

EQUITY OR ELSE

Opening Statement:

Racism can be viewed as “institutionalized lovelessness.” If you live in a community with under-resourced schools, police brutality, slumlords and gentrification, or where corner liquor stores are plentiful and quality grocery stores are few and far between you know how institutionalized lovelessness feels. Our communities have been fertile ground for disinvestment, privatization schemes and every other trick to escape the work of making America equitable. **THIS IS NOT A SPACE TO CALL FOR MORE CHARTER SCHOOLS, OR MORE POLICE.** We are not seeking band-aid on bullet wound solutions, but are asking you to dream; what would make this world *more equitable*? How can we make America her best self; one who confronts the sickness of racism and guided by grassroots voices moves with urgency and humility to address it? The “**Grassroots Voices Listening Projects**” are a tool to make that happen. Your input will shape our national quality of life platform that we will organize to bring into reality. We have an opportunity to shape how the billions of dollars are allocated that is flowing into our cities from the American Rescue Act and other initiatives. The time...and your voices are critical.

Follow the Money-Listening project may open with a 15-minute presentation that explains how federal resources are flowing into the participant’s city and the opportunity to shape how these resources are allocated. This is only part of the solution.

IMPACT

1. How has racism in (education, housing, safety, environment, food production and delivery, youth investment) impacted your community?
2. How has racism (qol area) impacted you personally?
3. Who is responsible for how you and your community have been impacted?
4. How have decision makers responded to the impact of racism in (qol area)?

SOLUTIONS

1. What can your community do to defeat racism in (qol area)?
2. What recommendations do you have to improve how (qol area) functions in your community?
3. What do you want the local and federal government to do to improve (qol area) in your community?
4. Are there any specific, and/or existing policy recommendations you want to highlight to address racism in (qol area)?

Closing

1. Share the next steps with all participants.
2. Poll participants to see if they would support a local, *grassroots equity coalition* to push quality of life policies at the local level.