



Center for Social Development

GEORGE WARREN BROWN
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



Washington University in St. Louis



Equal Opportunity and Justice

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Social Innovation for America's Renewal

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Background



- More than 75% of the nation's 10.2 million eligible uninsured Latinos live in states that have not expanded Medicaid
- Nearly half, 48%, of students suspended in school are African American
- Inequality fuels deeply ingrained stigmatizing attitudes across society



Key policy recommendations



- To accelerate Latino immigrant integration, expand coverage under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA)
- Enhance, expand, and strengthen federal antidiscrimination laws, including the voting rights act
- Eliminate zero tolerance policies and cultural bias in schools and promote the use of evidence-informed practices and policies to address racial disciplinary disproportionality



Stakeholders and partners



- Latino health access: Commonwealth Fund, National Council of La Raza, Latino Social Work Organization
- African American students: The Civil Rights Project at UCLA, Communities in Schools, The Schott Foundation, My Brother's Keeper, National Women's Law Center,
- Ending social stigma: Coalitions in film-making; social media, art
- Note: All include policy makers and advisers at federal, state, and local levels, NASW, CSWE, NABSW, and other national associations, other disciplines



Policy initiatives: progress and outlook



- Latino health access: 19 states (inc. Texas and Florida) can move to expanded health coverage for families through Medicaid under ACA
- African American students: gained national attention leading to federal, state, and local initiatives using evidence informed methods to change school climate and reduce cultural bias
- Ending social stigma: organizing a national symposium of non-traditional partners to address stigma



Policy initiatives: progress and outlook



ALL AREAS:

- Do a better job of training future social workers in community organizing and policy advocacy by directly engaging them
- Community voice: engage in advocacy and grassroots action
- Social workers need to partner with policy makers
- Co-sponsor an inter-professional convening of social workers and professionals of other disciplines and sectors, and policy makers