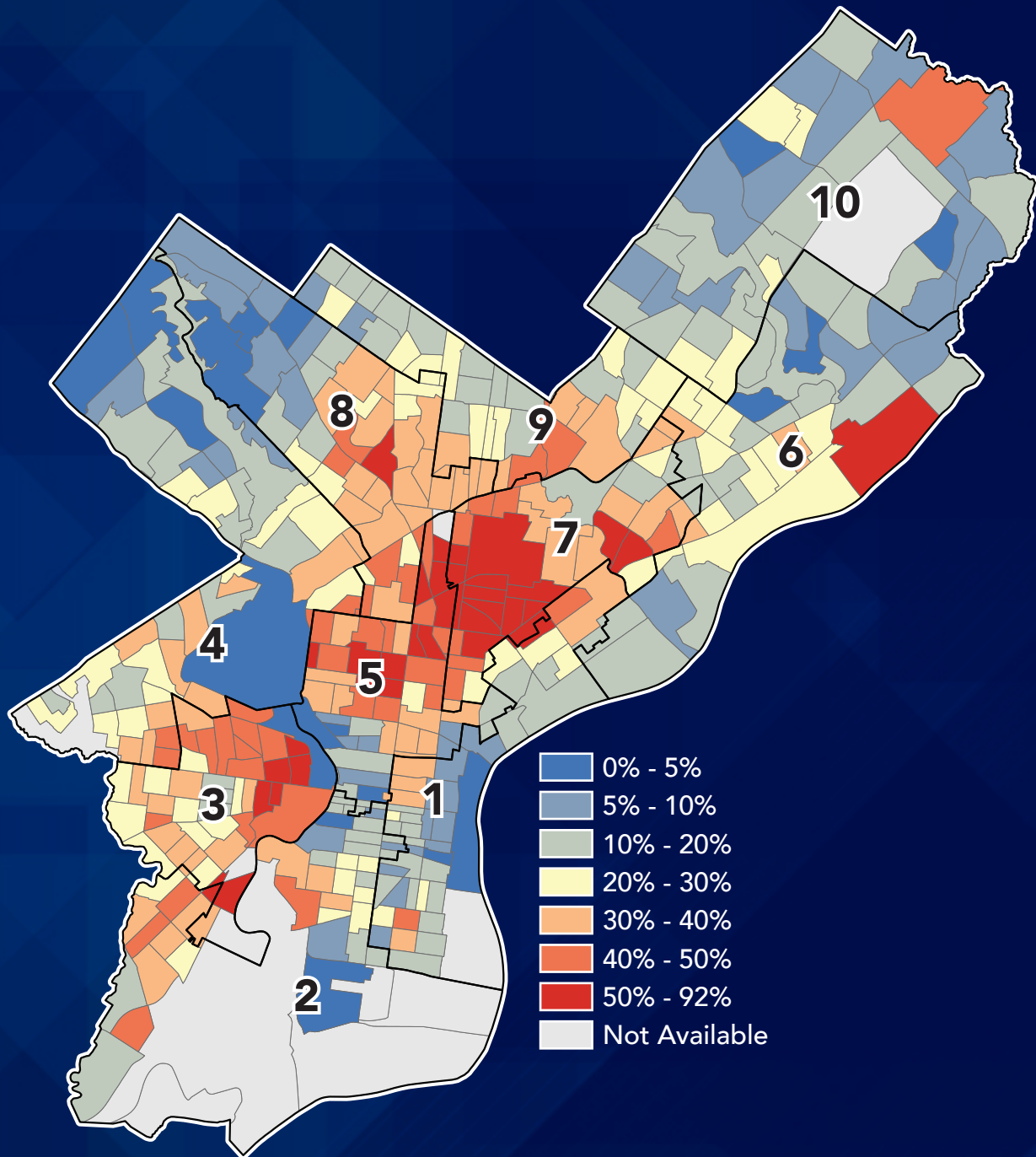


# NARROWING THE GAP

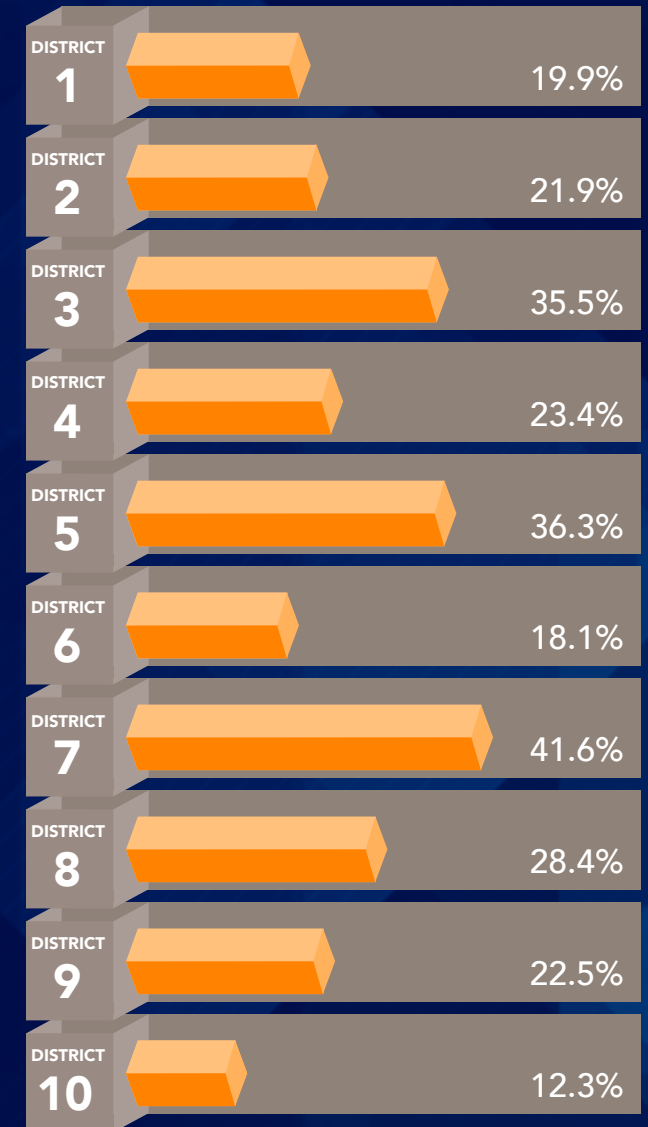
*Strategies to alleviate and prevent poverty in Philadelphia*



## POVERTY RATE BY COUNCIL DISTRICT: ACS ESTIMATES (2017)



### Poverty Rate 2017 ACS five-year estimate



# FOCUS AREAS AND POLICY GROUPS

## HOUSING

PRESERVE HOUSING  
AFFORDABILITY & PROTECT  
EXISTING HOMEOWNERS

ENSURE FAIR HOUSING  
FOR ALL

## JOBS AND EDUCATION

CLOSING THE SKILLS GAP

FAIR WAGES  
FOR WORKERS

ENFORCE PROTECTIONS  
FOR WORKERS

## SOCIAL SAFETY NET

MAXIMIZE ENROLLMENT  
IN BENEFIT PROGRAMS

SUPPORT FINANCIAL  
FAIRNESS AND  
EMPOWERMENT



# HOUSING

## IDEA

## CREATE A DYNAMIC LINKAGE FEE TO PROVIDE RESOURCES FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

## PRECEDENTS

### **Los Angeles, CA**

*In 2017, Los Angeles passed a per-square foot linkage fee on new development with the intention of plowing the proceeds into affordable housing and homelessness services. The fee, which ranges from \$8 to \$15 per square foot, is estimated to raise up to \$100M per year.*

### **Denver, CO**

*Similarly, Denver passed a universal Affordable Housing Linkage Fee in late 2016. The bill creates a dedicated affordable housing fund to help create or preserve thousands of affordable homes for low- to moderate-income families in Denver. The fee ranges from \$1.55 per-square-foot for multi-unit market-rate housing to \$0.41 for agricultural land.*

## IDEA

**REQUIRE PRESERVATION OR CREATION  
OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR  
TAX INCENTIVE RECIPIENTS**

## PRECEDENT

### ***New York, NY | J-51 Tax Abatement***

*The J-51 program in New York City allows landlords that rehabilitate rental properties to abate their taxes so long as rehabilitated properties remain rent stabilized. The J-51 program was among the largest and most successful affordable housing programs ever undertaken by the City. The program has been one of the largest creators of rent-stabilized properties in the City's history. At the time of its implementation, New York's housing stock was in poor condition, but broadly affordable, a status which resembles Philadelphia.*



## IDEA

**REQUIRE THAT HOUSING  
BUILT ON PUBLIC LAND  
CONTAIN AFFORDABLE UNITS**

## PRECEDENT

### ***Washington, DC***

*In 2014, the District of Columbia passed the Disposition of District Land for Affordable Housing Amendment Act, which requires all new multifamily residential projects developed on City-owned surplus land include at least 20% affordable housing. The requirement is increased to 30% in areas with transit access. The Act allows the District to dispose of land for below market value, so that developers can use the cost savings to subsidize affordable housing units and allows the District to provide additional subsidies to ensure that affordability requirements are met.*

## IDEA

## FULLY LEVERAGE THE BENEFITS OF THE NEW FEDERAL QUALIFIED OPPORTUNITY ZONES PROGRAM

*The Federal Qualified Opportunity Zones (QOZ) Program was created by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 as an innovative approach to unlocking long-term private investment to support low-income urban and rural communities in every U.S. state and territory. The Qualified Opportunity Zones Program provides an incentive for investors to reinvest unrealized capital gains into Qualified Opportunity Funds (QOFs) —the emerging financial entities that will invest in QOZs—in exchange for a temporary tax deferral and other benefits and profits tied to long-term holdings. With trillions of dollars in unrealized capital gains sitting on the sidelines in stocks and mutual funds, U.S. investors can now roll passive holdings of capital into investments in distressed communities.*

*Examples of businesses and development projects eligible for investments from QOFs include: affordable and market rate housing, mixed-use developments, retail-grocery stores, health clinics, office buildings, manufacturing businesses, restaurants, and hotels.*



## IDEA

**PARTNER WITH HEALTH CARE INSTITUTIONS  
TO SUPPORT POSITIVE AFFORDABLE HOUSING  
OUTCOMES FOR LOW-INCOME PHILADELPHIANS**

## PRECEDENTS

### **Baltimore, MD**

*Bon Secours Baltimore Health System has taken a broad approach to community investment, including developing more than 700 safe, quality affordable rental housing units for nearly 1,200 individuals. Their support extends to residential case management, trauma informed care, and even career development.*

### **Cook County, IL**

*University of Illinois Hospital (UI Health) partnered with the Center for Housing and Health to provide nearly 500 beds to chronically homeless individuals with stable housing and supportive services; the ultimate goal is to help individuals eventually move into fully independent and permanent living situations. UI Health has been studying patients' health conditions and health care utilization since the Better Health Through Housing program began in 2015, and early results are encouraging. The system saw a 67% drop in participants' health care costs.*

### **Philadelphia, PA**

*Despite many innovative partnerships nationwide, this is still new territory in Pennsylvania. In Philadelphia, however, there are currently two partnerships with the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia that connect patients to home repair services: 1) Rebuilding Together Philadelphia, and 2) Philadelphia Housing Development Corporation.*

# IDEA

## EXPAND EXISTING HOUSING PRESERVATION AND HOMEOWNER RELIEF PROGRAMS

*The City of Philadelphia's efforts to provide property tax relief, for residents in gentrifying neighborhoods and those who have experienced unaffordable increases in their real estate tax bills, have been largely successful. However, more can be done to keep Philadelphians in their homes and prevent middle-income families from slipping into poverty.*

*One prominent example of these efforts is the City's Owner-Occupied Payment Agreement (OOPA) program, which allows owner-occupied homeowners to make affordable monthly payments on property taxes that are past due through negotiated agreements with the Department of Revenue. Much more could be done to promote this program and ensure that we reduce tax delinquency and housing vulnerability.*

*In December 2018, Philadelphia City Council introduced legislation expanding eligibility requirements for the Longtime Owner Occupants Program (LOOP), which provides tax relief to homeowners experiencing sudden, sharp increases in property assessments. Implemented in conjunction with the Actual Value Initiative (AVI) in 2014, LOOP offers tax relief to modest-income owner-occupants of 10 years or more who see a year-on-year tax bill increase of at least 200 percent. The amendment, recently signed into law by the Mayor, expanded LOOP relief to protect qualifying homeowners who see a year-on-year tax increase of at least 50 percent. Homeowners who are found to qualify for LOOP in tax year 2019 will see a credit applied to their tax year 2020 bill.*

## IDEA

INCREASE TENANT ACCESS  
TO AFFORDABLE COUNSEL  
IN HOUSING COURT

## PRECEDENT

***New York, NY***

*New York City has committed to providing counsel to every case in housing courts by 2022, funded by city appropriations.*

## IDEA

CREATE A DATA COLLECTION AND  
ADVANCED NOTIFICATION FRAMEWORK  
FOR RENTALS AND EVICTIONS

## PRECEDENTS

### **Los Angeles, CA**

*In Los Angeles, rental licensing is compulsory for all properties with three or more units since owners must register for and pay city business taxes. If a property owner fails to register and/or to pay their annual registration fee of \$43 per unit, a 200% penalty is assessed on the fee and all business taxes. The program has led to near-universal rental licensure in the city, which means that Los Angeles can work with a comprehensive set of data on rental housing.*

### **Boston, MA**

*Boston has developed a program called “Breathe Easy Boston” that has become a well-known case study in inter-organizational collaboration through data sharing. The policy asks that hospitals inquire as to any child’s housing condition if he or she presents with asthma or respiratory issues. Providers can then refer the case to the City’s housing department, which may inspect the home both physically and through an integrated database of air quality and housing code violations.*

## IDEA

EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES TO  
SUPPORT RELOCATION ASSISTANCE  
FOR DISPLACED TENANTS

## PRECEDENTS

### **San Jose, CA**

*When a tenant in San Jose, California is forced to relocate due to mandatory order to vacate or substandard living conditions that could jeopardize the health and safety of current or future residents, tenants can be provided with assistance including: substitution temporary housing, financial support in securing a new rental unit, and certain paid moving and transportation expenses to jobs or schools. Exceptions to these protections include instances in which the tenant was lawfully evicted or the reason for displacement was caused, or substantially contributed to, by the tenant.*

### **State of Connecticut**

*If a municipal housing code office, health department, or other official orders a tenant in Connecticut to vacate their rental unit, municipalities are required to help facilitate the relocation of that tenant. State law says that if a municipality tells tenants to vacate because code violations or a fire have made it unfit to live in, the municipality must provide temporary emergency housing, assistance in finding a safe and comparable rental unit, and some support with moving expenses.*

## IDEA

## PASS FAIR CHANCE HOUSING LEGISLATION

## PRECEDENTS

### **Seattle, WA**

*The Seattle Fair Chance Housing legislation prevents landlords from unfairly denying applicants housing based on criminal history. It also prohibits the use of advertising language that automatically or categorically excludes justice-involved people.*

### **Newark, NJ**

*Newark recently passed an ordinance that prohibits consideration of an applicant's criminal history until after a formal application for housing has been submitted, and after the landlord provides specific written disclosures and the applicant has consented.*



## IDEA

PROVIDE RESOURCES TO IMPROVE  
RENTAL UNITS IN EXCHANGE FOR  
RENT STABILIZATION

## PRECEDENTS

### **Washington, DC**

The Department of Housing and Community Development offers the Small Buildings Grant Program to provide funds for key repairs for property owners of multi-family rental housing. Property owners are eligible if at least 75 percent of their building is occupied and at least 25 percent of housing units are affordable to low-income households who earn at or below 50 percent of the Median Family Income.

### **Milwaukee, WI**

The City of Milwaukee offers the Rental Rehabilitation Loan Program to assist responsible landlords and investors who agree to rent to low-income tenants. The program prioritizes exterior repairs (roofing, siding, porch), lead paint abatement (including replacement windows), energy conservation, plumbing, electrical, heating, and kitchen and bathroom. Further, landlords must provide annual re-certification of tenants' income and monthly rents must be capped. Provided that landlords meet the program requirements, they are eligible for no-interest, forgivable loans for each unit.

### **Philadelphia, PA**

While no longer functioning due to limits in Section 8 Voucher availability, Philadelphia's MEND program had similar goals and provides valuable lessons towards the successful implementation of such an initiative.



# **JOBS AND EDUCATION**

## **IDEA**

## **BOLSTER SUPPORT FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA**

*Building off the record increases in local funding for public education and regaining local control, the City of Philadelphia must do more to leverage every available resource and service to increase the opportunities of children, our most valuable asset.*

*Specifically, the City of Philadelphia will play a much stronger role in the following areas:*

- *Better coordination of City, State, and Federal resources and services*
- *Improved integration of social services, specifically behavioral and physical health, across all government agencies and programs.*
- *Leverage the success of sponsored school models, like Penn Alexander School and others, to ensure our biggest institutions are contributing to improved educational outcomes.*
- *Partner with Philadelphia's institutions of higher education to amplify all opportunities for shared resources, learning opportunities, and in-kind volunteer services across the entire city, not just in their backyards.*
- *Support a major expansion of dual and concurrent enrollment opportunities at institutions of higher learning across the city.*
- *Lead the way in forging new corporate sponsorships of CTE programming and options.*

## IDEA

### INCREASE SUPPORT FOR MICRO-ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT & GRASSROOTS ENTREPRENEURSHIP

## PRECEDENTS

#### ***Pennsylvania Small Business Development Centers, Commonwealth of PA***

*The Pennsylvania Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) are the only statewide, nationally-accredited program that provides high quality one-on-one consulting, training, and information resources to empower new and existing businesses. The SBDC program is a public/private partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, and 18 universities and colleges across the Commonwealth. The mission of the network of SBDCs is to provide entrepreneurs and small business owners with the knowledge needed to make smart decisions and prosper. Since its inception in 1980, SBDCs have evolved into a network of 18 university and college-based centers and more than 90 outreach locations operating under the guidance of the Lead Office located at Kutztown University. The Pennsylvania SBDC provides consulting services and educational programs to entrepreneurs looking to start or grow their small businesses. SBDC consultants work with entrepreneurs in confidential, one-to-one sessions to help them with a range of business issues including testing a new business proposition, shaping a business plan, investigating funding opportunities, and much more.*

## IDEA

PARTNER WITH BUILDING TRADES TO  
PROVIDE ON-SITE JOB TRAINING FOR  
RETURNING CITIZENS

## PRECEDENT

*Philadelphia, PA – Existing Programs*

- *Re-Entry Support Project*
- *Uplift Solutions*
- *Jewish Employment and Vocational Services*
- *Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program*
- *Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) Roots to Reentry Program*
- *Mural Arts Restorative Justice Program*

## IDEA

## SPONSOR PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT HIRING AND TRAINING ENTRY-LEVEL WORKERS

## PRECEDENTS

### **Southwest Indiana Chamber of Commerce | Shared Learning Program**

Southwest Indiana is an active manufacturing hub with many small and medium-sized businesses competing for a limited pool of skilled workers. However, though the need for mid-level talent is acute, many of these small businesses lack the resources to implement a fully-integrated training program. The Shared Learning Program connects entry-level employees at over 140 manufacturers, as well as members of the Tri-State Manufacturing Alliance, with training opportunities. Employees at any single company can register for free training at any other company in the alliance, the costs of which are shared among the Alliance.

### **New York, NY | SYEP and Ladders for Leaders Programs**

The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) provides New York City youth between the ages of 14 & 24 with paid summer employment for up to six weeks in July and August. Participants work in entry-level jobs in a variety of industries including: the arts, education, financial services, healthcare, hospitality, IT, manufacturing, marketing, media, real estate, and retail. SYEP also provides workshops on job readiness, career exploration, financial literacy, and opportunities to continue education and social growth. Programs are located in partner community-based organizations in all five boroughs of New York City. Similarly, The Ladders for Leaders is a nationally recognized program that offers high school and college students the opportunity to participate in paid professional summer internships with leading corporations, non-profit organizations and government agencies in New York City.



## IDEA

## PROVIDE RESOURCES TO SUPPORT VOCATIONAL AND MIDDLE-COLLEGE PROGRAMS

## PRECEDENTS

### **State of California**

The State of California provides a universal middle-college program for high school students by providing virtual high school “campuses” housed at community colleges. Students can apply to enroll exclusively at these high schools, which focus on career readiness, or attend select classes in preparation for enrollment in full-time college. Pupils earn a high school diploma as well as up to two years of college credit without having to pay tuition.

### **New York, NY | Train and Earn, Learn and Earn, Intern and Earn**

New York City’s Department of Youth and Community Development offers a variety of workforce development programs targeted toward high school students. ‘Train and Earn’ is a short-term career pathway program for low-income youth, ages 16–24, who are not working and not in school, which it provides extensive job training and employment services, along with support services needed by participants to find a permanent job or get assistance with college admission. Similarly, Learn and Earn is targeted towards students at risk of dropping out of school and provides specialized workforce readiness training and a monthly stipend. Intern and Earn is targeted towards summer internships for high school students.

## **IDEA**

**PROVIDE RESOURCES FOR SHORT-TERM CREDENTIALING PROGRAMS TO ACCELERATE THE TRANSITION FROM TRAINING TO WORK**

## **PRECEDENTS**

### ***University of Louisville | Organizational Leadership and Learning (OLL)***

Since 2010, the Organizational Leadership and Learning (OLL) program at the University of Louisville has provided the opportunity for students to earn college credit for learning and development accomplished outside of the traditional classroom through the Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) process. The process does not award credit for life experience. Rather, it offers students the opportunity to earn credit through many methods that demonstrate their college-level knowledge, skills, and abilities. Since its creation in partnership with the City of Louisville, the program has allowed thousands of working adults to accelerate their degree and enter the workforce.

### ***Harper College (Palatine, IL) | Career Pathway in Supply Chain Management***

Harper College, located in Chicago's northwest suburbs, a major manufacturing and logistics corridor, serves more than 40,000 students annually. In 2010, the college created the Career Pathway in Supply Chain Management, working with over 100 local stakeholders and employers. The program is noteworthy for its "stackable" nature—a single semester (12 credit-hours) of instruction provides students with a certificate in Inventory Production Control. Students can then exit the program to work, return at a later date, or continue to earn additional semester-long certificates (Purchasing, Physical Distribution, and Supply Chain Managements) resulting in an associate degree in Supply Chain Management. The program, which was implemented through a curriculum change with minimal cost to Harper, is tailored for working adults, who make up half the students in the program. Many courses are offered on weekends and during evenings with no time limit on program completion. At minimal cost, Harper College delivers additional value to its students.

## **IDEA**

### **PARTNER WITH UNIVERSITIES TO PROVIDE CAREER COACHING IN EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD**

*Building off the success of the KEYSPOt Network, a citywide coalition of community-based groups committed to bringing Internet access, adult education, and career services to all Philadelphia communities; the City of Philadelphia will ensure every Philadelphian can easily search and apply for jobs online at neighborhood community hubs within walking distance of their home.*

*The City of Philadelphia will partner with institutions of higher education to establish credit recognition programs and work-study opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students. These students will coordinate with existing staff at each location as trained volunteers—ready to assist Philadelphians with the job search and application process. Community career coaches will be cross trained to ensure they can refer those interested in finding a job to the many other benefits and training programs for which that client may be eligible.*

*As one example of where these community-based career coaches could be based; with over 50 KEYSPOt locations, the City of Philadelphia's Office of Adult Education is already providing internet access and training through a network of recreation centers, libraries, and community organizations. Locations will be expanded to include every neighborhood.*

*Through expanding the number of locations with computer access and staffing each facility with trained, volunteer career coaches, the City of Philadelphia can better connect Philadelphians to existing job opportunities and help identify the best training program for future jobs based on each client's unique background and skills.*

## IDEA

ESTABLISH "LIVING WAGE PHILADELPHIA,"  
A DYNAMIC, VOLUNTARY WAGE  
CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

## PRECEDENTS

### **London, UK | The London Living Wage**

The London Living Wage is a voluntary living wage that has been calculated every year since 2003 to account for the high cost of living in London. The Living Wage Foundation defines the living wage and certifies employers who meet Living Wage standards. To date, over 2,530 employers in London have been certified, including large, global employers, such as Goldman Sachs, Citibank, Unilever, Deloitte, Google, GlaxoSmithKline, and KPMG, which also have offices in Philadelphia.

### **Just Economics of Western North Carolina | Private Certification**

In the United States, Just Economics, a nonprofit based in Asheville, North Carolina and covering the western North Carolina region, administers the largest voluntary living wage certification program in the country, with 400 participating employers.

### **Philadelphia, PA | W.A.G.E.**

W.A.G.E. Certification is a national program initiated and operated by W.A.G.E., an arts and activist organization, that publicly recognizes nonprofit arts organizations demonstrating a history of, and commitment to, voluntarily paying artist fees that meet minimum payment standards. The organization has certified 60 institutions in Philadelphia but focuses exclusively on the arts.

## IDEA

## IMPLEMENT A \$15/HOUR WAGE FOR CITY CONTRACT WORKERS

## PRECEDENTS

### **San Francisco, CA**

*In 2018, San Francisco passed a bill raising the minimum wage for employees of government contractors to \$17 per hour over three years. The current hourly rate under the city's minimum wage ordinance had been \$15 since 2013. The increase is even greater for employees at the San Francisco International Airport, whose minimum wage had been \$13.50 per hour.*

### **Los Angeles, CA**

*The City of Los Angeles' Living Wage Ordinance sets a minimum of \$13.50 per hour for contractors with 26 or more employees. The ordinance also calls for periodic recalculation of this wage to adjust for changes in the cost of living.*

## IDEA

## REQUIRE SURETY BONDS AND/OR WAGE LIENS FOR UNPAID WAGES

## PRECEDENTS

### **State of Maryland**

*The Maryland Lien for Unpaid Wages provides the opportunity for wage theft victims to file a lien against certain property of their employer who owes the unpaid wages. The law requires an employee to notify their employer of their intent to claim a lien for unpaid wages on real and/or personal property. An employer may dispute a lien for unpaid wages by filing a complaint in the circuit court where the property is located.*

### **State of California**

*The California Fair Day's Pay Act, under Bill 588, allows labor commissioners to issue stop work orders against employers who have judgements against them for nonpayment of wages, to issue levies against employer's bank account and accounts receivable, and to place liens against employer's property. The Mechanic's Lien law (used in the construction industry) allows the contractor or construction worker to assert a lien against the property to secure payment.*



## **IDEA**

## **ENHANCE OUTREACH ABOUT WORKER PROTECTION AND FAIR HIRING LAWS**

## **PRECEDENTS**

### **Seattle, WA**

Seattle recently approved a Business Outreach and Education Fund to provide outreach, education and technical assistance to Seattle's small business about their responsibilities under Seattle's Minimum Wage, Paid Sick and Safe Time, Fair Chance Employment, and Secure Scheduling Ordinances – focusing on outreach to employers not typically served by traditional outreach methods (immigrants, people of color, veterans, etc.) This is a 2-year program costing a total of \$1.4 million, achieved through partnerships with 5 other organizations who will receive the funds for these purposes.

### **State of Tennessee**

Tennessee has an Employee Misclassification Advisory task force, which includes an education component to help employers provide distinctions between employees and independent contractors.

### **State of New York**

The New York Wage Watch is a partnership between New York State Department of Labor (DOL) and community groups aimed at providing education to employees and employers in targeted neighborhoods and facilitating wage theft referrals between the DOL and the community organization.



# **SOCIAL SAFETY NET**

# IDEA

## SHARE BENEFITS ENROLLMENT DATA FOR CROSS-ENROLLMENT

# PRECEDENTS

### **State of Louisiana**

Louisiana makes use of existing data for enrollment and renewal in children's health insurance. For instance, data matches are used for children's health insurance renewals if income data show a reasonable certainty of continued eligibility. In 2010, Louisiana used data sharing to enroll more than 10,000 children in health insurance using SNAP data.

### **New York, NY**

New York City has coordinated data sharing arrangements with the Department of Taxation and Finance (DTF) that allow Medicaid to use tax data to administratively verify applicant-reported income information, or even eliminate the need for some applicants to report income entirely. Additionally, they have tried to pursue data sharing arrangements with Vital Records that would allow administrative verification of birth information, but efforts are currently on hold while other work is under way to plan and implement the work of the Enrollment Center. NYC houses its vital record information separately than the rest of the state and matches in the city are beginning in November 2019.

## IDEA

**MAXIMIZE BENEFIT UTILIZATION  
THROUGH SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY  
HUBS, AND CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES**

## PRECEDENTS

### **Chicago, IL | Chicago Public Schools**

Chicago Public Schools (CPS) is the country's largest school system with over 600 schools and 435,000 students. About 84 percent of CPS students are eligible for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). In 2005, CPS estimated that 70,000 to 80,000 CPS students who receive benefits in the NSLP are potentially eligible but not enrolled in Illinois's Chop Program (known as All Kids) resulting in an annual revenue loss of \$144 million. In response, CPS matched two datasets to identify children who are receiving free or reduced school lunch but are not on All Kids. CPS then contacts the parents of students who are eligible but not enrolled. Since 2005, CPS has screened over 49,000 families and produced more than 24,000 applications for All Kids, food stamps/SNAP or joint applications for both. The disposition rate for approved medical only applications has topped 90 percent.

### **State of Colorado | Department of Corrections Medicaid Enrollment**

In the state's prisons, enrollment is folded into already-existing processes the Department of Corrections (DOC) uses to help released individuals gain or regain benefits as part of their transition back into the community. Two nurse case managers based at the DOC central office complete applications electronically for incarcerated individuals in all 24 facilities, including private facilities. Once an individual is enrolled, DOC ensures that they have their Medicaid card within their possession upon release. If a Medicaid card is not received prior to release, the DOC ensures that the individual knows their Medicaid number. Additionally, individuals who may have opted out of enrollment assistance pre-release can later choose for parole staff to connect them to the case manager/nurse.

## IDEA

## CROSS-PROMOTE EXISTING CITY INITIATIVES THROUGH UNIFYING MARKETING RESOURCES

*Philadelphia has already had success in enrolling residents in its many programs designed to alleviate and prevent poverty, but marketing and outreach spending across City-funded departments and outside providers is often diffuse and uncoordinated.*

*City Council will call upon the City of Philadelphia's many agencies and departments, as well as City-funded community partners to develop a comprehensive communications plan for more effectively utilizing existing marketing and community outreach budgets to ensure cross-promotion and maximum impact.*

*Before new initiatives are established, it is always essential for the City to ensure all eligible residents are enrolled and taking advantage of existing poverty alleviation and prevention measures. A crucial first step in alleviating and preventing poverty is ensuring high utilization rates among Philadelphians eligible for all existing local, state, and federal benefit and relief programs. With more money in their pockets, Philadelphians experiencing poverty have more freedom to explore new opportunities and care for their families. Wherever possible, targeted outreach should be done with all benefits and relief programs in mind.*

## IDEA

### MAKE ONE-ON-ONE FINANCIAL COUNSELING A RIGHT FOR ALL PHILADELPHIANS, INCLUDING JUSTICE-INVOLVED POPULATIONS

*Since 2013, the City and Cities for Financial Empowerment (CFE) have worked to extend financial empowerment training at Financial Empowerment Centers (FECs) throughout the City, relying on a grant from the Bloomberg Foundation for initial funding. At the time of the grant award to the first five cities in 2013, CFE intended and anticipated that Philadelphia would eventually fund all or a portion of the financial empowerment services using general fund dollars. Indeed, three of those five cities that launched FECs in 2013 have since successfully tapped into public funding to support long-term operation. However, Philadelphia has not.*

*While complete reliance on the general fund may not ever be a reality in Philadelphia, a stable line item will introduce much-needed stability to the financially tenuous operations of CEO and its contracted service providers. City Council must commit to providing FECs the necessary resources to reach their former heights of operation during the influx of philanthropic dollars from the EFC and Bloomberg Philanthropies. Funding for the rollout and permanence of FECs must prioritize the highest-need neighborhoods in Philadelphia, that is, those districts with the highest proportion of unbanked/underbanked households, or those districts with the highest concentrations of households living below 125% of the poverty line.*



## IDEA

# ELIMINATE PUNITIVE SUPERVISION FEES

## PRECEDENTS

### **San Francisco, CA**

*In 2016, the city and county of San Francisco launched the Financial Justice Project leading to the creation of the San Francisco Fines and Fees Task Force, to assess and reform how fines and fees impact its most vulnerable residents after evidence that the fees were leading people into poverty. San Francisco is now eliminating all local administrative fees charged to people exiting the criminal justice system.*

### **State of Maryland and Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

*Both states have conducted studies on the barriers to reentry that supervision fees pose for parolees in their states in order to call for legislative action against the fees. In Maryland, a 2011 legislation required the Department of Public and Correctional Services (DPSCS) to provide information about the parole fee exemption process to people upon release from incarceration, both orally and in writing.*

### **New York State**

*In 2018, New York State proposed legislation to eliminate supervision fees for people on parole, though it has not been passed yet.*



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*Strategies to alleviate and prevent poverty in Philadelphia*