

# PATHWAYS TO EQUITABLE SAFETY STRATEGY IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In the United States, segregation and chronic disinvestment have concentrated poverty into very specific places – places that people of color disproportionately call home – and that has created conditions where safety is far weaker. Below, we outline promising practices our research suggests may help move community safety in a far more equitable direction.

## CHECK OUT THE RESEARCH.

Unpack how community safety can intersect with anti-racist community development policy and practice.

- [The People's Practice, Issue 08](#)
- [Core Characteristics of Community Development](#)
- [High-Level Research Findings](#)
- [Storied Communities, Community Stories](#)

## PROMISING PRACTICE 1: UNDERSTAND AND RESPOND TO INEQUITIES IN COMMUNITY SAFETY HISTORY AND NARRATIVES.

Develop an affirmative strategy for combating harmful, racialized narratives and histories that might lead to less effective and less equitable safety practices.

- [Equal Justice Initiative](#)
- [Greenwood Rising](#)
- [People's Paper Co-Op](#)
- [Prison Policy Initiative](#)
- [The Opportunity Agenda](#)

## PROMISING PRACTICE 2: INCREASE MESSAGING AROUND EXPLICIT LINKS BETWEEN COMMUNITY INVESTMENT AND SAFETY.

Focus on the kind of upstream community investments that can expand economic opportunity for residents before they get entangled in the criminal legal system.

- [Center for Justice Innovation](#)
- [Designing Justice + Designing Spaces](#)
- [Georgia Center for Opportunity](#)
- [Oklahomans for Criminal Justice Reform](#)
- [The Sentencing Project](#)

## PROMISING PRACTICE 3: INTEGRATE COMMUNITY-BASED SAFETY APPROACHES INTO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SYSTEMS.

Explore practices that push beyond status quo approaches to community safety, like alternative response, youth diversion, restorative justice and violence intervention.

- [Applied Research Center for Civility](#)
- [FORCE Detroit](#)
- [Lawndale Christian Legal Center](#)
- [SEIU Local 26](#)
- [The Marshall Project](#)

**PROMISING PRACTICE 4: INCREASE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ATTENTION TO THE NEEDS OF CURRENTLY AND FORMERLY INCARCERATED RESIDENTS.**

Leverage community development resources to tackle barriers like housing, employment and record expungement.

- [Brooklyn Communities Collaborative](#)
- [Community Legal Services of Philadelphia](#)
- [Soteria Community Development Corporation](#)
- [The CSG Justice Center](#)
- [The Housing Solutions Lab](#)

**PROMISING PRACTICE 5: INVEST IN SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ONGOING COMMUNITY SAFETY ACCOUNTABILITY.**

Commit to long-term accountability and transparency around community safety strategy through supports like formal resident leadership roles, research, learning and funding.

- [Community Foundation of Louisville](#)
- [Greater Washington Community Foundation](#)
- [Just Communities Arizona](#)
- [Safety and Justice Challenge](#)
- [Vera Institute of Justice](#)

**DIG EVEN DEEPER.**

Ready to explore community safety at a deeper level? Spend time with two longer resources that can help you map out your course of action.

- [Eye on the Prize: Pathways to Equitable Safety Strategy in Community Development Workbook](#)
- [Crafting Anti-Racist Narratives For Community Development](#)

Developed by



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**Feeling inspired to keep going deep on anti-racist community development?**

Learn more at  
**[The People's Practice](#)**