

Promoting Social Equity in an Evidence-Based Policy Environment: An Agenda for 2021

Academy Election 2020 Project
Working Group: Foster Social Equity

Background

Over the past 60 years, significant progress has been made toward promoting social equity in areas such as civil rights, women's rights, poverty reduction, and gender equality. But continued progress remains uneven and, in some cases, has regressed. While equity in the distribution of public services and administration of programs should be the goal of any presidential administration, it is difficult to move programs and practices toward equity through legislative actions alone. Social equity can be advanced by building a strong federal platform that would include increased awareness, rigorous measurement, formal evaluation, and consistent application.

Recommendations for 2021

Implement a White House initiative on social equity evidence led by the Vice President and includes an agenda of four components:

- 1. A social equity evidence review** of rigorous research and evaluation on approaches that have improved social equity and gaps in research that should be filled with new research.
- 2. A social equity data and statistical inventory** of public data and statistical series with periodic (e.g., annual) information on equity and inequity by nation, state, and local areas.
- 3. A social equity Cross-Agency Priority (CAP) goal** and the establishment of a core CAP workgroup to assess progress on improving social equity outcomes.
- 4. A social equity measure for assessing programs** that would not only provide a guide for the questions that public administrators need to proactively consider but would also provide a valuable resource for accessing extant data, research, and expertise.

Additional Resources

These resources provide additional information and recommendations in the line with the Election 2020 paper, *Promoting Social Equity in an Evidence-Based Policy Environment: An Agenda for 2021*.

[The Academy: Election 2020: Improving Child Well-Being & Reducing Food Insecurity; Promoting Social Equity in an Evidence-Based Policy Environment](#)

[The Academy: A Social Equity Lens for Covid-19: Action: 10 Key Questions](#)

[The Academy: Roundtable on Social Equity](#)

[The Academy: Public Administrators and the Imperative for Social Equity](#)

[The Academy: Promoting Social Equity Through Civil Rights Education for Public Service: Miles' Law, Different Experiences, But Toward Common Action](#)

[The Academy: Virtual Social Equity Conference Addresses Social Justice Issues and Racial Disparities](#)

The Challenge: Fostering Social Equity

Social equity—a key pillar of public administration alongside economy, efficiency, and effectiveness—addresses fairness, justice, and equity within a variety of public contexts. Although the United States has made significant progress in expanding access to opportunities to more of the nation's citizens and residents, we continue to struggle with ensuring the equitable design and implementation of public policies and programs that reduce or eliminate disparities, discrimination, and marginalization.





Working Group

Margaret C. Simms, *Working Group Chair*, Non Resident Fellow, Labor, Human Services and Populations, Urban Institute

RaJade M. Berry-James, Evaluator, Center for Environmental Farming Systems, North Carolina State University

Gary Glickman, Former Managing Director, Health & Public Service Innovation, Accenture. Senior Policy Advisor, US Department of Treasury

Demetra Nightingale, Institute Fellow, Urban Institute

Academy Staff

Joseph P. Mitchell, III, Director of Strategic Initiatives and International Programs, National Academy of Public Administration.

James Higgins, Research Associate for Grand Challenges in Public Administration, National Academy of Public Administration.