Local government has tremendous resources that cities and counties need to win on equity and create a just and fair society for all. Because of the growing push for cities to advance racial, economic, and social equity, cities have begun to create equity offices and Chief Equity Officer positions. This commitment of institutional resources is a step in the right direction. To ensure this new human infrastructure leads to results and population-level outcomes, these offices and leaders must have support systems, be able to leverage their influence in order to drive institutional and policy change, and have the capacity to build alliances with external and internal stakeholders. In response to the need to provide support for these leaders, the All-In Cities initiative of PolicyLink, in partnership with the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), created the All-In Cities Chief Equity Officers Policy Network, a first-of-its-kind community of practice.
Building and Supporting a Chief Equity Officer Movement

As the number of these offices continues to grow, this network is committed to ensuring that these leaders have the support to become transformational leaders, so that local governments take decisive and bold actions toward racial inclusion and equitable growth in partnership with community leaders and advocates.

The All-In Cities Chief Equity Officers Policy Network is an 18-month program tailored for local chief equity officers from across the country focusing on accelerating the impact of municipal and county equity officers to build inclusive local economies and further policy reforms. The community of practice will help equity officers to advance equitable policies, inform the broader field of practice, and formulate standards for other local government initiatives.

The three ambitious goals of the network are:

- Strengthen participants' priorities using a results framework
- Work toward policy outcomes
- Build strong relationships among cohort members

The network will also help these offices develop a roadmap that elevates community voice within local policy, promotes inter-agency coordination, encourages partnership strategies, and builds public and political will in a city or county to support and implement a local equity agenda. Chief equity officers will develop a results framework agenda for their city or county, engage in peer learning and exchange, help develop their emergent field of practice, and receive technical assistance from the network partners.

Who is a part of the network?

The inaugural cohort of the network was selected through a competitive application process and is composed of diverse leaders from across the country with a range of experiences and expertise:

Kimberlee Archie, Asheville, NC
Karla Bruce, Fairfax County, VA
Zan Gibbs, San Antonio, TX
Majestic Lane, Pittsburgh, PA
Joy Marsh Stephens, Minneapolis, MN
Michelle Melendez, Albuquerque, NM
Candace Moore, Chicago, IL
Brion Oaks, Austin, TX
Diane Powers, Tacoma, WA
Matias Valenzuela, King County, WA
Kellie Watson, Louisville, KY

The All-In Cities Chief Equity Officers Policy Network is made possible through the generous support and partnership of the Surdna Foundation. For more information, please visit allincities.org or contact Carlos Delgado, Senior Associate, at carlos@policylink.org or 202-921-0711.

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