

## Advancing Racial Equity in Research for Policy and Advocacy: Selected Resources

Applied research intended to inform policy can advance racial equity through its broad sphere of influence. The resources below describe guiding principles for the ethical implementation of research, ways to reckon with unintended bias when it comes to research, conceptual frameworks that address systemic injustices, new kinds of data infrastructures, partnership-based research, and communications strategies that accurately frame research and point to meaningful solutions. Each of these mechanisms to promote racial equity is expanded upon below by six policy organizations and community-led initiatives.

### [How to Embed a Racial and Ethnic Equity Perspective in Research: Practical Guidance for the Research Process](#)

Child Trends

*Child Trends works to ensure that all kids thrive by conducting independent research and partnering with practitioners and policymakers to apply that knowledge.*

This working paper offers five **guiding principles** for integrating racial and ethnic equity in research. These guiding principles encourage researchers to examine their own biases, make a commitment to dig deeper into their data, recognize how the research process impacts communities, engage with those communities as research partners, and guard against the implicit or explicit assumption that white is the default experience of the world.

### [Why Am I Always Being Researched?](#)

Chicago Beyond

*Chicago Beyond invests in organizations, community leaders, and equitable research opportunities that are positioned to change the lives of young people in Chicago.*

This guide offers “how” we can begin to level the playing field and **reckon with unintended bias** when it comes to research. It is an equity-based approach to research that offers one way in which we can restore communities as authors and owners.

### [A Research Agenda for Racial Equity: Applications of the Ferguson Commission Report to Public Health](#)

Forward Through Ferguson

*Forward Through Ferguson (FTF) was established to carry forth the community insight and vision of the Ferguson Commission. FTF centers impacted communities and mobilizes accountable bodies to advance racially equitable*

This article highlights the importance of using **conceptual frameworks** that address systemic injustices. The social determinants framework for addressing health disparities favors systematic and policy-based interventions over programmatic ones. Similarly, the civil rights framework provides legal grounds for holding our policies to high standards of equity. Moving forward, public health can continue to support the intersectoral work of

*systems and policies that ensure all people in the St. Louis region can thrive.*

advocating equity by helping partners in other sectors use these frameworks to advance equitable policy.

### ***A Toolkit for Centering Racial Equity Throughout Data Integration***

Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy

*Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy helps state and local governments collaborate and responsibly use data to improve lives. The organization helps communities bring together cross-sector data safely and responsibly to help policy-makers, practitioners, and schools.*

This action toolkit is designed “to create a new kind of **data infrastructure**— one that dismantles ‘feedback loops of injustice’ and instead shares power and knowledge with those who need systems change the most” by helping guide partnerships, collaboratives, agencies, and community initiatives use, share, and integrate administrative data. The toolkit includes a report, webinars, a panel presentation, and a peer-reviewed article.

### ***Making Racial Equity Real in Research***

The Greenlining Institute

*The Greenlining Institute, in its efforts to advance racial equity, is committed to building a just economy by acting as an incubator of new policy ideas, a bridge builder between diverse partners, and an advocate to build momentum for transformative change.*

This report offers five key steps to creating **partnership-based research**: (a) *understand* the context of racism in research in the past and present, (b) *review* the challenges, best practices, and opportunities available for centering racial equity in research, (c) *conduct* an internal equity assessment of your research institution, department, or team, (d) *partner* with and pay a community partner, and (e) *co-create* the research questions and scope of work with a community partner.

### ***Urban Institute Guide for Racial Equity in the Research Process***

Urban Institute

*The Urban Institute believes decisions shaped by facts, rather than ideology, have the power to improve public policy and practice, strengthen communities, and transform people’s lives for the better.*

This guide provides key questions and recommendation used by the Urban Institute in the organization’s own work to promote racial equity in the research and **communications** process, including when conceptualizing the research, when writing a research proposal, when engaging in the study implementation and analysis phases, when writing research, and communications products and when planning dissemination strategies.