

MetroCommon × 2050

*Equity of Health & Wealth*

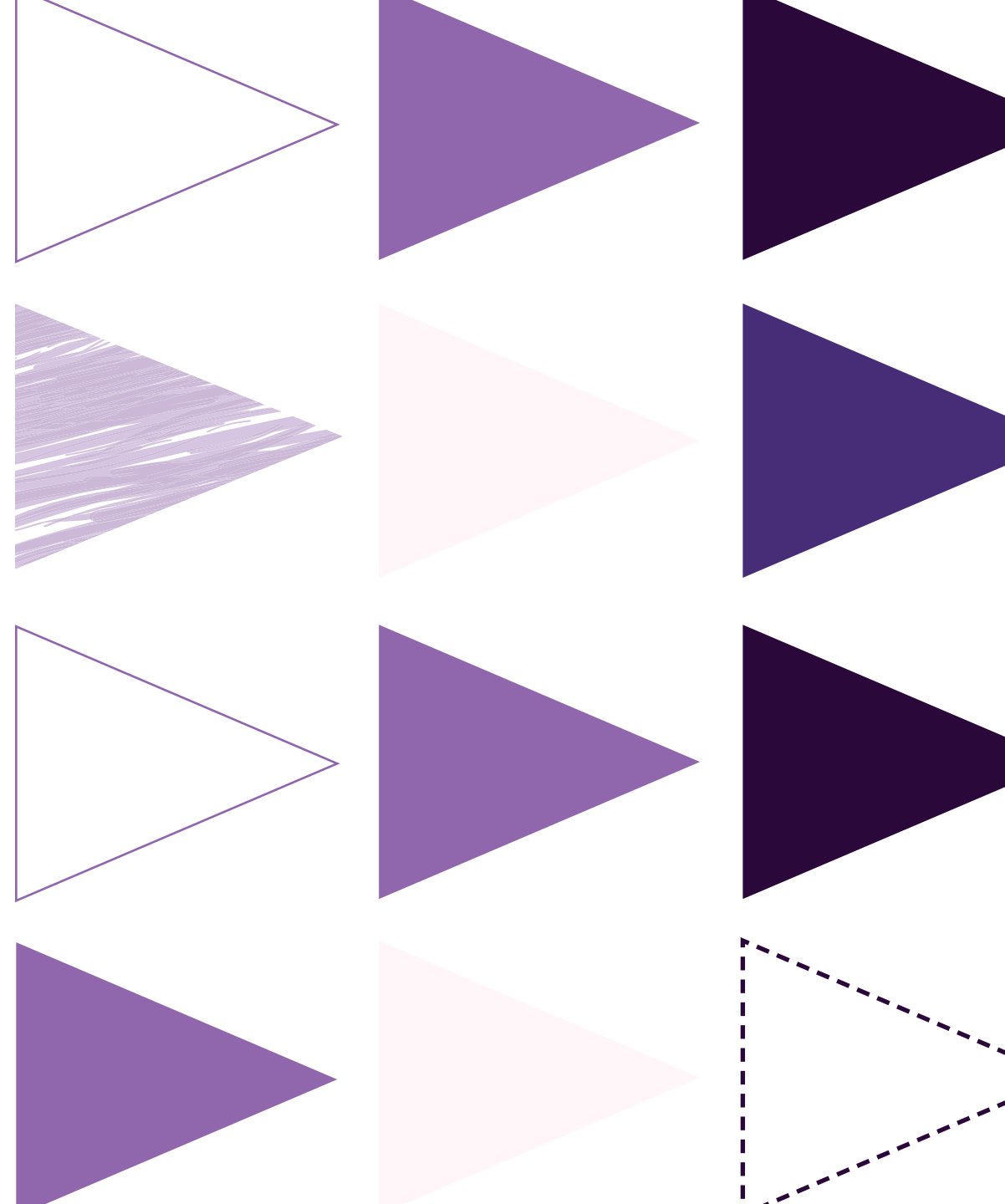


## Greater Boston is deeply inequitable

It is a universal human desire to live a healthy and meaningful life. But the opportunity to do so is not universally shared.

# Greater Boston is deeply inequitable

Metro Boston has a long history of racial injustice that persists to this day. For centuries, injustice has been embedded in policies, practices, and institutions. It has inflicted trauma on generation upon generation of communities of color and immigrants, and it continues to do so today. This has resulted in great disparities in health and wealth.



# Greater Boston is deeply inequitable

Communities of color have deep strength and have fought for change, always. But the need to redress generations of systemic inequities is urgent for all. Ensuring equity of health, wellbeing, and wealth will require deep reform of our region's institutions.

**MAPC sees equity as fair and just inclusion. Those who have been most marginalized must have equal access to opportunities, power, participation, and resources.**



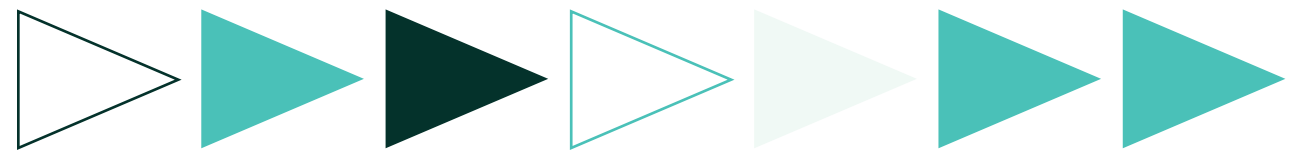




# Income inequities are a result of racism

After generations of being systematically shut out of opportunities to build wealth, for example by government-supported redlining, the median net worth of White households in Greater Boston is \$247,500.00. The median net worth of African American households is eight dollars (\$8.00). <sup>[1]</sup>

Akilah Johnson- Reporter, "That Was No Typo: The Median Net Worth of Black Bostonians Really Is \$8 - The Boston Globe," BostonGlobe.com, accessed May 3 2019, <https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2017/12/11/that-was-typo-the-median-net-worth-black-bostonians-really/ze5kxC1jjeIx24M3pugFFN/story.html>.





# Income inequities are a result of racism

School funding based largely on community wealth, a biased justice system, and other injustices have resulted in...

**25%** of Latinx people

**20%** of African American people

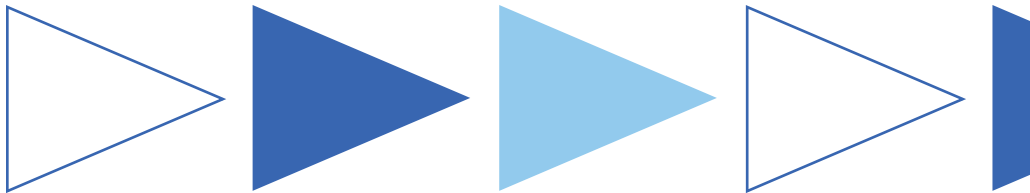
**15%** of Asian people

living in poverty across Greater Boston.

**Six percent** of the region's White people live in poverty.



# The wealthier a household is, the healthier it is likely to be

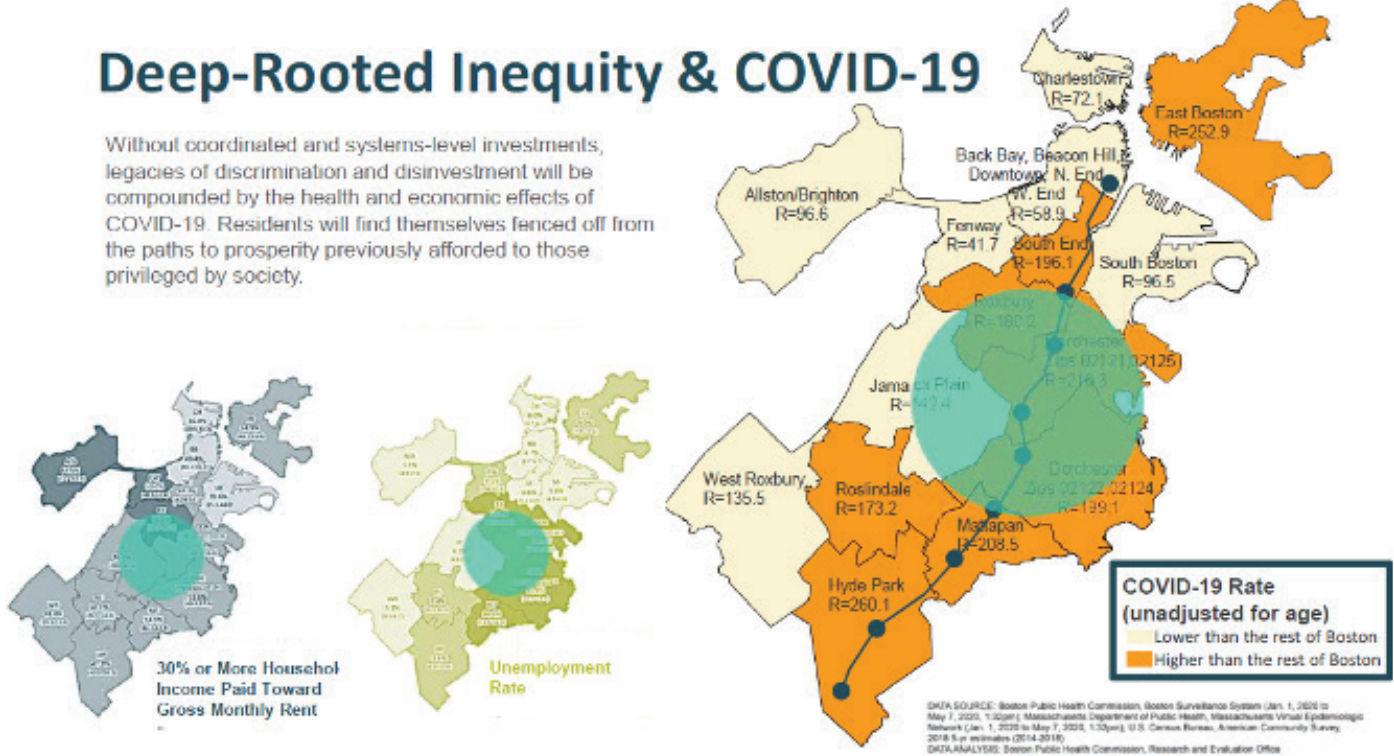


In the Greater Boston region, as elsewhere, there's a direct relationship between income and health that reflects generations of systemic racism. The location of lower income neighborhoods near major roadways, as well as stress, food deserts and difficult-to-access healthcare all play into this inequitable outcome.

**Example: The COVID-19 pandemic illustrates the connection between health and wealth**

## Deep-Rooted Inequity & COVID-19

Without coordinated and systems-level investments, legacies of discrimination and disinvestment will be compounded by the health and economic effects of COVID-19. Residents will find themselves fenced off from the paths to prosperity previously afforded to those privileged by society.

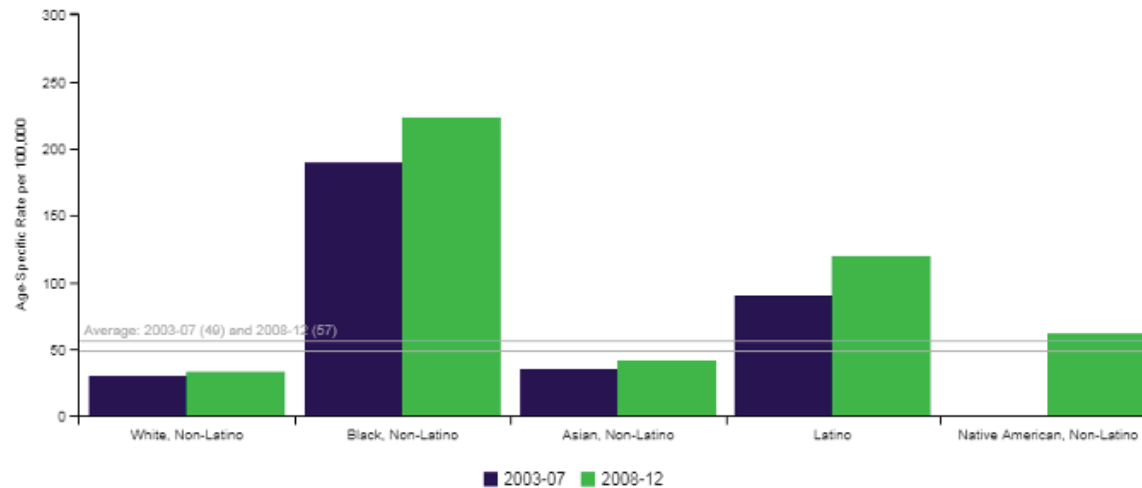


DATA SOURCE: Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Surveillance System (Jan. 1, 2020 to May 7, 2020, 1:30pm); Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Massachusetts Viral Epidemiologic Network (Jan. 1, 2020 to May 7, 2020, 1:30pm); U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018 5-year estimates (2014-2018).  
DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research and Evaluation Office

# The wealthier a household is, the healthier it is likely to be

Black youth asthma hospitalization rates in Greater Boston are nearly six times higher than white youth asthma hospitalization rates; Latinx are more than three times higher.

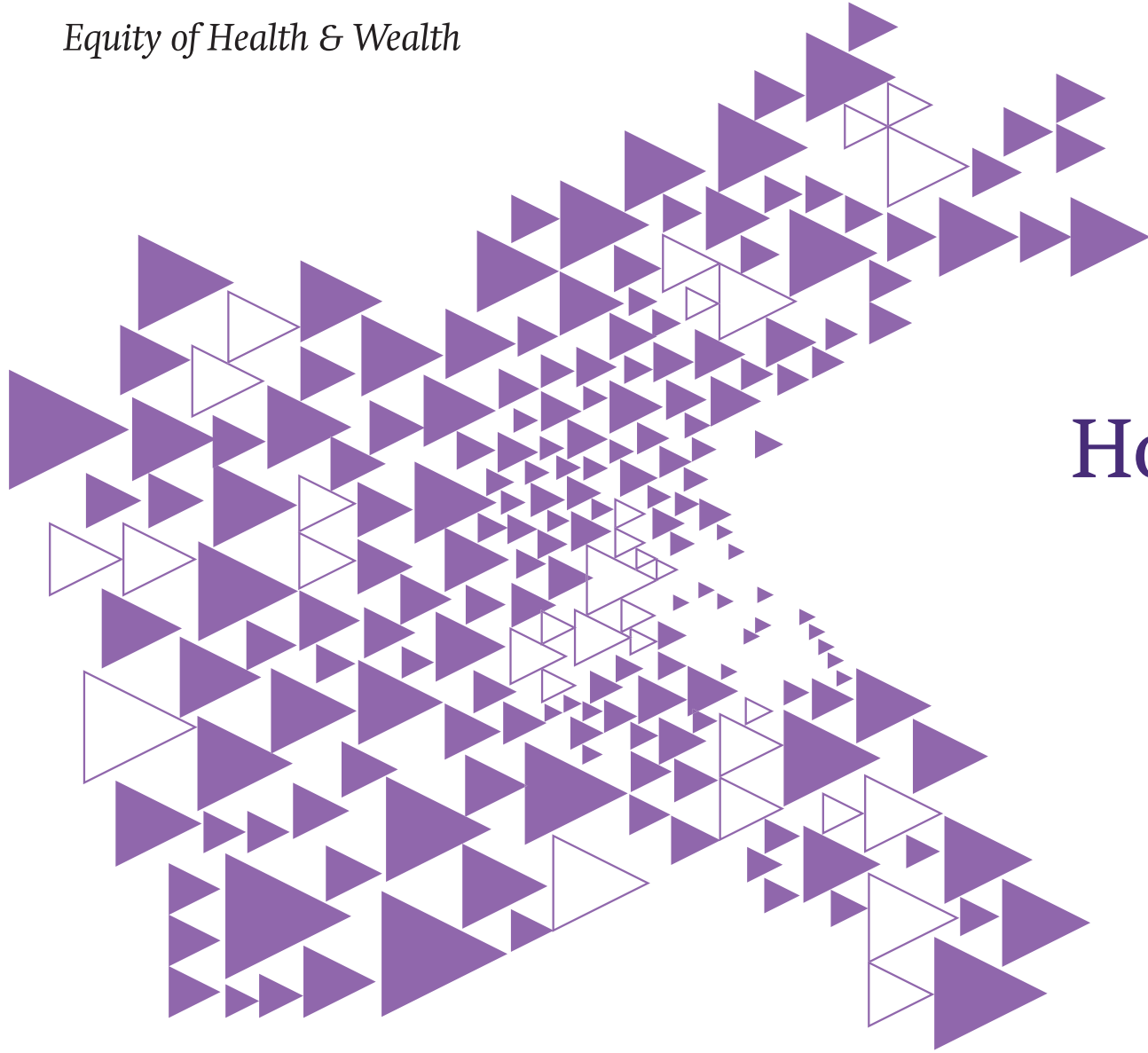
Age-Adjusted Rate of Hospitalizations due to Hypertension





MetroCommon × 2050

*Equity of Health & Wealth*



How did we get here?

# How did we get here?

- ▶ The massacre and displacement of native peoples, slavery, state-sanctioned violence against people of color, redlining, mass incarceration, and much more, all are part of our legacy in this country and in Greater Boston. Their effects are felt to this day.
- ▶ The families of today's people of color were barred from opportunities to build wealth and stability over generations.
- ▶ Relying on property taxes to fund schools perpetuates racial disparities in education and entrenches segregation.
- ▶ Many communities have policies – such as restrictions on multi-family housing – that result in excluding people of color.
- ▶ Long commutes to reach low-wage jobs mean less personal time and time with family. This contributes to chronic stress.



# How did we get here?

- ▶ Policies that promote or allow low wages and erode worker protection have a disproportionate impact on communities and workers of color.
- ▶ Employment that is unstable, temporary, non-standard, or unprotected, lower rates of educational attainment, more barriers to living in healthy homes and neighborhoods, and chronic stress. When jobs expose workers to hazards, the problems multiply.
  - Our social safety net is inadequate.
  - Labor unions have less power than before.
  - High housing costs are financially debilitating for many.
  - Housing instability leads to stress and the dangers of being unhoused.
- ▶ Built and natural environments affect the health of residents. More than 60% of people's health can be traced to what their neighborhoods are like – and many communities of color are near sources of pollution, without open space, recreation, and other key services, and in food deserts.



MetroCommon × 2050

*Equity of Health & Wealth*



Where we want to  
be by 2050

# Where we want to be by 2050

- ▶ All residents in the region have the financial resources to meet their needs and to live healthy, prosperous, fulfilling lives.
- ▶ Greater Boston's economy benefits all in the region.
- ▶ We are safe, healthy, and connected to one another.
- ▶ We have eliminated the racial wealth gap.
- ▶ We ensure walkable access to natural open space and reverse the concentration of polluting industries away from low-income communities and communities of color.



MetroCommon × 2050

*Equity of Health & Wealth*



What makes this  
so hard?



# What makes this so hard?

- ▶ Injustice is embedded in policies, practices, and institutions. This, in turn, informs discriminatory everyday behaviors and practices.
- ▶ In the wake of generations of oppression, many communities do not trust in public institutions. This has a direct impact on civic participation, health, and political power.
- ▶ The problem is dauntingly vast: there is segregation, mass incarceration, and disinvestment in neighborhoods, in the safety net, and in public transportation.
- ▶ Income disparities across the country are getting worse at an accelerated pace.
- ▶ The systemic inequities in our social, economic, and political structures are all interconnected.
- ▶ Stakeholders in this sector have little political power.



MetroCommon × 2050

*Equity of Health & Wealth*



What can we do?

# What can we do?

We can and must rebuild our economy so that systemic barriers fall and people of all backgrounds can live in healthy environments, provide for themselves, and pursue their goals.



- ▶ Dismantle systems that prevent some households from building wealth and economic security.
- ▶ Create ways for those who have experienced economic inequities to participate in the systems of wealth and asset development.
- ▶ Strengthen worker protections, work to raise wages, and improve working conditions – especially for low-income workers of color.
- ▶ Devote resources to undoing past injustices and inequities.
- ▶ Create ample affordable housing throughout the region.
- ▶ Provide convenient, efficient, affordable transit.
- ▶ Close the digital divide.

# What can we do?

We can and must rebuild our economy so that systemic barriers fall and people of all backgrounds can live in healthy environments, provide for themselves, and pursue their goals.



- ▶ Ensure low-income and minority neighborhoods are not more likely to be near industrial areas and major roads.
- ▶ Ensure equitable access to open spaces. Invest in infrastructure that supports mobility, wellness, recreation, and play.
- ▶ Rethink how we provide essential services in areas that lack them.
- ▶ Eliminate food insecurity.
- ▶ Ensure that healthcare – including preventative health – is funded and available to all residents.

MetroCommon × 2050

*Equity of Health & Wealth*



What's been done so far in the region



# What's been done so far in the region

- ▶ Equitable Upham's
- ▶ COMPASS working capital – asset development
- ▶ Small business programs
- ▶ North Suffolk Public Health Collaborative (with Needs Assessment and Improvement Plan)




MetroCommon × 2050

*Equity of Health & Wealth*



Innovation is  
happening worldwide

# Innovation is happening worldwide




## **New Zealand's Living Standards Framework**

**and Dashboard:** The New Zealand Treasury has developed this approach to use alongside existing economic and fiscal frameworks. It will inform resource allocation and policies that will affect living standards.

## **The Canadian Index of Wellbeing: A project of Engage Nova Scotia**

the index assesses wellbeing indicators and promotes public engagement. This data will be used to enhance community vitality, social integration, a sense of belonging, social trust, and strong relationships.

# Innovation is happening worldwide



**Healthy Streets for all Londoners:** Facing an inactivity crisis, as well as dangerous levels of air pollution, London adopted the Healthy Streets Approach. This project promotes a series of policies and strategies that deliver streets where all people choose to walk, cycle and use public transport.

**Comprehensive Urban Food Policy in Milan:** With food being the largest source of consumption based emissions, the municipality of Milan is working to improve both the diets of its citizens and the overall sustainability of the system. It's reducing food waste, increasing sustainable local food procurement, and transitioning toward a circular economy.

MetroCommon × 2050

*Equity of Health & Wealth*



There are examples  
of innovation in the  
US, too.



# There are examples of innovation in the US, too.

## Portland, OR

In 2017, Portland's chief economic development agency rebranded itself as Prosper Portland with inclusive growth as its institutional mission.

<sup>[1]</sup> The agency prioritized goals such as inclusive entrepreneurship and workforce development, and developed a strategic plan designed to reduce economic disparities with metrics to track progress. From program design to implementation, Prosper Portland focuses on the agency of the communities they serve, providing opportunities for community participation and leadership.

- ▶ Inclusive business fund to place VC funding in businesses owned by women and people of color. The fund has outperformed its goals incentivizing private capital.
- ▶ My People's Market, a retail pop-up for small businesses owned by people of color.
- ▶ Public Benefits Requirements in exchange for property tax abatements. The agreements are co-developed with the community, and businesses commit to wealth creation support, such as job fairs and support of local business incubators.

[1] Ryan Donahue, Brad Mcdearman, and Rachel Barker. "Committing to Inclusive Growth: Lessons for Metro Areas from the Inclusive Economic Development Lab." Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings, September 2017. [https://www.brookings.edu/wpcontent/uploads/2017/09/metro\\_20170927\\_committing-to-inclusive-growth-iedl-report.pdf](https://www.brookings.edu/wpcontent/uploads/2017/09/metro_20170927_committing-to-inclusive-growth-iedl-report.pdf).

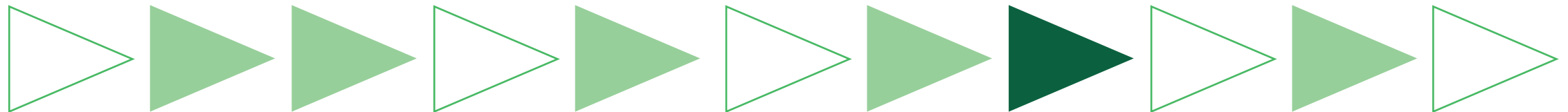
# There are examples of innovation in the US, too.

## *Non-Profit Leadership*

### **Detroit**

The Detroit Economic Growth Corporation (DEGC) launched the Motor City Match Program, designed to support a business owner from an idea to execution, including connecting business owners with available space through providing grants to the businesses and the property owners. The program provides business planning support, site selection services, architectural design services and cash matches and connections to loan options at Community Development Finance Institutions. To date, it has served 1,150 businesses, filled 367 commercial spaces, and awarded over \$6 million in grants.<sup>[2]</sup>

[2] "Home - Motor City Match," Detroit Motor City Match, accessed March 1, 2019, <http://www.motorcitymatch.com/>.



# There are examples of innovation in the US, too.

## *Private Sector Leadership*

### **Boston**

The Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce developed a Pacesetters Program in 2018 to incentivize large corporations to contract with enterprises of color for their goods and services. Founding organizations, such as the Boston Red Sox, key educational institutions and companies, such as Partners HealthCare and John Hancock, committed to diversifying their supplier base and encouraged other businesses to do the same. The PaceSetters program committed to building the capacity of the supplier businesses through the Business Equity Initiative, a project of the Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation, which provide intensive support to business owners of color. Businesses in the program have grown significantly thanks to contracts with these key institutions and are generating wealth for their owners and employees.<sup>[3]</sup>

[3] Jon Chesto, "Business Leaders Step up Efforts to Bring Minority-Owned Firms into the Fold," BostonGlobe.com, August 13, 2017, <https://www.bostonglobe.com/business/2017/08/13/business-leaders-step-efforts-bring-minority-owned-firms-intofold/UW2X6lRQQoeCBiYuvv0pRK/story.html>.