

THRIVING TOGETHER

A SPRINGBOARD FOR EQUITABLE RECOVERY & RESILIENCE
IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS AMERICA

THE MIRACLE OF MORNING

*From a wave of woes our world will emerge stronger.
We'll observe how the burdens braved by humankind
Are also the moments that make us humans kind;
Let every dawn find us courageous, brought closer;
Heeding the light before the fight is over.
When this ends, we'll smile sweetly, finally seeing
In testing times, we became the best of beings.*

AMANDA GORMAN

US YOUTH POET LAUREATE, 2020

A LARGER STORY & A LONGER MOVEMENT

America is a land of innovators and hard workers. Today, our lives and livelihoods are being destabilized and, tragically, destroyed on a massive scale. As we rush to recover, there is a danger of stopping short, of missing the big picture, and fooling ourselves that getting back to normal is good enough. This is a legacy moment, when the full force of our values and all of our assets are needed to escape the trouble we are in. We created this Springboard to leverage the immense resilience in America's communities. It describes how we see the current situation and what we could do, together, to organize local and nationwide action around a single, unifying—and measurable—expectation: All people and places thriving—no exceptions.

Over the past eight weeks (May through June 2020), amidst unprecedented upheavals across the country and around the world, more than 100 people and organizations diverted their daily work to help craft this Springboard for equitable recovery and resilience in communities across America. We drafted this document for ourselves, and for everyone who wants to help America to emerge from the compounding crises of 2020 with greater resilience, humanity, and direction.

This document is an imperfect work-in-progress, written for today, yet part of a larger story in a long, evolving movement. We share it with humility, in hopes of joining with others as we search for better ways to thrive together.

Stewards of well-being and justice are people and organizations who share responsibility for working across differences to expand the vital conditions all people and places need to thrive.

WE THE AUTHORS

We are part of a growing network of people and organizations who see ourselves—and each other—as shared stewards of well-being and justice.

We do not represent any single organization, sector, or issue area. We are not lobbyists, partisan operatives, or profiteers. We defy narrow categories of red and blue, left and right, women and men, rural and urban, Native and newcomer, youth and elder, White people and People of Color.

We believe that each generation has a sacred obligation to fulfill America's founding commitments, which have never been fully honored or realized: to create a more perfect union, establish justice, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

We take these five commitments at face value, as written, with no exceptions. Yet, in practice, life in America becomes defined by unjust exclusion when we treat some people as more worthy than others. This ever-present legacy shapes how Americans live and, too often, how we die. The renewal that our communities need now will be impossible to achieve as long as structural racism and social exclusion persist. They are toxic forces that destroy lives and dehumanize us all. We believe that the path to true prosperity in America is inextricably tied to racial justice and full inclusion, not only in principle, but as a daily, living reality. America is built to be better—and needs to become so.