



FOUR PRINCIPLES FOR A RESILIENT, EQUITABLE RECOVERY

Billions in federal relief and recovery funds—including the American Rescue Plan Act, CARES Act, and fiscal year 2021 budget—present unprecedented opportunities for cities, counties, and states. To maximize the benefits of these investments and lay the foundation for an equitable response to future crises, leaders can consider four principles.

Aligning sectors and efforts is critical to advance health and equity.

Social and economic factors like housing, food, family, and trauma have a major effect on health. Addressing these complex, community-level barriers to good health requires fundamentally different ways of working across the health care, public health, and social services sectors. An approach that deploys the siloed federal relief and recovery investments in a more holistic way can address disparities and advance equity for generations to come.

A coordinated strategy guides the work and investments.

The fast pace and sheer magnitude of federal investments requires careful and thoughtful planning. While the funds will flow in silos it is important to have strategies at the state and local levels that demonstrate how, when braided together, these funds can be used to implement a comprehensive vision for more resilient states and communities. The most effective strategies will be goal-oriented and community driven.

Intermediary organizations are ready and able to assist.

On-the-ground organizations including local foundations, public health institutes, community coalitions and collaboratives, and community development financial institutions can partner with cities, counties, and states to plan and carry out the work. These types of organizations have deep expertise and experience convening cross-sector partners and community members for planning purposes and serving as fiscal intermediaries who can manage and “braid” the different funding streams in cohesive, coordinated ways.

Community leadership drives lasting change.

Amplifying the voice of community members is imperative at each step in the planning and implementation process to ensure changes are truly driven for and by residents. Community participation and leadership helps ensure the vision reflects the true needs and goals of the community, particularly residents most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the resulting economic struggles, and the ongoing impact of systemic racism. Intermediary organizations often have strong relationships with community members.

Aligning in Crisis is a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-supported program that identifies existing cross-sector policy and implementation opportunities that can speed recovery from the triple crises of the COVID-19 pandemic, the resulting economic struggle, and the ongoing impact of systemic racism. To learn more, visit AlignForHealth.org/Crisis