

# FIVE ACTION THEMES FOR ROOTING OUT POVERTY

These five action themes help focus the work of rooting out poverty on national, state, and local levels. They embrace work by faith groups, local governments, civic organizations, social service agencies, business groups, and neighborhood organizations, as well as individuals, rich, poor, and in between.

The themes are designed to be flexible and adaptable, grounded in the needs of each community. They are framed in positive terms — the desired outcomes that we all share — with strategies toward those outcomes.



MAXIMIZE PARTICIPATION

## MAXIMIZE PARTICIPATION

Engage as many people and groups as possible — especially those who might otherwise be voiceless in the community — in making it possible for people and communities to help themselves and each other achieve their full potentials.

RESULT: Stronger, more responsive communities and broader range of people working together lead to more thoughtful and effective solutions to problems that cause or prolong poverty or limit economic opportunity.



BUILD AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE

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Create and maintain economic mechanisms and innovative financing, that improve financial and economic conditions of all residents, especially those in need of workforce skills and positions. Develop a variety of work and career opportunities at pay levels that reward effort and skill appropriately. Engage the nation's sense of economic justice in local, state, and national economic development initiatives.

RESULT: More broadly based and more effective economies provide better job opportunities and wage levels for all.



INVEST FOR THE FUTURE

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Provide education, workforce training, infrastructure, and protection of vital assets (including clean air and water, renewable energy, and a healthy global ecosystem) to help people and communities to improve the quality of life, increase economic opportunity, and anticipate future individual and community needs.

RESULT: Education and skill levels rise for all; sound policies and practices protect and preserve vital assets, leading to greater capacity to meet challenges of the future.



MAXIMIZE EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

## MAXIMIZE EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

Remove barriers and roadblocks; create public policies programs, and initiatives (including enforcement strategies) that ensure maximum opportunity for all those seeking to improve their situations, skills, and futures. Ensure that opportunities are fully accessible and widely promoted.

RESULT: More people and communities can reach their full potentials through a greater range of opportunities in a wider variety of situations.



ENSURE HEALTHY PEOPLE & PLACES

## ENSURE HEALTHY PEOPLE AND PLACES

The physical, environmental, and personal health of individuals, families, and communities is essential to their abilities to maximize potential, take advantage of opportunity, and invest for the future. Accessible, affordable health care is essential; poorer people are disproportionately more likely to forego preventive care and to postpone treatment for health problems, which increase the physical damage, the economic loss and the cost of care. Attention to health care needs pays multiple dividends. Communities that strive for healthy environments — free of pollution, toxic waste, and environmental degradation — benefit their citizens physically and socially, increase their long-term attractiveness to employers, and make themselves more appealing to new residents.

RESULT: Healthier people reduce medical costs; increase well-being; and improve quality of life, better enabling people to avoid or advance out of poverty. Communities that are safe and environmentally healthy improve their attractiveness and their economic as well as physical health.