

FACT SHEET

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING GLOBAL GOAL:

Reduce poverty in the City of Richmond by 40% in 15 years (2030). This includes a 50% reduction in child poverty.

KEY PROPOSITIONS

Collaboration

We must tackle the multiple barriers to prosperity simultaneously. No single area--education, employment, housing--offers a standalone magic bullet. Consequently, our method for getting things done must be intensively collaborative.

Target Investments and Leverage Resources

Given limited resources, we should focus investments in those areas likely to have the most positive impact, and wherever possible assure that City investments leverage funding and support from other sources.

See the Forest and the Trees Simultaneously

We need to think about both the micro-level and the macro-level pictures simultaneously. For instance, at the micro-level we need to understand what it takes to support individual households from our most challenged neighborhoods in moving from poverty to economic stability. We then need to build the capacity over time to support households at sufficient scale to begin moving the macro-level picture.

Think Big and Aim High

We have no choice but to think big and aim high. Ranking in the bottom 2% of the nation's counties in terms of upward mobility for poor children is not something that can be meaningfully changed by a few additional programs. It requires more fundamental changes in the systemic processes that are producing that outcome.

KEY ELEMENTS OF STRATEGY

Education

Build a cradle-to-career network of supports for children in poverty and their families, to counter-act the impact of poverty on educational outcomes and dramatically improve outcomes for Richmond students.

Component Parts

- **Richmond Early Childhood Alignment Project** (supported by W.K. Kellogg Foundation) and parent engagement initiatives, aimed at developing a comprehensive early childhood strategic plan
- Improve access to books and improve literacy outcomes in low income homes of preschool children through **RVAReads**, a collaboration between the City and Richmond Public Schools.
- Case management support for high-need children via **Communities in Schools** of Richmond
- Development of high-quality out-of-school-time system for adolescents via Middle School Renaissance 2020 (**NextUp**)
- New college and career access program called **RVA Future**, a collaboration between the City, Richmond Public Schools Education Foundation, and Richmond Public Schools, to engage Richmond high school students in planning for their futures beginning in 9th grade and assist students and families with application, financial aid, and related processes. Future Centers staffed by a full-time professional have been established in all five comprehensive high schools.

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Employment

Build a stronger system of workforce development specifically geared towards meeting the needs of families in poverty; develop and implement strategies to create more jobs and business opportunities in high poverty neighborhoods.

Component Parts

- The City operates a locally-funded workforce development program, the **Center for Workforce Innovation** that currently places over 175 residents a year in employment. The City's goal is to expand that capacity (as part of the regional workforce to system) to 1,000 residents a year.
- In the past year, the Workforce Center has developed a program, **BLISS** that provides family-based, wrap-around support services to participating families.
- The City has entered into a long-term deal with the Port of Virginia to operate the Port of Richmond, potentially leading to hundreds or even thousands of jobs in the region over the next decade.
- The City has launched a **Social Enterprise** initiative aimed at leveraging the purchasing power of local anchor institutions.
- The City and Greater Richmond Transit Company are constructing the region's first **Bus Rapid Transit** line across the breadth of the city, as the first step in what is envisioned as a genuinely regional transportation system that better connects residents without cars to jobs.

Housing

Develop better quality housing environments in Richmond that relieves the concentration of poverty and creates better living environments for low and limited income residents.

Component Parts

- Community Navigation: Better connecting residents to existing resources in the community; better aligning service providers; bringing needed services directly into the communities. (**Good Neighbor Initiative**)
- Redeveloping one or more public housing communities with a commitment to no involuntary displacement (one-for-one replacement), provision of strong network of support to residents during the transition process, strong resident participation in the process, and connecting residents not only to better housing but better economic and educational opportunities. (**Creighton Court Transformation**)
- Expanding supply of affordable housing in City and region via **Affordable Housing Trust Fund**