

JANUARY 28, 2025

The Urban Institute's Upward Mobility Framework in Action



Upward Mobility Framework

Housekeeping and Agenda

- Background on the <u>Upward Mobility Framework</u>
- Live Demo: Upward Mobility Data Dashboard
 - How to use the Mobility Metrics
- Case Study: Forsyth County
- Strategic Planning & Theories of Change
 - Workshop: Constructing a Theory of Change



Background on the Upward Mobility Framework



The Three-Part
Definition of Mobility
from Poverty

When a person feels the respect, dignity, and sense of belonging that comes from contributing to and being appreciated by people in their community.

Economic Success

When a person has adequate income and assets to support their and their family's material well-being.

Mobility

Being Valued in Community

Power and Autonomy

When a person has the ability to have control over their life, to make choices, and to influence larger policies and actions that affect their future.



Why Mobility Metrics?

- Local leaders can create and bolster conditions that boost upward mobility and narrow racial inequities for children, youth, and adults.
- Communities need actionable metrics they can use to assess current conditions and monitor their progress.
- Our charge: a *comprehensive but concise* set of metrics that local leaders can use to develop strategies for improving upward mobility and equity conditions.



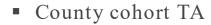
Upward Mobility Framework Development Process

Developing the Mobility Metrics (2019 to 2020)

- Mobility Metrics Working Group
- Stakeholder vetting labs



Beta Testing the Framework (2021 to mid 2022)



- Original survey data collection
- Other feedback from national and local stakeholders



Revising the Framework (late 2022)

Mobility MetricsWorking Group



Upward Mobility Framework Development Process Continued

Mobility Metrics available online for use (early 2023)



Released on Urban's website

Data Dashboard
Using the
Metrics Available
Online
(October 2024)

 Reformatting how to use the metrics, also available on Urban's website



The Three-Part Definition



Dignity & Belonging

Economic Success

Power & Autonomy

Focus on Racial Equity



Racial equity is necessary for all people and communities to prosper, especially those who have been excluded by structural inequities.

5

UPWARD MOBILITY FRAMEWORK



The Urban Institute's evidence-based foundation for community efforts to expand prosperity and narrow racial inequities.

The Pillars











The Predictors

- Employment opportunities
- Jobs paying living wages
- ► Opportunities for income ► School
- Financial security
- Wealth-building opportunities
- Access to preschool
- Effective public education
- ▶ Preparation for college
- Digital access
- Social capitalTransportation access

Racial diversity

Housing affordability

Housing stability

- Access to health services
- Neonatal health
- Environmental quality
- Safety from trauma
- Political participationDescriptive representation
- Safety from crime
- Just policing



THREE-PART DEFINITION OF UPWARD MOBILITY

PILLARS

Racial equity is necessary for all people and communities to prosper, especially those who have been excluded by structural inequities.

Dignity & Belonging

Economic Success

Power & Autonomy

5

The Pillars

Five essential pillars



Rewarding Work



High-Quality Education



Opportunity-Rich & Inclusive Neighborhoods



Healthy Environment & Access to Good Health Care



PEDICTORS

- Employment opportunities
- Jobs paying living wages
- Opportunities for income
- Financial security
- Wealth-building opportunities

- Access to preschool
- ▶ Effective public education
- School economic diversity
- Preparation for college
- Digital access

- Housing affordability
- Housing stability
- Economic inclusion
- Racial diversity
- Social capital
- ▶ Transportation access

- Access to health service
- Neonatal health
- Environmental quality
- Safety from trauma
- Political participation
- Descriptive representation
- Safety from crime
- Just policing



THREE-PAR DEFINITION OF UPWAR MOBILITY

Racial equity is necessary for all people and communities to prosper, especially those who have been excluded by structural inequities.

Dignity & Belonging

Economic Success

Power & Autonomy

50

The Predictors

Under each pillar is a set of key Predictors of mobility from poverty



Rewarding Worl



High-Quality



Opportunity-Rich & Inclusive Neighborhoods



Healthy Environment & Access to Good Health Care



Responsive & Just Governance

PREDICTORS

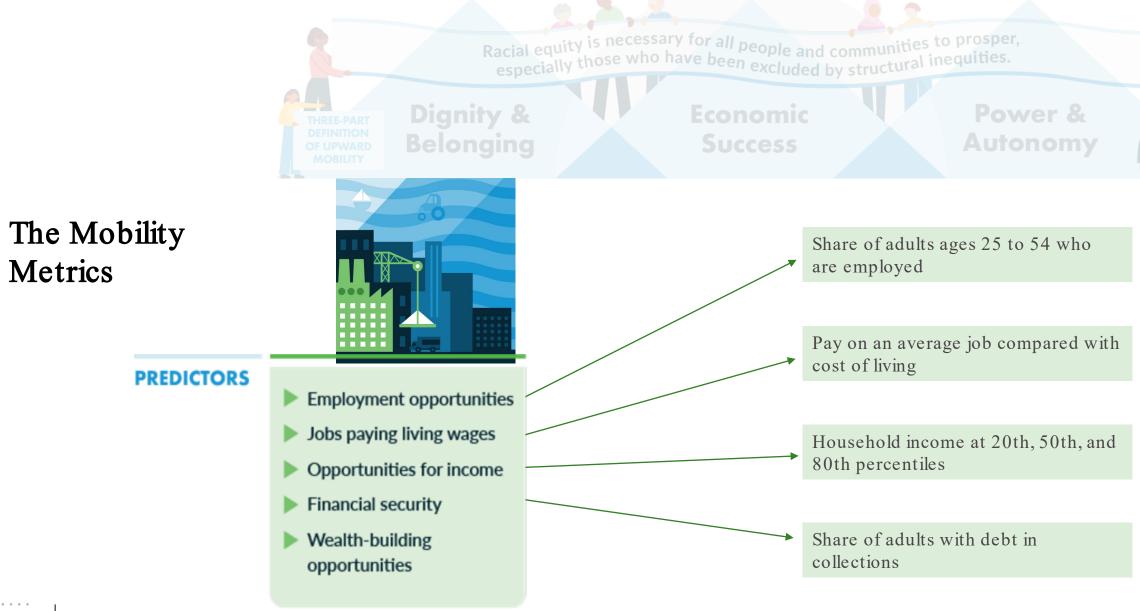
- Employment opportunities
- Jobs paying living wages
- Opportunities for income
- Financial security
- Wealth-building opportunities

- Access to preschool
- ▶ Effective public education
- ▶ School economic diversity
- ▶ Preparation for college
- Digital access

- Housing affordability
- Housing stability
- Economic inclusion
- Racial diversity
- Social capital
- Transportation access

- Access to health services
- Neonatal health
- ► Environmental quality
- Safety from trauma
- Political participation
- Descriptive representation
- Safety from crime
- Just policing





Live Demo: Using the Metrics via the Data Dashboard



Using the Metrics

Compare Reveal Prioritize Highlight Interconnections Set Targets Monitor

Using the Metrics

Diagnosis

PRO

- Overall community value
- Variations by subgroups
- Prior years of data
- Peer comparison

CON

- Based on national data
- Limited metrics

Tracking

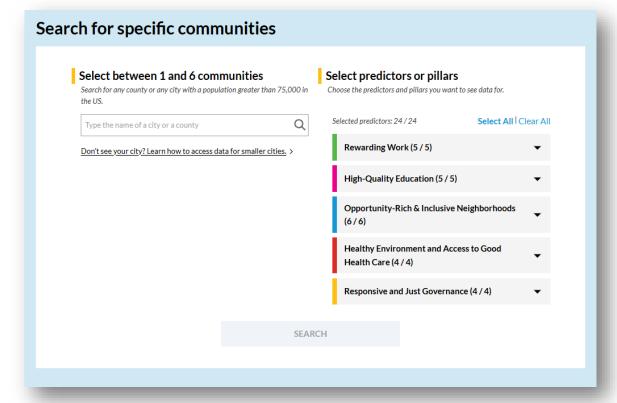
PRO

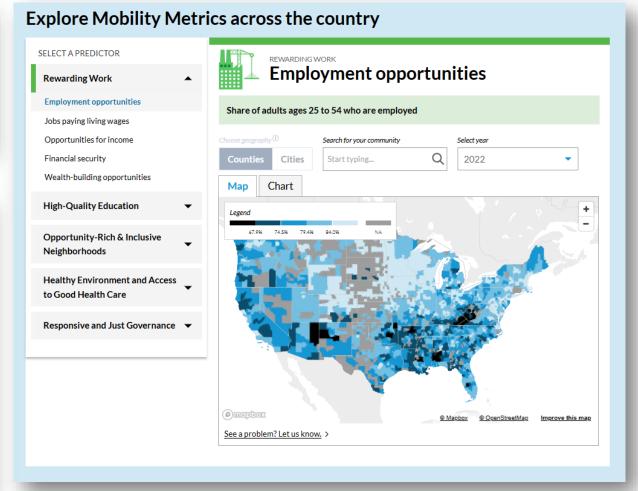
- Accessible & readily available
- Consistently measured over time & space
- Annual updates

CON

- Medium-term measures
- Limited metrics

Upward Mobility Data Dashboard







upward-mobility.urban.org/dashboard





UPWARD MOBILITY FRAMEWORK / HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION / EFFECTIVE PUBLIC EDUCATION

School quality influences children's cognitive and social development. Lower-quality schools reduce children's chances of attending and succeeding at postsecondary institutions, negatively affecting their potential for economic success in adulthood.

Mobility Dimensions Engaged

Economic success

List of Mobility Metrics

Explore the full suite of Mobility Metrics and their relevance to upward mobility below. View the appendix for more details, including how metrics were selected.

Q

Share of adults with debt in collections

results found			1 of 2 >
Metric	Predictor	Pillar	Why we chose this metric
Share of adults ages 25 to 54 who are employed	Employment aggoriun lities	Rewording Work	This is a common metric for measuring employment levels among prime-age workers, also known as the employment-to-population ratio.
Pay on an average job compared with the cost of living	Jobe paying living wages	Rewarding Work	This metric reflects the supply of jobs in a community that pay enough to meet the local cost of a family/s basic needs.
Household income at 20th, 50th, and 80th percentiles	Opportunities for Income	Rewarding Work	This metric captures the financial resources available to low, middle, and high-income households and the extent of income inequality in a community. Larger gaps between values for the three income groups indicate representations.

on the Relationship between Effective Public Education rd Mobility Outcomes

People with overdue debt typically have few assets

or negative wealth

ber 2021, researchers have documented the following connections s predictor and upward mobility. Asterisk (*) indicates primary

ality is an important predictor of student achievement. Smaller class higher teacher quality are key components of school quality and are d with increases in student achievement, as measured by grades, test nd college attendance (Brühwiler and Blatchford 2011; Chetty et al. ings et al. 2015; Shin and Chung 2009; Whitehurst and Chingos 2011).

frastructure quality affects student outcomes; for example, schools with tration and those located near environmental hazards can create

See a problem? Let us know. >

A value of 1 indicates a community's students are learning at an average rate, below 1 is slower than average, and above 1 is faster than average. When a category is selected, the value for the "All" group may differ from the overall value shown when no category is selected. This is because category values may be derived from alternate data sources or calculation

Effective public education

Average annual improvement in English Language Arts

This metric reports the average per year improvement in English Language Arts (reading comprehension and written expression)

among public school students between the third and eighth grades. Assessments are normalized such that typical learning growth is

In 2017, in Cook County, IL, the average per year rate of improvement in English language arts among public school students from third to

Show confidence intervals:

No Yes

Learn more about this predictor and promising policy interventions > ...

Learn more about the Mobility Metrics and how they were selected.

Table

Select category

None

Stanford Education Data Archive, SY 2017-2018 (Version 4.1; Reardon, S. F. et al. 2021) (Time period: School Year 2017-2018)

roughly one grade level a year.

2017

eighth grade was 1.15.

Visualization

Improvement ···· <u>National median</u>

Collapse This Card X



Upward Mobility Data Dashboard English About the Mobility Metrics What are the Mobility Metrics, and how are they connected to the Upward Mobility Framework? How can I use the Mobility Metrics? Why are some predictors measured using two metrics? Why do some metrics have more than one value? How are the metrics calculated? How do the Upward Mobility Framework and the Mobility Metrics connect to racial equity?

Frequently Asked Questions

Mobility Metrics Appendix

https://upwardmobility.urban.org/upwardmobility-data-dashboardappendix



Upward Mobility Data Dashboard: Appendix

September 11, 2024

DOWNLOAD REPORT 4

(697.27 KB)



The Urban Institute's Upward Mobility Framework defines upward mobility as having three essential, interconnected dimensions: economic success, power and autonomy, and dignity and belonging. It identifies more than 20 evidence-based predictors that are strongly associated with those dimensions of mobility. The Mobility Metrics are a suite of short- and medium-term measures of each predictor. This appendix documents the criteria used to select metrics for each predictor and provides the set of years, available disaggregations, and data sources used to construct each metric on the Upward Mobility Data Dashboard.



Dig Deeper into the Mobility Metrics Data

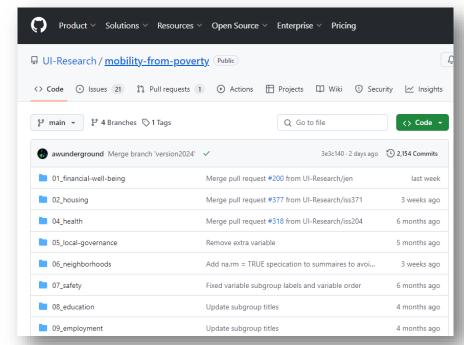
Urban Data Catalog



Mobility Metrics Data for the Upward Mobility Framework Adolescents Children Gender and Income and Jabo Market and Youth Sexuality Wealth Labor Force and Yealth (Cities, and Metros) DATA AND RESOURCES BLOCK 11_mobility-metrics_county_longitudinal.csv (Sep 10, 2024) 12_mobility-metrics_county_race-ethnicity_longitudinal.csv (Sep 10, 2024) 13_mobility-metrics_county_race-share_longitudinal.csv (Sep 10, 2024) 14_mobility-metrics_county_income_longitudinal.csv (Sep 10, 2024) 15_mobility-metrics_county_age_longitudinal.csv (Sep 10, 2024)

Mobility Metrics GitHub





Access Original Data Sources

- Do you need data for...
 - A smaller geography then county or city?
 - A subgroup that isn't provided in the Upward Mobility Dashboard?

Sources and Notes

US Census Bureau's 2021 5-Year American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample (via PUMS); Missouri Census Data Center Geocorr 2022; Geographic Correspondence Engine. (Time period: 2017-2021)

When a category is selected, the value for the "All" group may differ from the overall value shown when no category is selected. This is because category values may be derived from alternate data sources or calculation methods.

ID	Predictor	Metric	Source	Smallest Geo
		Household income at the 20th, 50th, and 80th percentiles	American Community Survey	
	1 Opportunities for Income		Public Use Microdata Sample	PUMA
		Share with debt in collections	2018 and 2021 credit bureau data from	
	2 Financial Security		Urban Institute's Debt in America tool	County (smaller data not public)
		Ratio of affordable housing units (per 100 households) with low-,	American Community Survey	
	3 Housing Affordability (2023)	very low-, and extremely low-income levels	Public Use Microdata Sample	PUMA
		Ratio of available housing units (per 100 households) with low-,	American Community Survey	
	3 Housing Affordability (2024)	very low-, and extremely low-income levels	Public Use Microdata Sample	PUMA
		Number and share of public-school children who are ever	US Department of Education Local	
		homeless during the school year	Education	
			Agency data (via EDFacts Homeless	
	4 Housing Stability		Students Enrolled)	Local Education Agency (LEA)



Supplementing with Local Data

- Mobility Metrics as a starting point
 - Predictors as a guiding mechanism
- Level of geography
 - National data is not appropriate for measuring or tracking neighborhood programs
- Collection & reporting
 - Frequency and contemporaneous tracking
- Identify underlying causes
 - Local data can offer more metrics & insights





Leverage Local Data

https://upwardmobility.urban.org/mobilitymetrics/local-data



Obtaining More Local Data

The Mobility Metrics are signals of communities' strengths and areas for growth related to upward mobility. However, on their own, they don't give local leaders a complete picture of the systems that uphold or undermine mobility in a community and their disparate effects on different groups of residents.

This resource helps communities get a clearer picture by offering other state and local data sources that can be combined with the metrics for more robust insights into their mobility conditions.

Explore additional data sources for each of the 24 pillars in the Upward Mobility

Framework in the catalog below. Read the text that follows to learn more about the importance of disaggregating data and best practices for identifying reliable local data.

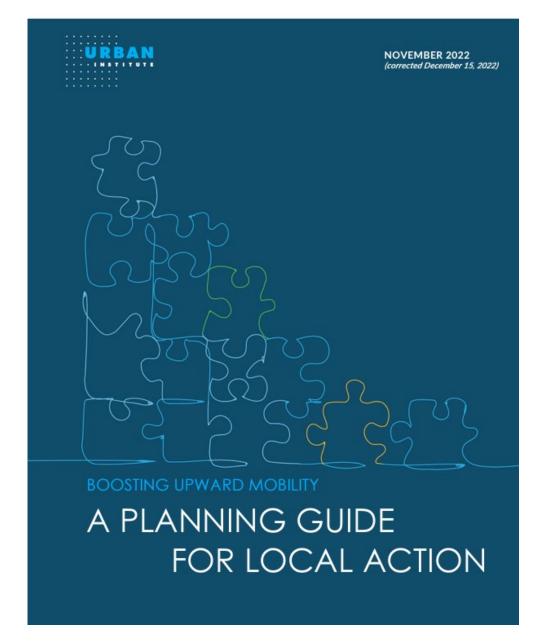


Mobility Action Planning



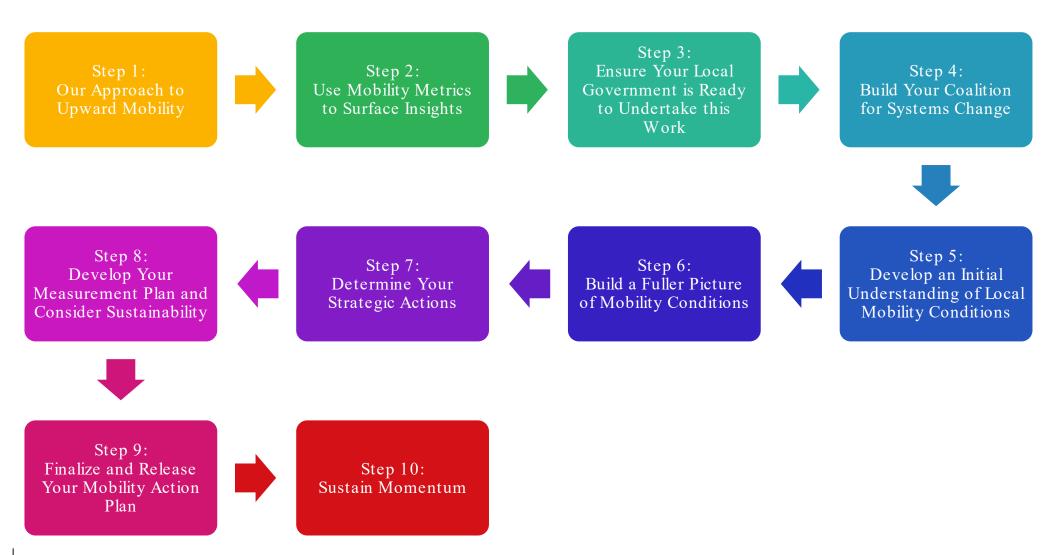
Upward Mobility Planning Guide

- A guide to help local leaders better understand impediments to upward mobility and how to build a cross-sector team that can plan, advocate for, and implement a set of systems changes focused on bringing all members of your community out of poverty and creating more equitable results.
- Provides practical advice for people driven to boost mobility from poverty and asking, "Where do I start?"
- Informed by the Boosting Upward Mobility cohort that beta-tested the metrics.





A Planning Guide for Local Action





Case Study of Community Foundation Mobility Action Planning: Forsyth County





Crafting a Framework for Success

Using Data and Stories of Impact to Advocate for Policy Change



Upward Mobility Framework

Forsyth County, NC





Forsyth County | North Carolina

Department of Social Services







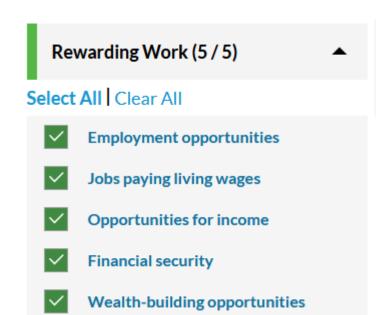
A place of promise.



About 1 in 4 Forsyth
County, North Carolina
households
experienced Asset
Poverty.



About 1 in 4, or 23%, experienced Asset Poverty in 2021.





REWARDING WORK

Wealth-building opportunities

Ratio of the share of total home values owned by a racial or ethnic group to the share of households of the same group



In 2022, in Forsyth County, NC,

- Black non-Hispanic households made up 25.6% of households but held 13.6% of the local housing wealth,
- Hispanic households made up 9.1% of households but held 7.1% of the local housing wealth,
- households of other races and ethnicities made up 4.5% of households but held 5.7% of the local housing wealth, and
- white non-Hispanic households made up 60.8% of households but held 73.6% of the local housing wealth.



REWARDING WORK

Jobs paying living wages

Jobs paying living wages

Pay on an average job compared with the cost of living

The metric is computed by dividing the earnings for an average job in a community by the cost of basic expenses for a family of three (1 adult and 2 children) in that community. Values greater than 1 indicate that the average job pays more than the cost of living, and values less than 1 suggest the average job pays less.

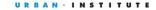
Location	Year	Subgroup	Pay to cost of living	Data Quality
Forsyth County, NC	2022	All	0.73	Strong
Forsyth County, NC	2022	Goods producing	0.82	Strong
Forsyth County, NC	2022	Public administration	0.72	Strong
Forsyth County, NC	2022	Trade, transit, and utilities	0.55	Strong
Forsyth County, NC	2022	Information services	1	Strong
Forsyth County, NC	2022	Professional services	1.03	Strong
Forsyth County, NC	2022	Education and health	0.89	Strong
Forsyth County, NC	2022	Leisure and other	0.36	Strong

Sources and Notes

US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) data, 2022; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Living Wage Calculator, 2022. (Time period: 2022)

The confidence interval for this metric is not available because the underlying data lack the variation needed to calculate it. When a category is selected, the value for the "All" group may differ from the overall value shown when no category is selected. This is because category values may be derived from alternate data sources or calculation methods. City data are not available for this metric.





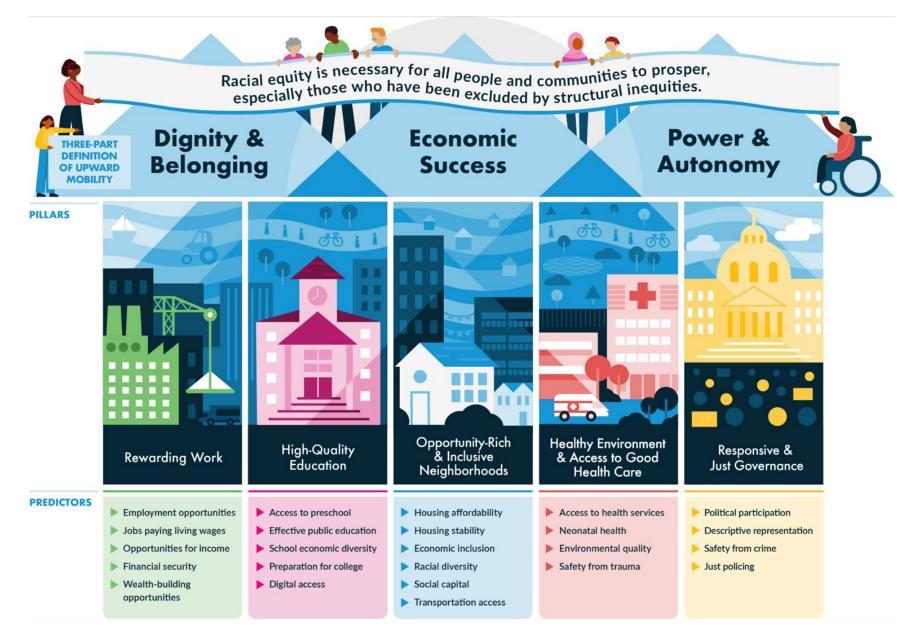
^{*}Public administration

^{*}Trade, transit, and utilities

^{*}Professional services

Escaping Generational Poverty for Individuals who are born into Poverty in Forsyth County, North Carolina

- → Public Benefits Programs that were created to be temporary but continue keep individuals in a systemic cycle of poverty.
- → Marginalized populations can not escape generational poverty due to lack of access to high quality jobs, housing, transportation, and other variables.



What is one next step we are planning to take in advancing upward mobility and racial equity locally?

→ Advocating for Legislative and Policy Change

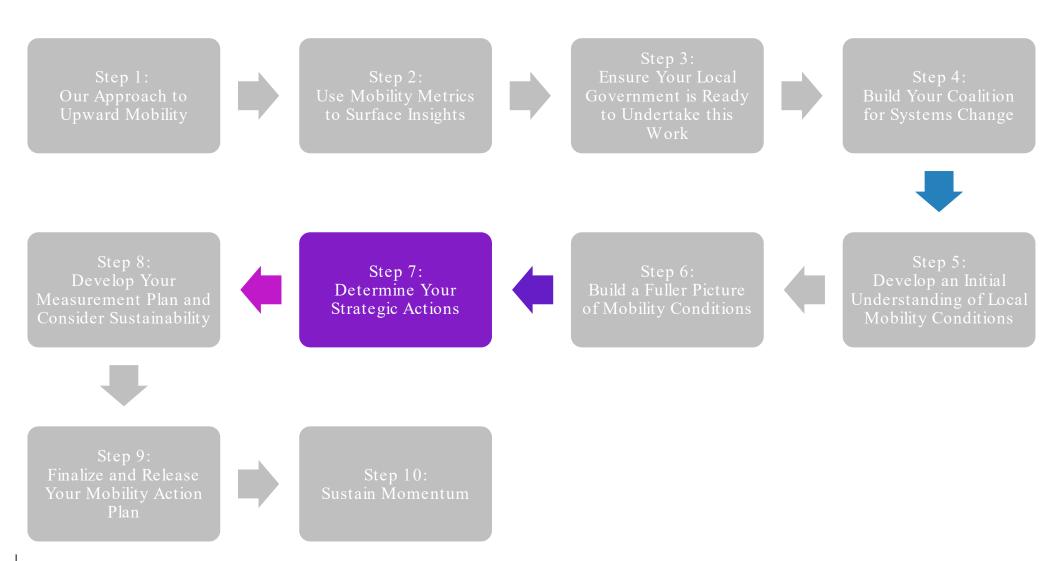
Build relationships with our new elected officials and showcase the stories, data, and the solution to see change for Forsyth County and NC.



Theory of Change



A Planning Guide for Local Action—Strategic Actions





Determine Your Strategic Actions via a Theory of Change

- Defined problem or challenge
- Shared vision for solution
- Values
- Strategies



Theories of Change Connect a Vision to Strategic Actions

- Articulate how a coalition believes change happens
- Reflect a set of assumptions that connect...
 - Preconditions—what you need for change to happen
 - Expected outcomes—improvements you can see
- Effectively communicate about your purpose and the change intended
- Build and reinforce community buy-in
- Create an accountability framework for strategic actions



Theories of Change can...

- Challenge underlying assumptions about what it takes to create change
- Build and reinforce community buy-in
- Create an accountability framework for strategic actions
- Address the context and causes of challenges in your community
- Effectively communicate your rationale for specific



Example: KUA Hawaii

We envision:

Abundant and healthy ecological systems in Hawai'i that contribute to community well-being.

> This will take: Powerful and connected communities stewarding Hawaiian lands. waters and culture (community-based natural resource management).

We'll know this has happened when the following conditions are a broad-based reality in Hawaii:

Communities are decision-makers

of communities participating in decisionmaking processes

% decisions that go the way communities want them to go

Community practitioners are resource managers

area under active community management

#educated by communities

% decrease in threats to resources

#new management approaches

%increase in biomass

Sustainable communitybased organizations

nonprofit BMPs utilized

mix of fundraising strategies utilized Communities adapt to changing conditions

communities doing monitoring & evaluation

We will achieve these conditions through these activities:

gatherings # communities at gathering

people at gatherings

% attending who apply learning at home

new biocultural management tools used in communities

training and tools # people attending trainings

of people using/ requesting tools %increase in

knowledge %satisfied that training increased their level of

knowlege

facilitation, consultation and technical assistance

making progress

new biocultural

% communities trained who are implementing training within one year

exchanges

communities who perceive that they are reaching goals.

\$ brought to communities

network building # incidences of skill

new biocultural

management tools

used in communities

links made between communities and resource agencies/ partners

#/\$ resources received management tools and utilized through used in communities

advocacy # positive mentions

new regulations that contribute to improved biocultural

management

seeking input

agencies

ratio funding from grants vs individuals

backbone support

organization

non-profit health

scorecard score

mix of fundraising

strategies utilized

%increase in

\$ of operating reserves

%perceive values alignment

We work on these activities with and for:

Communities who invite our support, and who have an active committment to restoring and protecting the natural and cultural resources of their place

Because we believe:

Communities have a traditional and sacred role and responsibility for the lands and waters their places.

Communities rely on ecological health for physical, cultural, and spiritual sustenance.

Communities have knowledge, practice and relationships critical for successful resource management.

learn more at kuchawaii.ong





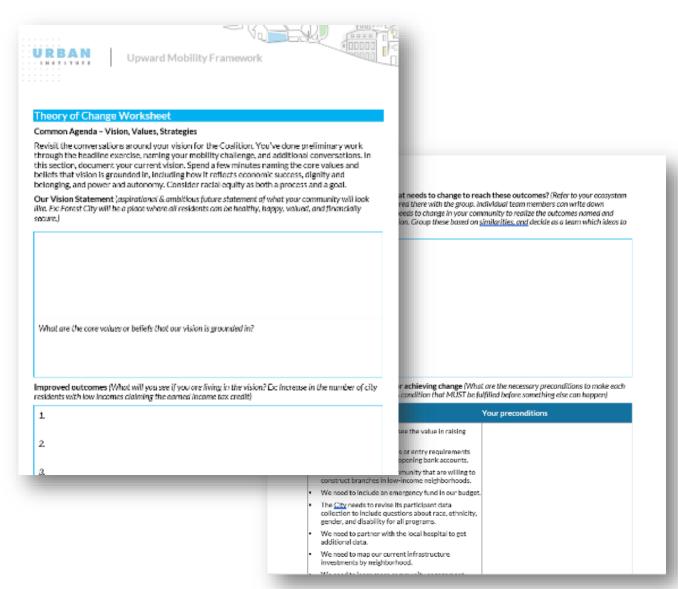
Breakout Activity: Theory of Change



Developing Your Theory of Change for Upward Mobility

With your Foundation team:

- Locate the worksheet
- Spend 10 minutes documenting your vision, values, outcomes
- Spend 10 minutes activating your vision, preconditions, and key relationships
- Use 10 minutes to discuss next steps





Peer Sharing

• What thoughts do you have about developing or refining your Theory of Change?

How will you use this in your community?

Next Steps



Upward Mobility Initiative Resources

The Upward Mobility Framework

- Restoring the American Dream: What Would It Take to Dramatically Increase Mobility from Poverty? (US Partnership on Mobility from Poverty)
- The Upward Mobility Framework
- Boosting Upward Mobility: <u>Metrics to</u> <u>Inform Local Action</u> (<u>technical</u> <u>appendix</u>; <u>first edition</u>)
- Upward Mobility Virtual Workshop: Overview
- Evidence Resource Library [forthcoming]

Using the Mobility Metrics and other local data

- Upward Mobility Data Dashboard
- Data Catalog and GitHub
- Upward Mobility Virtual Workshop: <u>Mobility Metrics</u>
- Mobility Metrics Selection Criteria and Available Data
- Six Ways to Use the Mobility Metrics
- How to Examine Your Mobility Metrics
- Obtaining More Local Data

Strategies for increasing upward mobility

- Boosting Upward Mobility: <u>Exemplars</u> (examples of successful programs)
- Boosting Mobility and Advancing Equity Through Systems Change
- Boosting Upward Mobility: <u>A Planning</u>
 Guide for Local Action
- Mobility Action Plans from the Upward Mobility Cohort
- Creating Mobility from Poverty: An Overview of Strategies (US Partnership on Mobility from Poverty)
- Promising Local Policy Interventions
- Upward Mobility Virtual Workshop: Local Action

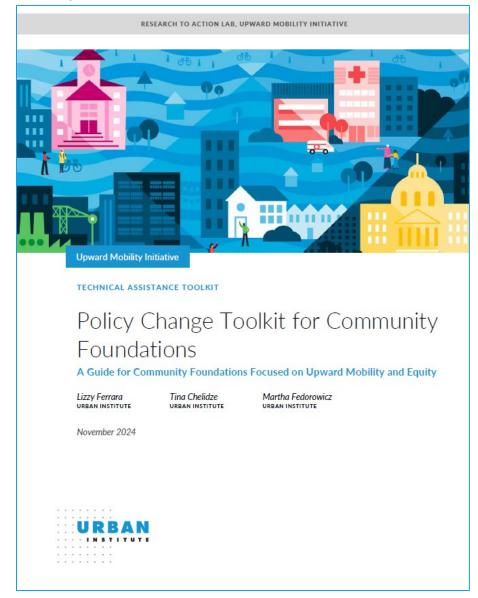


Policy Change Toolkit for Community Foundations

Five-Step Policy Change Model for Community Foundations

Step 1: Prepare to engage in policy advocacy Step 2:
Define the problem and identify a policy solution

Step 3: Understand the policy environment Step 4: Draft a policy change agenda Step 5: Build a policy change campaign





Future Trainings

- On the My Community platform there is a post that provides the option for four different virtual trainings which we'll provide to you all in the coming months.
- Please vote for the ones you'd find most useful so that we can provide trainings that are the most helpful to you all.