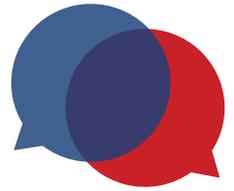


# Healing through Policy: Creating Pathways to Racial Justice LAW: AN OVERVIEW



“Healing Through Policy: Creating Pathways to Racial Justice” is a national initiative that offers local leaders a suite of policies and practices to move communities and policymakers from commitment to action for health, racial equity, and justice.

Local leaders can adopt and implement all or some of the policies and practices curated through the initiative to help promote racial healing and address social inequities.

These options are guided by the Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation framework, which offers an overarching comprehensive strategy for adaptation by local communities and organizations

to support progress toward needed systemic transformation. The framework addresses the foundational components of Narrative Change, Racial Healing and Relationship Building, Separation, Law, and Economy.

*Healing Through Policy* is an initiative of the American Public Health Association, the de Beaumont Foundation, and the National Collaborative for Health Equity.

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## Law

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Law involves government-sponsored legal authorization and enforcement of public and private systems and policies to maintain hierarchy, while denying the full humanity of people of color. The fallacy

of racial and ethnic hierarchy has been infused throughout the U.S. legal system and operates in both blatant and insidious ways through laws, public policies, and accompanying practices and norms.

### POLICIES AND PRACTICES UNDER THE LAW PILLAR:

- Endorsement and implementation of 21st Century Policing recommendations and other comprehensive police reforms.
- Diversion of police funding to support alternatives to policing and prevention programs, such as investments in behavioral and mental health services.
- Reclassification of violations, decriminalization, and bail, probation, and fees reform to address racial and socioeconomic biases.
- Immigrant-friendly policies and practices to promote equitable opportunity.
- Voting rights protection and expansion.

## STORIES OF SUCCESS:

- The U.S. Conference of Mayors has reports on implementation best practices of 16 cities that have adopted 21st Century Policing reforms (or beyond), including Aurora, Colorado; Baltimore; Boston; Charleston, South Carolina; Phoenix; Sumter, South Carolina; and Schenectady, New York.
- Salt Lake City reduced its police department budget by \$5.3 million, reallocating \$2.5 million to fund a social worker program and \$2.8 million to be reserved for other uses, informed by the newly formed Commission on Racial Equity in Policing.
- St. Louis County's jail fee ordinance eliminated booking fees, bond fees, and fees related to providing medical care for incarcerated persons, and waived \$3.4 million in outstanding debt.
- Birmingham, Alabama has passed a resolution indicating that the police would not be a source for federal government and would be open to granting business licenses to all immigrants.
- In 2013, Takoma Park, Maryland became the first jurisdiction in the country to allow 16- and 17-year-olds to vote. Following this policy change, several other progressive cities have followed suit, the largest being Berkeley, California.

## RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

[A Guidebook to Reimagining America's Crisis Response Systems: A Decision-Making Framework for Responding to Vulnerable Populations in Crisis](#)

[Reimagining Policing: How State and Local Governments Can Work Together to Create Better, Safer Communities](#)

***For more information about Healing Through Policy, visit [debeaumont.org/healing-through-policy](https://debeaumont.org/healing-through-policy).***