



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

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

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.



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

Mark Treskon

Senior Research Associate, Metropolitan
Housing and Communities Policy Center

LEADERSHIP

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.