Accelerating Innovation for Inclusion

The digital revolution is changing the way people move, work, and interact with information and services. Governments can leverage these new technologies to create more inclusive communities by developing systems that ensure benefits and services are accessible and available to all residents who need them.

This will require that leaders design new systems built around equity and inclusion. But important questions remain about how and where new technologies can contribute to equity and inclusion and how to build upon existing systems without recreating the disparities of the past.

Supported with a grant from the Mastercard Impact Fund, in collaboration with Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth, the Urban Institute will fill critical knowledge gaps on what the digital transition means for cities and states in the US. Urban’s experts will develop tools that policymakers can use to target investments aimed at reducing inequities and increasing pathways to upward mobility.

Our research will focus on four “keys” to the inclusive city:

1. Adaptive tools to promote economic mobility
2. Modernized benefits delivery
3. Digitized service delivery
4. Integrated systems for physical mobility

GOALS
The primary objectives of this initiative are to:

■ understand what practitioners and policymakers need to know about how the digital transformation is affecting equity in cities;
■ build tools to fill knowledge gaps and help local changemakers make evidence-based decisions; and
■ develop and share recommendations based on the state of the field and research findings.

ACTIVITIES
Urban aims to achieve these goals through three kinds of activities:

1. Developing research and analyses on how cities and the private sector can work together to drive inclusive growth and advance economic mobility among residents.

2. Designing practical metrics and instruments to measure whether people’s lives are improving as new technologies are deployed.

3. Sharing knowledge and tools with city leaders, policymakers, technology companies, and nonprofits to scale best practices.

KEY MILESTONES

EARLY 2020
Roundtables to gather feedback from city leaders and practitioners for data tools

SPRING 2020
Public dissemination and webinars to introduce findings and discuss critical issues in the field

SUMMER 2020
Convening in Washington, DC, to share lessons from the first year of the initiative
OUR TEAM

Urban Institute senior policy associate Richard Ezike will lead the Accelerating Innovation for Inclusion team. Research will be spearheaded by the following Urban experts:

**ADAPTIVE TOOLS TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC MOBILITY**

**Kathy Pettit**  
Principal Research Associate, Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center

**Brett Theodos**  
Senior Fellow, Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center

**MODERNIZED BENEFITS DELIVERY**

**Heather Hahn**  
Senior Fellow, Center for Labor, Human Services and Population

**Rayanne Hawkins**  
Policy Program Associate, Research to Action Lab

**DIGITIZED SERVICE DELIVERY**

**Graham MacDonald**  
Chief Data Scientist

**Khuloud Odeh**  
Vice President for Technology and Data Science and Chief Information Officer

**Alena Stern**  
Data Science Fellow

**INTEGRATED SYSTEMS FOR PHYSICAL MOBILITY**

**Kristin Blagg**  
Research Associate, Center on Education Data and Policy

**Christina Stacy**  
Senior Research Associate, Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center

**LEADERSHIP**

**Mark Treskon**  
Senior Research Associate, Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center

**Richard Ezike**  
Senior Policy Associate, Research to Action Lab

**Solomon Greene**  
Senior Fellow, Research to Action Lab and Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center

**Erika Poethig**  
Vice President and Chief Innovation Officer, Research to Action Lab

ABOUT

**URBAN INSTITUTE**

The nonprofit Urban Institute is a leading research organization dedicated to developing evidence-based insights that improve people’s lives and strengthen communities. For 50 years, Urban has been the trusted source for rigorous analysis of complex social and economic issues; strategic advice to policymakers, philanthropists, and practitioners; and new, promising ideas that expand opportunities for all. Our work inspires effective decisions that advance fairness and enhance the well-being of people and places.

**MASTERCARD CENTER FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH**

The Center for Inclusive Growth advances sustainable and equitable economic growth and financial inclusion around the world. Established as an independent subsidiary of Mastercard, we activate the company’s core assets to catalyze action on inclusive growth through research, data philanthropy, programs, and engagement.