



Power of Place: Building a Field

The people, strategies, and tools to create communities of
opportunity, mobility, and un-limited power

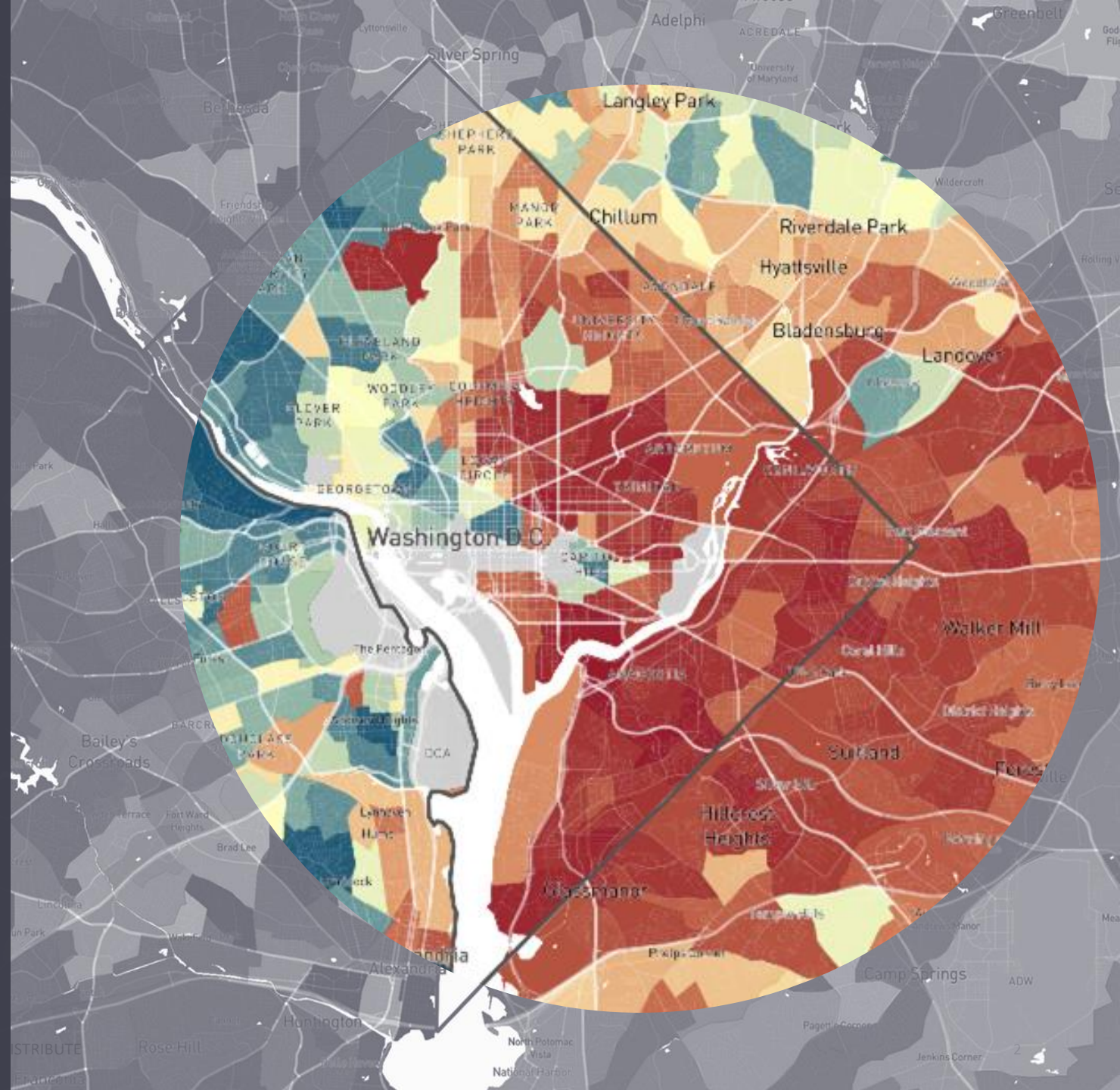
William Julius Wilson Institute Summit

Jim Shelton
Blue Meridian Partners

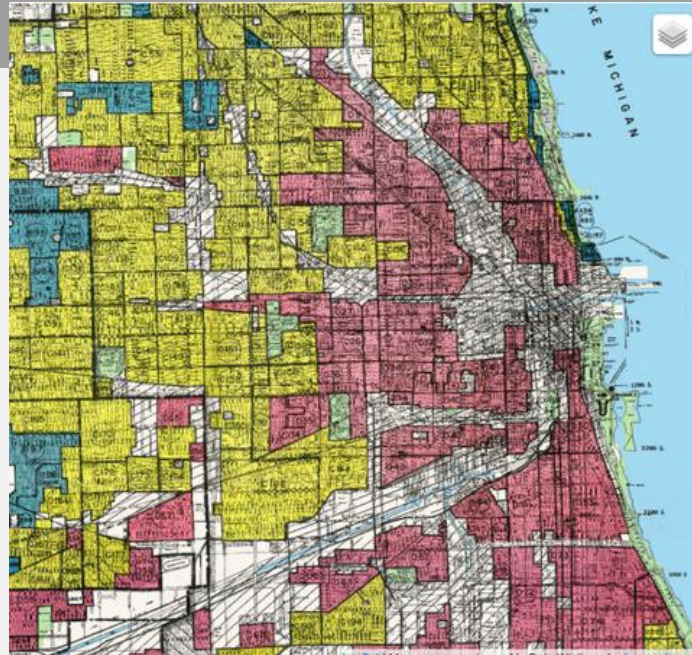
Despite our rhetoric
and efforts...

Today in America,
who your parents are
and where you grow up
are still the most
determinative factors of
your life *chances*

Source: Opportunity Atlas, Dr. Raj Chetty.
WAMU: The Affordability Desk

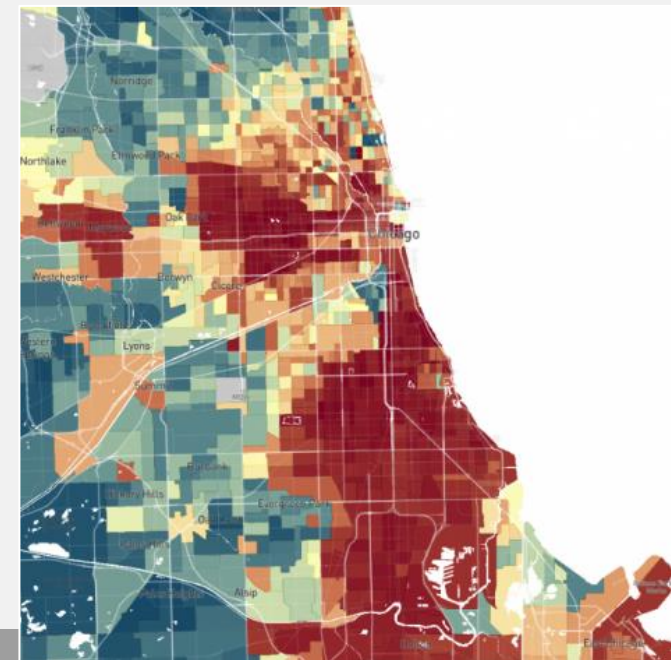


Inequity has
been built into
our laws and
way of life
since our
beginnings
*and the
impacts
manifest today*



Redlining maps from 1930's Chicago, which directed investment to white communities and disinvested in communities of color

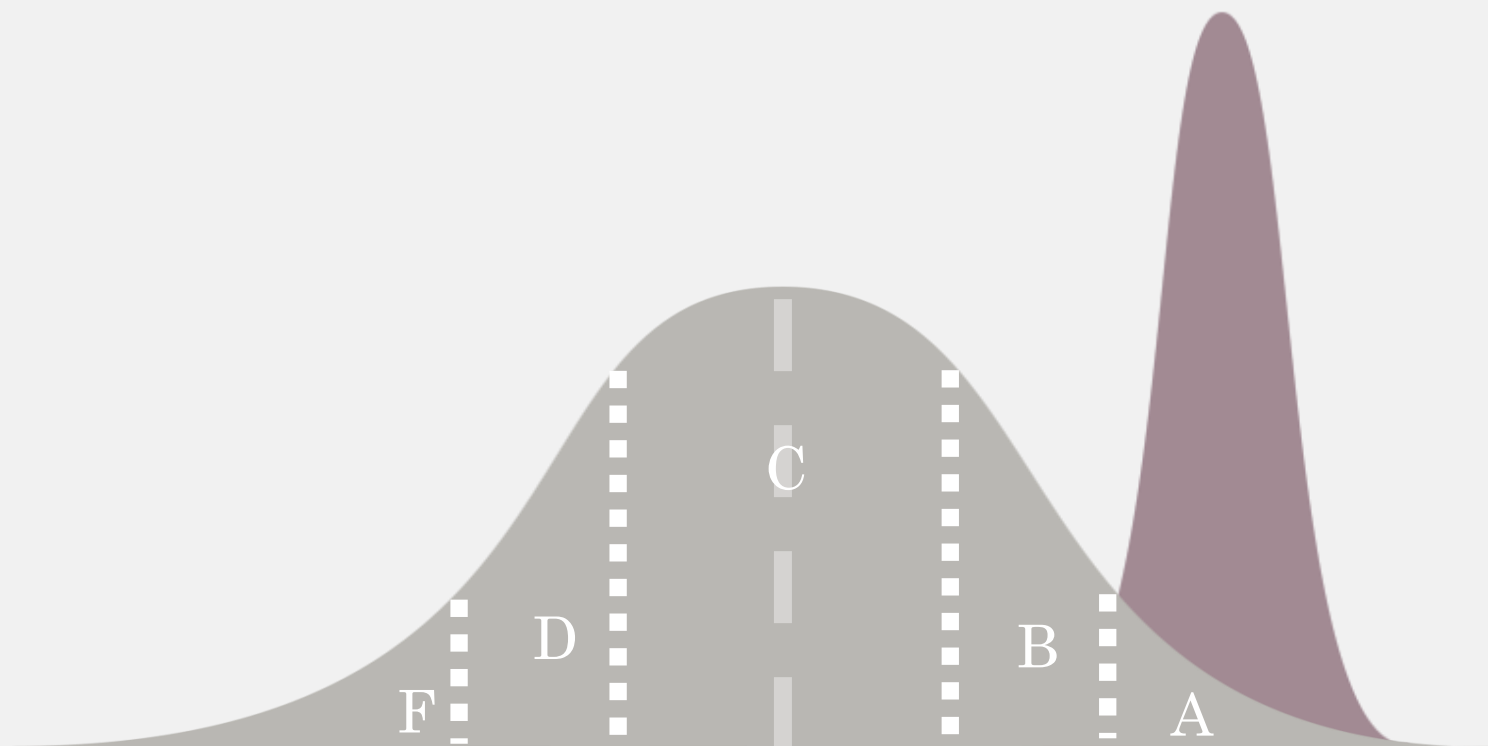
Chicago's levels of economic mobility and poverty today, as per the Opportunity Atlas



Leading to a *Bell Curve* and *Bias Culture* that asserts “*some people(s) have it and some don’t*”

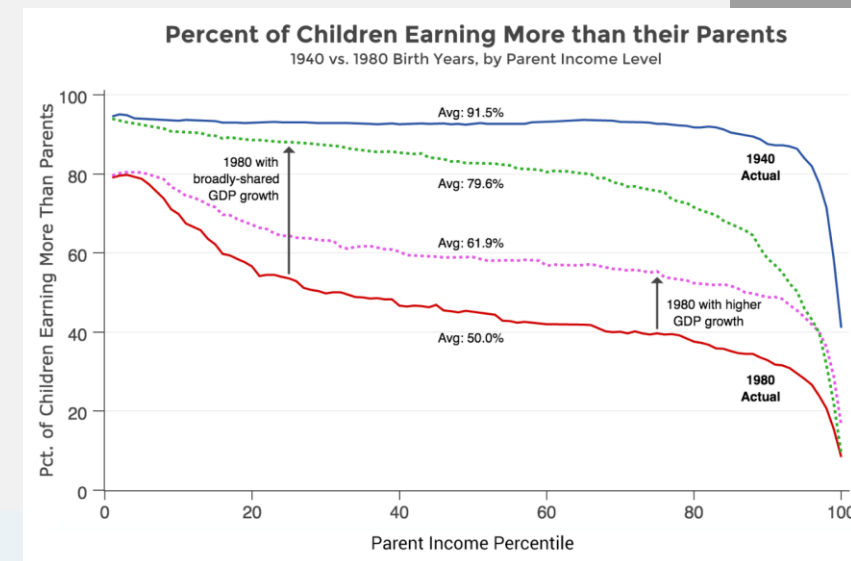
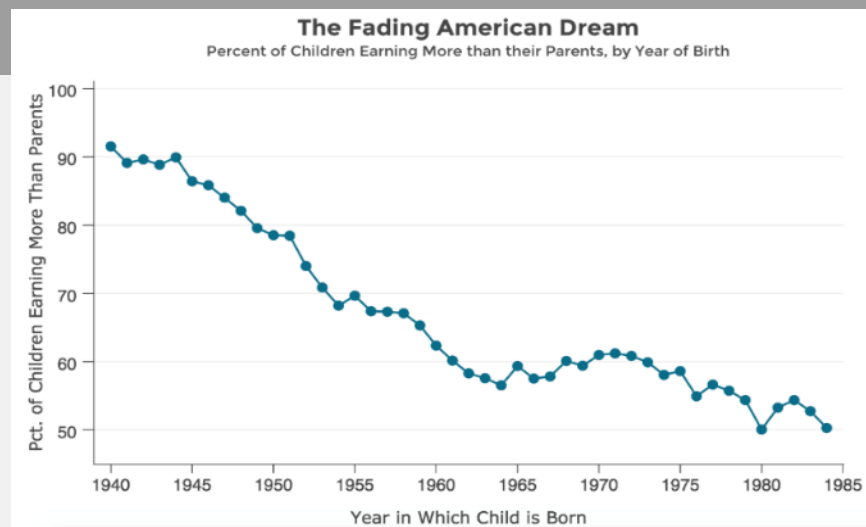
Despite the evidence that talent is equally distributed.
Opportunity is not.

Source: “Bloom’s Two-Sigma Problem”

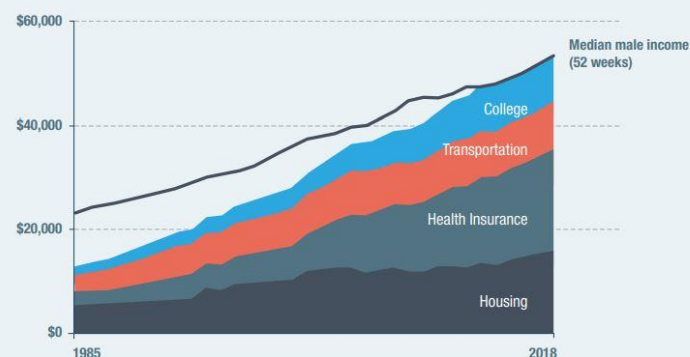


The American Dream is fading exacerbated by the increased cost of “thriving”

And, deliberate choices made it this way

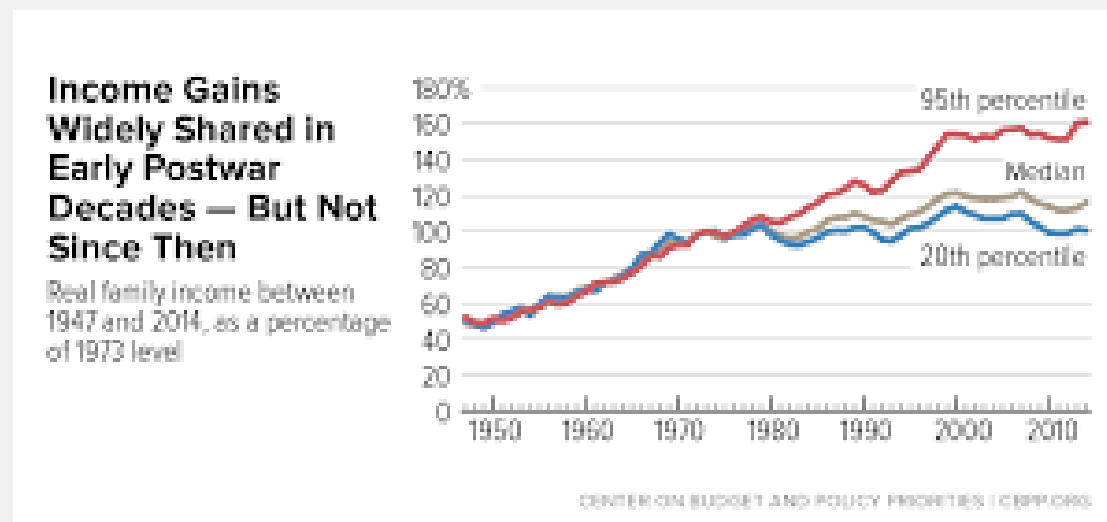
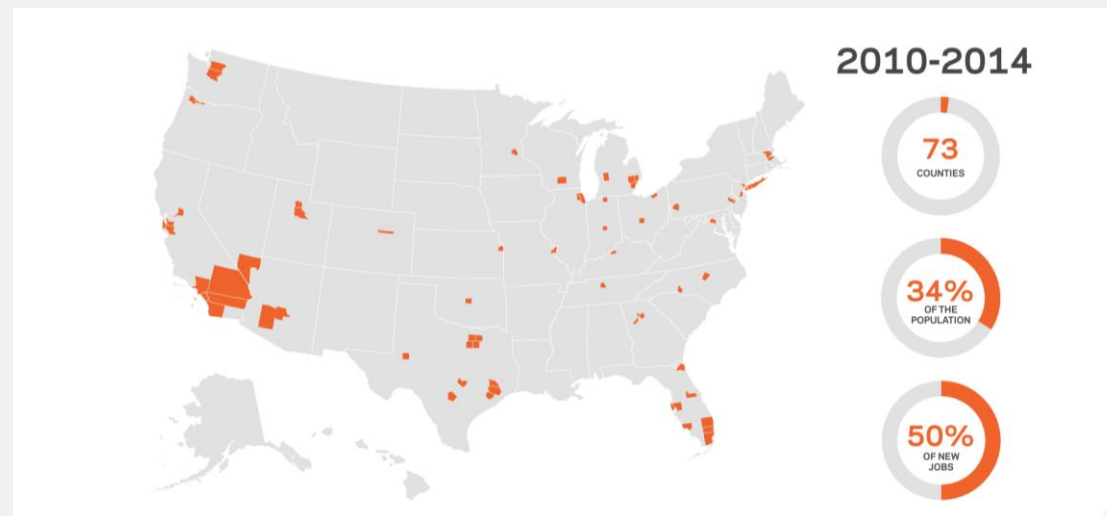


Major Household Expenditures vs. Median Income
(nominal dollars)



Source: Appendix

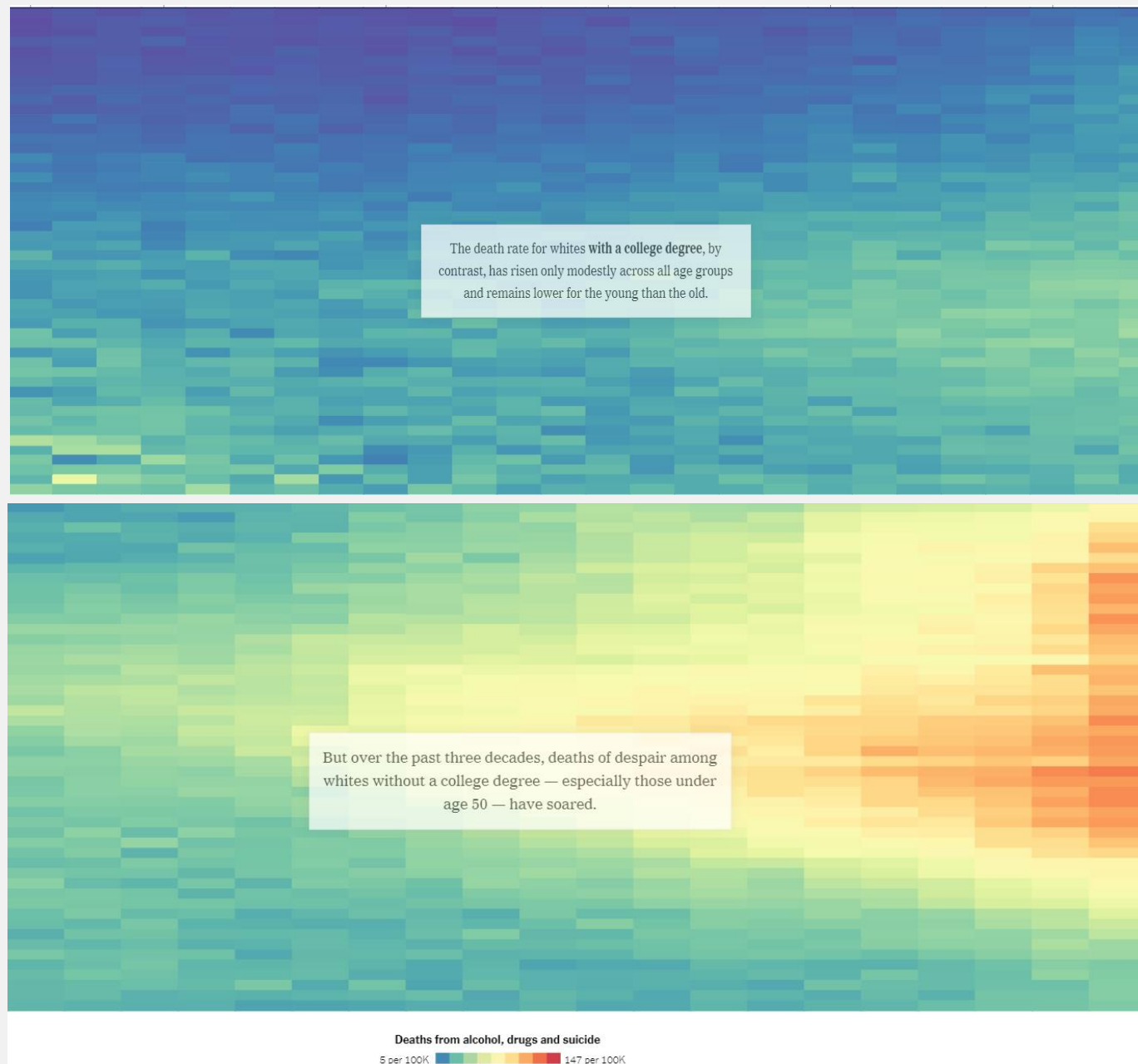
The changing economy, regressive policies, and skills mismatch are combining to make things worse - concentrating opportunity and wealth in fewer places and hands



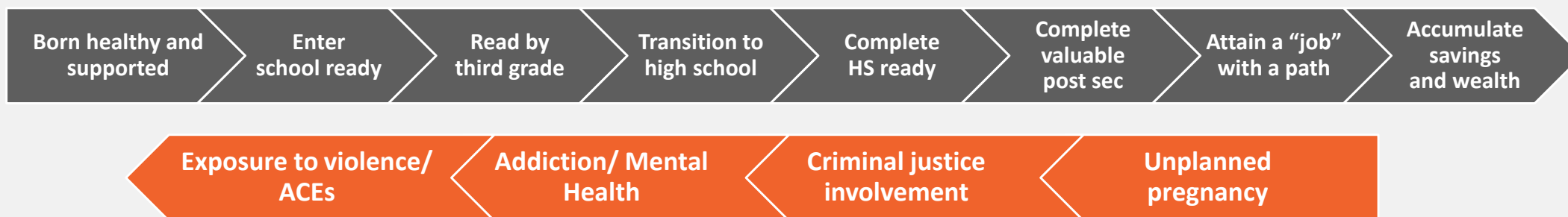
“The pressures of
‘working class’ life kill
Americans...”

Deaths of despair have
been climbing rapidly
among White
Americans with limited
opportunity for the last
30 years

Source: Brookings Institute



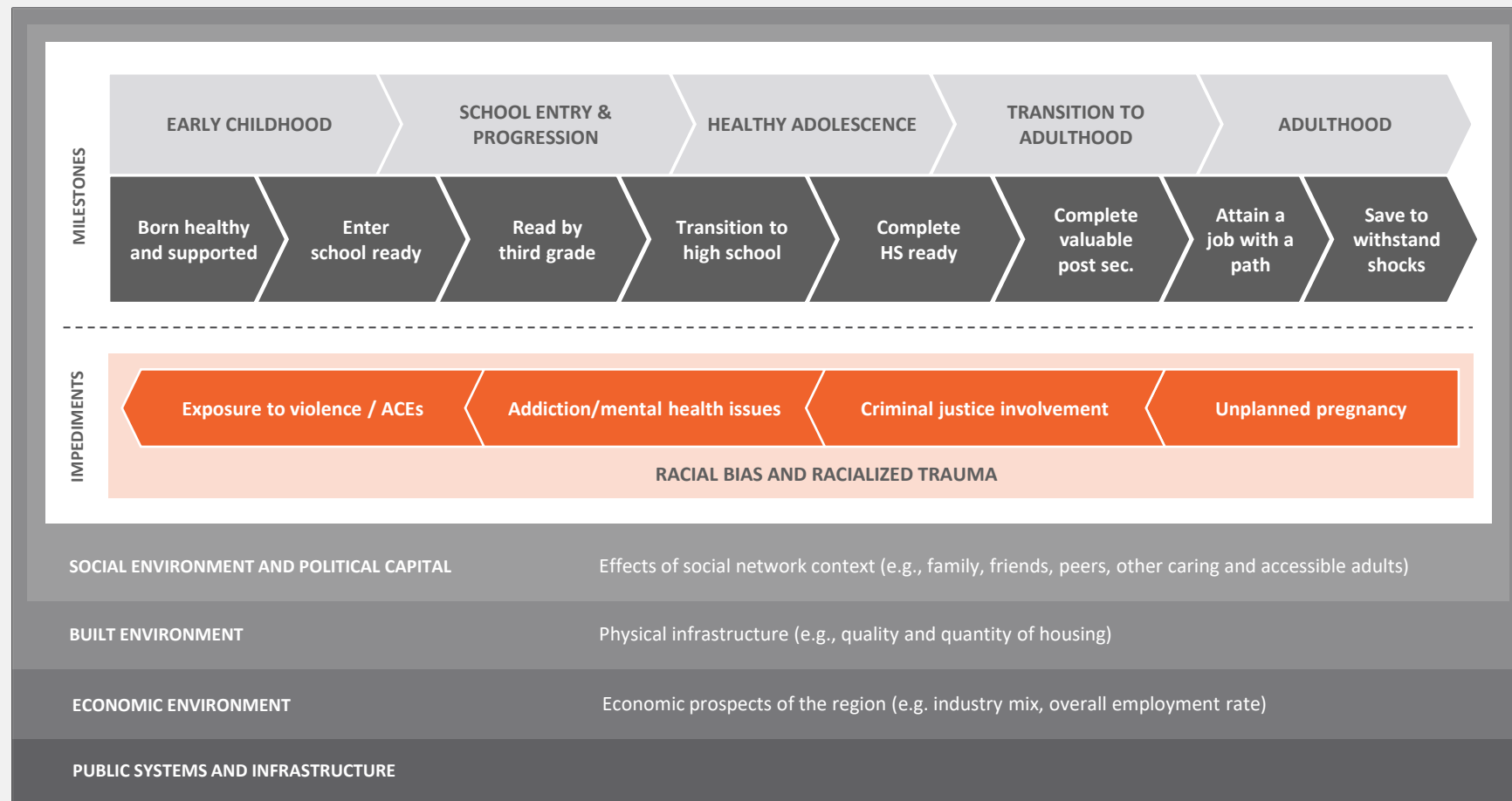
Part of the solution is clear... enable millions more Americans to achieve the milestones that lead to thriving adulthood



And, avoid or mitigate the impediments that knock them off course

Comprehensive needs require a comprehensive approach

This demands a systemic place-based approach addressing the individual and environmental factors impacting mobility

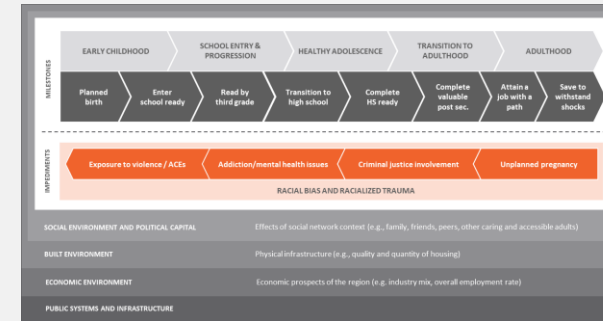


This approach is being demonstrated by a growing field of place-based partnerships devoted to producing sustained economic mobility nationally... *one neighborhood and region at a time*

Human centered and holistic

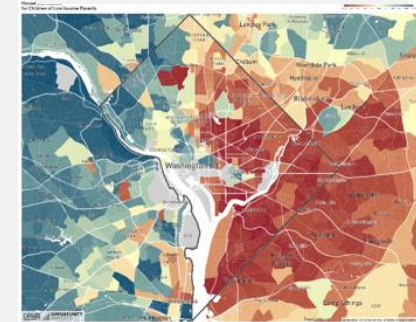


Aligned and systemic

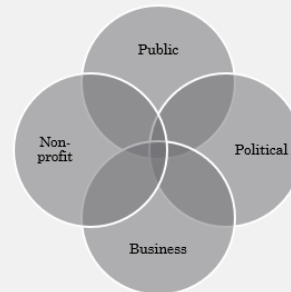


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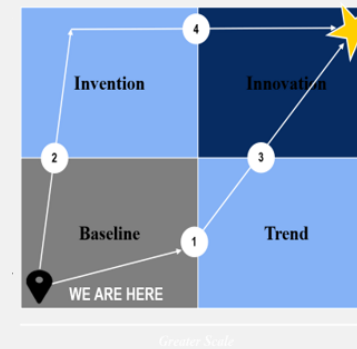
Grounded in neighborhoods and regions



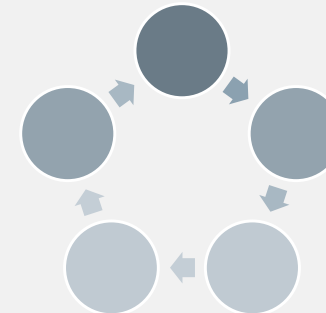
Intentionally Cross-sector



Scale and Impact focused



Wired for Rapid Learning



Sustained by Culture and Narrative Change



Prior place-based efforts have revealed what the field will need to achieve population-level impacts nationally

Public sector engagement and leadership

Adequate and aligned public and private capital

Powerful tools and supports

Shared principles of practice

Shifts in power and authority



Power is the ability
to create, limit, or
make choices for
oneself or others.

It is in many ways
indistinguishable
from freedom.