

EXPANDING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF GEOGRAPHY IN ANTI-RACIST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The community development sector's understanding, its offerings and its support infrastructure are largely situated in cities. Without concerted attention, that leaves non-urban communities of color with limited resourcing, and it robs us *all* of access to important equity work they're leading. It doesn't have to be that way, though. Below, we consider six promising practices for how we can collectively support anti-racist community development in tribal, rural and suburban contexts.

CHECK OUT THE RESEARCH.

Consider how anti-racist community development policy and practice extends far beyond city boundaries into tribal, rural and suburban contexts.

- [The People's Practice, Issue 10](#)
- [Storied Communities, Community Stories](#)
- [A Brief History of Race, Place, and Policy in the Sector](#)
- [High-Level Research Findings](#)

PROMISING PRACTICE 1: ACKNOWLEDGE THE PARTICULAR CONTEXTS OF EQUITABLE SUBURBAN DEVELOPMENT.

Tailor community development funding, support programs and research and learning to the specific built environment and resident priorities of today's suburbs.

- [85 Community Development Corporation](#)
- [Loiter](#)
- [PolicyLink and the USC Equity Research Center](#)
- [Puget Sound Sage](#)

PROMISING PRACTICE 2: FULLY ADDRESS THE NEEDS AND PRIORITIES OF RURAL COMMUNITIES OF COLOR.

Build competencies and grassroots relationships to address acute challenges for rural communities of color, like access to the Internet, quality healthcare and legal services.

- [ChangeLab Solutions and the Praxis Project](#)
- [Engage New York and the Integrated Rural Strategies Group](#)
- [Legal Services Corporation Rural Justice Task Force](#)
- [Springboard for the Arts](#)

PROMISING PRACTICE 3: INCREASE VISIBILITY AND SUPPORT OF NATIVE COMMUNITIES ACROSS GEOGRAPHIC CONTEXTS.

Develop support infrastructure that spans the needs of both rural and urban Native communities.

- [Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis Center for Indian Country Development](#)
- [First Nations Development Institute](#)
- [MASS Design Group](#)
- [Native American Youth and Family Center](#)

PROMISING PRACTICE 4: BRING UNLIKE COMMUNITIES TOGETHER AROUND EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT LEARNING AND STRATEGY.

Expand opportunities for relationship-building, learning and agenda-building across geographies, while explicitly making sure non-urban communities' equity practices are lifted up.

- [Kentucky Rural-Urban Exchange](#)
- [Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia](#)
- [Next City](#)
- [University of Minnesota Extension](#)

PROMISING PRACTICE 5: INVEST IN LAUNCHING AND SUSTAINING STATEWIDE EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT COALITIONS.

Concentrate on how coalition members from seemingly different communities share some common circumstances that span across a state.

- [Center for Community Progress](#)
- [Indiana Voices](#)
- [Metropolitan Area Planning Council](#)
- [NY Renews](#)

PROMISING PRACTICE 6: PRIORITIZE NARRATIVE STRATEGY IN SUPPORTING RURAL, SUBURBAN AND TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT.

Push back on dominant, inaccurate narratives while emphasizing why non-urban communities matter in the first place.

- [Center on Rural Innovation](#)
- [Chester Made](#)
- [Gullah Geechee Cultural Corridor](#)
- [IllumiNative and Lake Research Partners](#)

DIG EVEN DEEPER.

Want to dig even deeper into the roles of rural, suburban and tribal communities in anti-racist community development? Spend time with two resources that can help you map out your course of action.

- [Eye on the Prize: Expanding Our Understanding of Geography in Anti-Racist Community Development Workbook](#)
- [Eye on the Prize: The Environmental Justice and Racially Equitable Community Development Workbook](#)

Developed by



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ACTION LAB

The Anti-Racist Community Development Research Project was produced with support from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) to increase understanding of structural racism in community development and pathways to racially equitable outcomes that promote health equity. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of RWJF.

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

Learn more at
The People's Practice