



## Achieve Equal Opportunity and Justice

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### The Issue

Access to opportunities for quality education, affordable housing, and employment still evades many Americans based on past and present prejudice, bias, and stigmatization. This social marginalization has led the United States to ignore the valuable human capital that exists within these communities and has fostered deep inequality throughout society.

### Societal Goal

Addressing racial and social injustices, deconstructing stereotypes, dismantling inequality, and exposing unfair practices will lead to the full social, civic, economic, and political integration of these marginalized groups.

### A Decade of Work

Over the next ten years, researchers, practitioners and policymakers can engage in a variety of activities that will advance this Grand Challenge and ignite social work achievements, including efforts to:

- Address social stigma by conducting research and raising awareness of contributions to inequity, facilitating information, education, and social marketing campaigns that seek to reduce and change the false narratives that exist about stigmatized populations.
- Facilitate development of local, state, and federal policies that promotes equitable access to housing, healthcare, and education.
- Research, monitor, and report on the ongoing federal, state, and local efforts that seek to eliminate exclusionary discipline practices in schools.
- Promote school success for African American children & youth.
- Facilitate Latinx integration by expanding coverage under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, reforming education policies to guarantee equitable access to quality education, creating asset-based models and interventions, attracting stronger Latinx leadership in the human service sector at the local, state, and national level.
- Enhance, expand, and strengthen federal anti-discrimination laws, including the Voting Rights Act.
- Reverse the trend of increasing economic segregation through development initiatives on neighborhood stabilization and inclusionary investment strategies.
- Broaden partnerships between academic institutions and community organizers that work on affordable and equitable housing initiatives.

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## Resources

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- McRoy, R. G., Padilla, Y. C., Calvo, R., Goldbach, J. T., & Teasley, M. L. (with Amaro, H., ... Waters, M. C.). (2016, September). [\*Policy recommendations for meeting the Grand Challenge to Achieve Equal Opportunity and Justice\*](#) (Grand Challenges for Social Work Initiative Policy Brief No. 12). Cleveland, OH: American Academy of Social Work & Social Welfare.
- Metzger, M. W., & Khare, A. T. (2017). Fair housing and inclusive communities (Grand Challenges for Social Work initiative Working Paper No. 24). Cleveland, OH: American Academy of Social Work & Social Welfare.
- Teasley, M. L., McRoy, R.G., Joyner, M., Armour, M., Gourdine, R.M., Crewe, S.E., ... Fong, R. (2017). Increasing success for African American children and youth (Grand Challenges for Social Work initiative Working Paper No. 21). Cleveland, OH: American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare.
- Website: [http:// www.GrandChallengesforSocialWork.org/12-challenges/achieve-equal-opportunity-and-justice/](http://www.GrandChallengesforSocialWork.org/12-challenges/achieve-equal-opportunity-and-justice/)

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