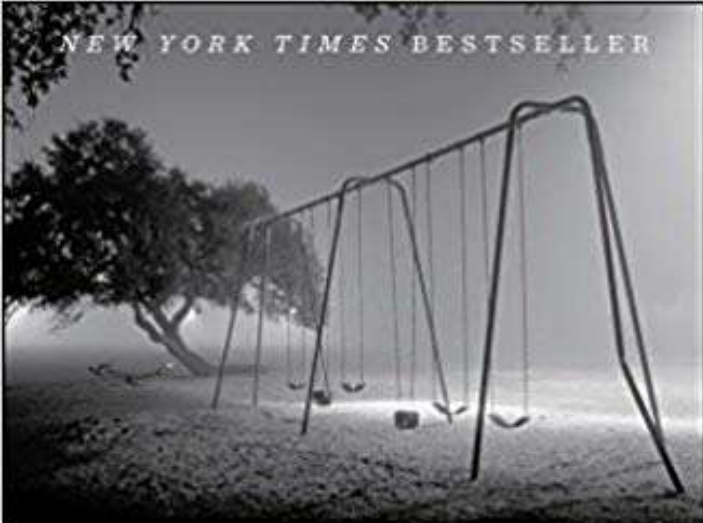


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NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER



"A truly masterful volume that should shock  
Americans into confronting what has happened to their society."  
—FRANCIS FUKUYAMA, *Financial Times*

# OUR KIDS

The American Dream  
in Crisis

ROBERT D. PUTNAM  
author of *Bowling Alone*

US PARTNERSHIP FOR  
**MOBILITY**  
FROM **POVERTY**



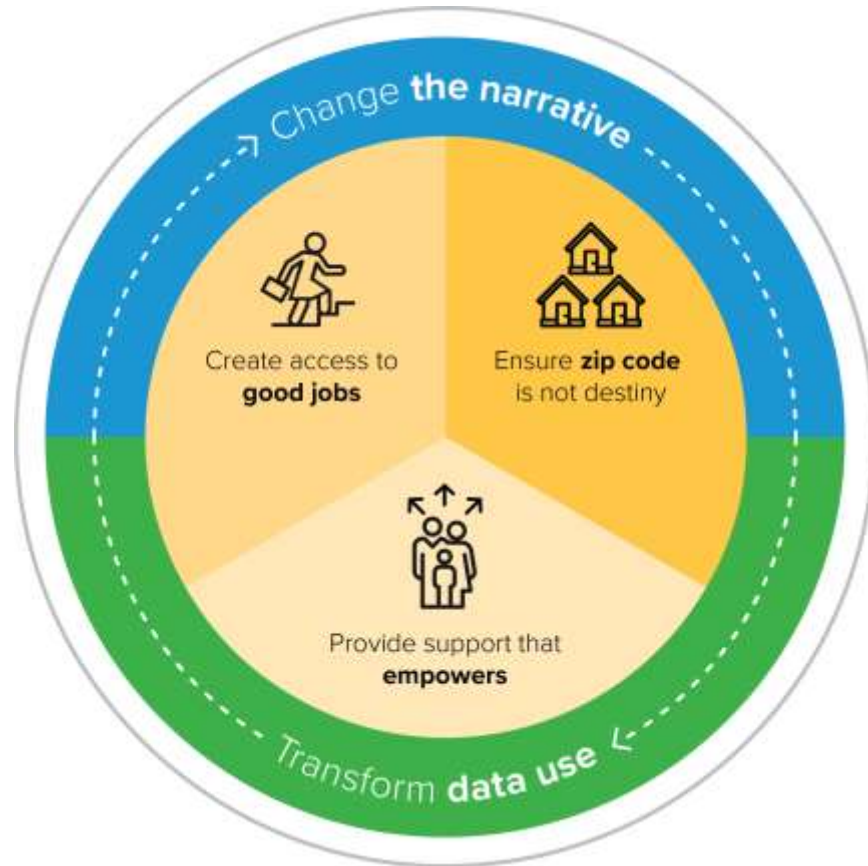
## RESTORING THE AMERICAN DREAM

*What Would It Take to Dramatically  
Increase Mobility from Poverty?*

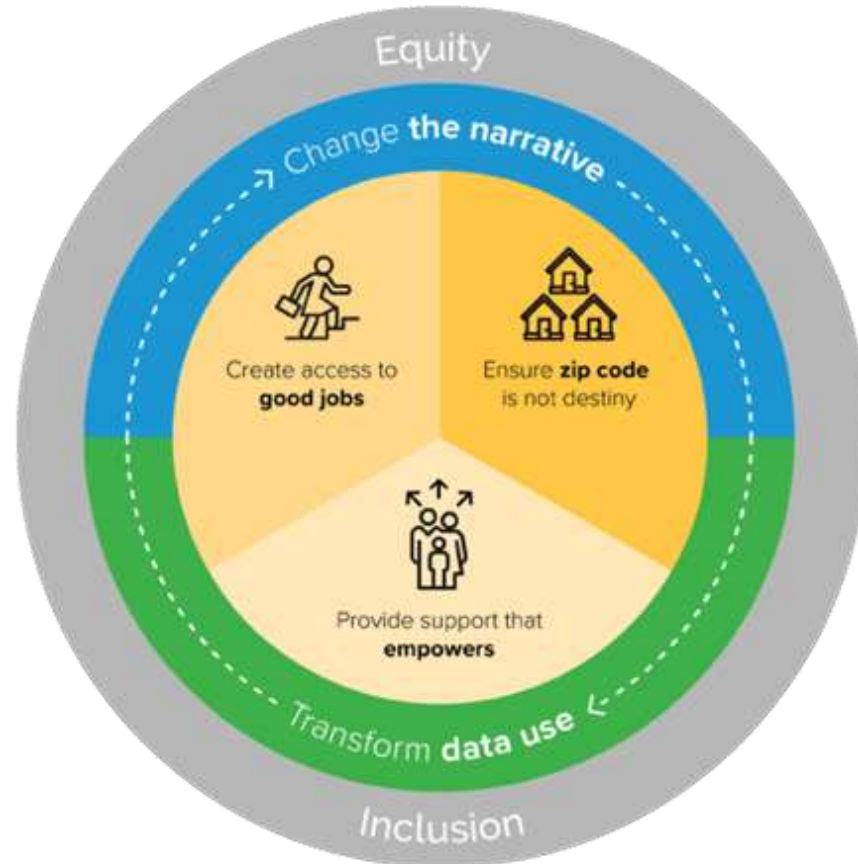


David T. Ellwood and Nisha G. Patel  
JANUARY 2018

# U.S. Partnership on Mobility from Poverty



# CFON adapted to include equity and inclusion



# Focus on Systems and Levers

## Systems

Income  
& Wealth

Health

Housing &  
Neighborhood  
s

Education

Safety  
& Justice

Power  
&  
Leadership

## Levers (Examples)

Wages/Income

Wealth Building

Early Childhood Education

Childcare

Employment/Training

Power Sharing

Maternal/Child Health

Affordable Housing

Access to Quality Healthcare

Criminal Justice

Civil Legal Aid

Movement Building

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## The Challenge

How can a network of community foundations and partners, individually and collectively,  
***dismantle structural and systemic racism and achieve equity in social and economic mobility?***

# Our Challenge

Individual Actions and Lack of Common Conventions Work Against Impact





# Boosting Upward Mobility

**Economic Success**

**Being Valued in Community**

**Power & Autonomy**

## Strong & Healthy Families

FINANCIAL WELL-BEING

Income  
Financial security

HOUSING

Affordable housing  
Housing instability and homelessness

FAMILY

Family structure and stability

HEALTH

Overall health  
Access to and utilization of health services  
Neonatal health

## Supportive Communities

LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Political participation  
Descriptive representation among local officials

SAFETY

Exposure to trauma  
Exposure to crime  
Overly punitive policing

NEIGHBORHOODS

Economic inclusion  
Racial diversity  
Belongingness  
Social capital  
Transportation access  
Environmental quality

## Opportunities to Learn & Earn

EDUCATION

Access to preschool  
Effective public education  
Student poverty concentration  
College readiness

WORK

Employment  
Access to jobs paying a living wage

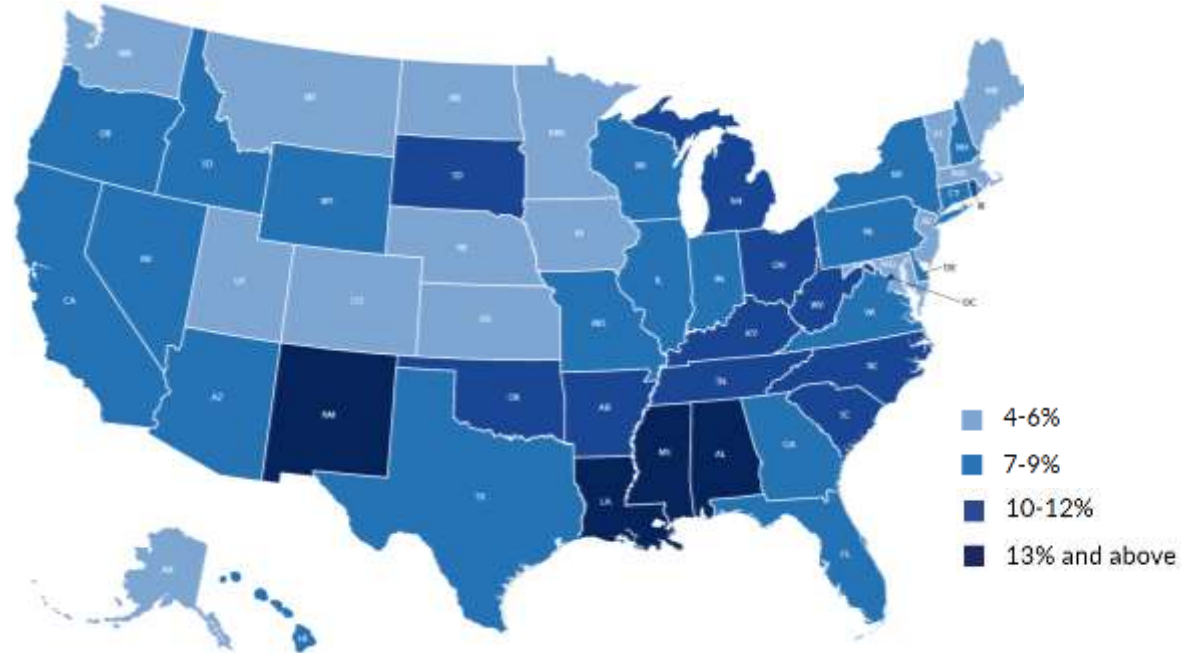
## As reported in The State of America's Children 2021®:

- In 2019, there were over 73 million children in the United States, and estimates projected that **2020 would be the year that children of color made up the majority of children in America.**
- Nearly **1 in 7 children**—10.5 million—were poor in 2019. **Nearly 71 percent of poor children were children of color.**
- More than **1 in 7 children were food insecure.** Black and Hispanic children were **twice as likely as white children** to live in households where not everyone had enough to eat.
- More than **1.5 million children enrolled in public schools** experienced homelessness during the 2017-2018 school year.
- More than **77 percent of Hispanic** and more than **79 percent of Black** fourth and eighth grade public school students were not proficient in reading or math in 2019 compared with less than 60 percent of white students



## Nationally, 9% of young children under age 9 live in deep poverty: Rates vary across states

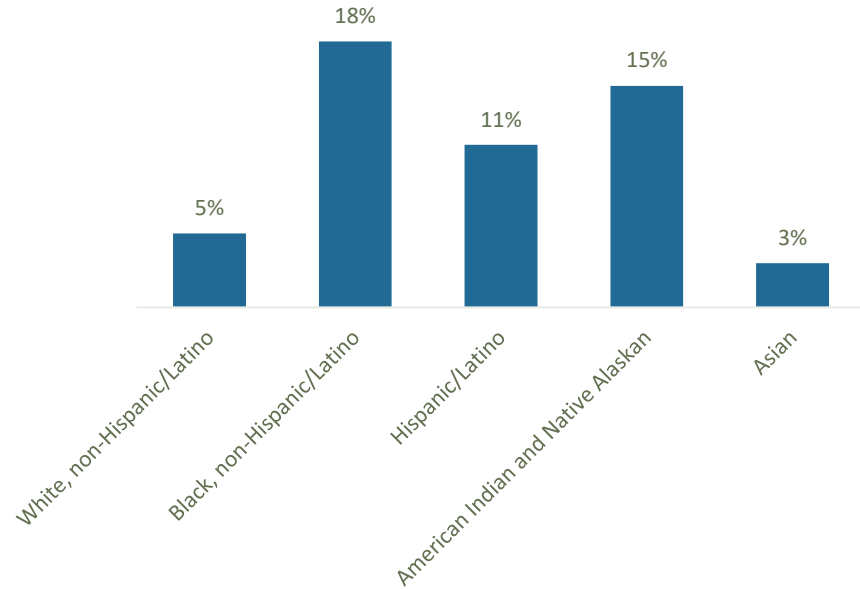
- **Four states and DC** have 13% or more of children 0-9 in deep poverty
- **11 states** have rates of 10-12%



Source: NCCP Analysis of ACS 1-Year Estimates - Public Use Microdata Sample 2018

# Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Deep Poverty Rates

- Nationally, the deep poverty rates are much higher for **Black, Hispanic/Latino, and American Indian and Native Alaskan** children under 9
- Large racial and ethnic disparities exist in almost all states



# Young children in DP more likely to experience several developmental risks than children in other groups

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- Low birth weight
- A physical condition/ health problem that limits activities
- An intellectual disability or developmental delay
- Parent lacks a high school diploma
- Parent unemployed
- Parent cannot count on people in their neighborhood for help



# Recommendations

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- Scale programs that show promise for improving birth outcomes (e.g., Centering Pregnancy)
- Ensure that states take up ARPA's Medicaid coverage for 12-months post-partum and establish as a permanent policy
- Invest in major expansion of programs with demonstrated capacity to promote relational health and early development
  - **Home visiting programs, Early Head Start, Child First**





## Recommendations, cont.

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Enhance funding for early care and education programs to enable them to operate as two-generation programs (e.g., with effective adult education and job training services for families); prioritize outreach to families in deep poverty

- Funding for family coaching, help with emergencies, alignment of services

Address racial/ethnic disparities in young children's experience of deep poverty on multiple fronts

- Increased outreach, development of more diverse workforce, further development of culturally tailored supports

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# Reducing Child Poverty: What's Next?

- ④ Confronting intergenerational poverty
  - ARPA attacks child poverty directly through redistribution
  - To build a robust future with less poverty, we need to ensure that children in poor families can achieve the middle class dream when they grow up
- ④ What sort of investments are required to break the intergenerational transmission of poverty?
  - A new National Academies committee will take on this challenge
  - We will be watching for:
    - Specific solutions
    - Rapid policy action

# Questions & Discussion

# Upcoming GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinars:

## LEARNING LOSS RECOVERY CHALLENGE

\$20 B for Afterschool & Summer: Realizing the Opportunity for Communities

Tuesday, April 20, 3 p.m. ET/12 p.m. PT

## LEARNING LOSS RECOVERY CHALLENGE

The Fall K-3 Classroom: What the Data Imply About Composition, Challenges & Opportunities

A Special Session in Partnership With EdWeek

Tuesday, April 27, 3 p.m. ET/12 p.m. PT

## LEARNING LOSS RECOVERY CHALLENGE

Technology to Accelerate Learning: Tech-Enabled Solutions to Address Learning Loss

A Special Session in Partnership With Overdeck Family Foundation

Tuesday, April 27, 3 p.m. ET/12 p.m. PT

Please Join Us!

[gradelevelreading.net](http://gradelevelreading.net) @readingby3rd #GLReading #LearningTuesdays

