

Our Commitment  
to True and  
Lasting Equity

# PHILADELPHIA *FORWARD*

Revised Priorities for  
Mayor Kenney's  
Second Term







# A VISION FOR TRUE AND LASTING EQUITY IN PHILADELPHIA

To transform Philadelphia into a city where equal opportunities are open to all residents, race is not a determinant of success, and diversity is elevated as one of Philadelphia's greatest assets.

# A TURNING POINT

Since the Kenney Administration announced its priorities for the second term in January 2020, the combination of a global pandemic, an escalating economic recession, and unrest tied to systemic racism and police brutality have all taken a toll on Philadelphia. These events have exacerbated racial inequalities and rightly forced a reassessment of and recommitment to many of our priorities.

Some of the challenges Philadelphia now faces are unprecedented and some are older than the nation itself, but it is clear that we cannot overcome them by doing what we have always done. It is time to make the bold changes needed to ensure true and lasting equity.

To move Philadelphia forward we must confront our past. Racism in America and Philadelphia is both systemic and institutionalized, with far-reaching effects on political engagement, economic opportunities, health outcomes, and overall life chances for Black and Brown communities. Communities of color have experienced racial inequalities over generations, which have contributed to structural violence and pervasive poverty in the city, and the government has played a role in this history.

To effectively deliver on our vision for Philadelphia and to emerge as a stronger and more equitable city, there are deeply embedded policies, structures, and behaviors that must be challenged and dismantled. We will need new approaches and imaginative solutions to problems, both new and old. We must change the way we operate as an Administration and what we invest in to become the most inclusive and thriving Philadelphia we have ever been.

## VALUES

### EQUITY

for communities of color

### OPPORTUNITY

for all residents to thrive

### COURAGE

to take on tough fights

### COMPASSION

to put our most vulnerable residents first

### COLLABORATION

with residents and across sectors to deliver bold changes

Now is the time to step up and make historic, lasting change that will build a more just and equitable society for our residents. While our priorities have necessarily changed, our Administration's values have remained constant and we are more determined than ever to lead with these values as a guidepost:



# SHARED ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO BUILD ON

*Together, since the start of the pandemic, we have accomplished so much.*



**Managed the pandemic**, slowed the spread of COVID-19 and saved thousands of lives in our city. We stayed at home, social-distanced, and masked up to protect our family, friends, and neighbors.



**Delivered food for our children and families**, distributing boxes of food to residents who needed it. With strong community partnerships, we have distributed over 500,000 boxes of food to residents, served 200,000 meals to unsheltered individuals, and provided over five million meals to students.



**Extended a lifeline to small and minority-owned businesses** when they needed it most. The [COVID-19 Small Business Relief Fund](#) provided \$13.3 million to over 2,000 small businesses, 66 percent minority-owned and 32 percent women-owned. The [Restore & Reopen](#) program provided an additional \$1.4 million to support businesses on commercial corridors impacted by civil unrest.



**Kept vulnerable renters in their homes.** [PHL Rent Assist](#) will serve 3,000 households in Phase 1 and approximately 6,000 households in Phase II. We instituted a suite of emergency housing protections to promote mediation to resolve potential evictions in advance of a court hearing.





**Prioritized our children and families by maintaining our historic investments in public education,** with \$348 million this year and \$1.4 billion planned over the next five years, despite the greatest recession since the Great Depression.

**Raised over \$17 million** with [philanthropy](#) and the public for nonprofits working on the frontlines of the pandemic.



**Implemented immediate action steps toward police reform** guided by a newly launched [Reconciliation Committee](#) of community and civic leaders.

**Partnered with over 130 business leaders** to reimagine and recharge our economy through the [Philadelphia Economic Recovery and Recharge Taskforce](#).



**Listened to Philadelphia's organizers, activists, leaders, and residents** who rose up against decades of police brutality and 400 years of racial injustice to demand better from their elected officials.



**Launched [PHLConnectED](#)** with a coalition of partners to deliver free internet helping close the digital divide for up to 35,000 K-12 students and families so they can fully engage in distance learning for this school year.

Supported digital learning by launching [Access Centers](#) to provide Philadelphia's most vulnerable students with a safe place when their caregivers work outside the home and have no childcare supports.

# KEY PRIORITIES TO ACHIEVE TRUE AND LASTING EQUITY FOR ALL PHILADELPHIANS

We aim to make historic strides through the remainder of this Administration, by focusing on four key pillars:



**Quality Education for All**



**A Safer and More Just Philadelphia**



**Health Equity for All**



**An Inclusive Economy and Thriving Neighborhoods**

The Mayor's goal of lifting 100,000 people out of poverty over a decade remains despite the perilous state of the nation's economy but it will only be possible if we rebuild with equity and fight for an economy that protects workers, raises wages, and invests in training and education.

We are incredibly proud that Philadelphia came together to fight the pandemic and provide for our neighbors in the most challenging time most of us have ever seen. We also know we have made mistakes, and as a government we have recommitted ourselves to listening, learning, and changing. There is so much more we can and must achieve, and we know that to do so we must acknowledge, confront, and eliminate the systemic racism and white supremacy embedded in our programs and policies. Only then can we create true and lasting racial equity and economic opportunity for all Philadelphians.

The Mayor's commitments and priorities laid out in this report are aimed at building equity and opportunity for all residents, and particularly for the far too many children and families who are living in poverty. We have focused on these priorities because when families in poverty can access quality education, feel safe and well-served by justice in their communities, connect to supports to build their health and well-being, and secure economic stability and opportunity, they can truly thrive.





**Achieving these goals for Philadelphians will only be possible with adequate financial resources and disciplined focus, guided by our values and priorities.**

**We will lead with racial equity across all our priorities**, implementing Executive Order 1-20, which embeds racial equity as an explicit governing principle—a lens all City departments and agencies will use to assess how their operations, policies, and procedures impact all Philadelphians, including people of color. Our priorities and reforms will also be informed and shaped by the **Pathways to Reform, Transformation, and Reconciliation Committee** established in June 2020.

**We will maintain core services for residents and businesses and support the City's fiscal health for a smart and safe COVID-19 Response and Recovery.** We will be more inclusive as we make budgetary decisions in order to advance our key priorities, while remaining careful stewards of public dollars to ensure we can deliver the quality municipal services that our residents and businesses rely on daily.

**We will reallocate resources to invest in communities and reimagine the economy** to generate income and build wealth in communities of color, creating greater prosperity for all. This will include investments that prepare youth and adult residents for the jobs of the future and encourage equitable growth in neighborhoods without displacement, including better access to home and business ownership.





## QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL

All children and youth will have access to high-quality education in a safe environment from early childhood through college and career.







Investing over \$1.38 billion in Philadelphia public schools over the next five years;



Supporting the safe reopening of K-12 public schools, and offering safe and supported City and community spaces and services for vulnerable children and youth during the school year;



Closing the digital divide by ensuring all K-12 students and their families have internet access by launching [PHLConnectED](#) for up to 35,000 student households;



Improving the lives of children and families through quality pre-K, 17 community schools and quality behavioral health services in schools; and



Funding free college by investing in the [Octavius Catto Scholarship](#), a tuition-free opportunity for eligible full-time students at the Community College of Philadelphia with additional supports, including books and transit.

Critical to our success will be seeking greater local control for Philadelphians through changes at the state and federal levels of government. Mayor Kenney will fight for:

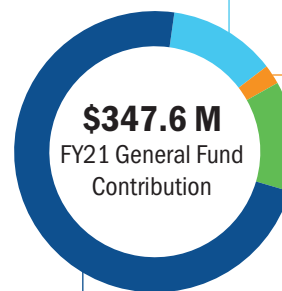
### Fair funding for education from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

#### \$44.1M for the Community College of Philadelphia & the Octavius Catto Scholarship

The City continues to invest in the Community College of Philadelphia and is funding a new scholarship, the Octavius Catto Scholarship. The new anti-poverty initiative will make CCP tuition-free for eligible full-time students and drastically improve college access and persistence.

#### \$7.8M for WorkReady Program

to support education and job preparedness, the Kenney Administration is continuing to invest in WorkReady, to support teens and young adults engage in meaningful summer employment<sup>1</sup>



#### \$252.6M for the Philadelphia School District

In FY 18, the School District of Philadelphia was brought under local control for the first time in decades. This, with the Kenney Administration's continued increased investment, will continue to allow fiscal stability for the District and continue to provide improved outcomes for students.

#### \$37M for PHLpreK & \$6.1M for Community Schools

The Mayor's continued commitment to high quality pre-K, and growing community schools is continued in FY 21, 3,300 PHLpreK slots and funding for 17 Community Schools ensures that quality learning and necessary resources are and made available to all Philadelphians.



## A SAFER AND MORE JUST PHILADELPHIA

Transforming our police department and criminal justice institutions to address racial injustice, reduce over-policing and gun violence, and invest in community safety and well-being.







Leading on **police reform**, including revising use of force policies, increasing officer accountability through training and developing an early intervention system, implementing an electronic disciplinary system to monitor and hold officers accountable for inappropriate stops, frisk, and searches, conducting an in-depth analysis on the root cause of disparities in stops with possible solutions, and supporting the new Police Oversight Commission;



Improving diversity at the Philadelphia Police Department, prioritizing transparency in police misconduct and the collective bargaining process;



Reducing the need for police officers to respond where a behavioral health or social service response is more appropriate, including adopting changes to Philadelphia's 911 crisis-response system to include a mental health response;



**Preventing violence**, saving the lives of children and adults victimized by gun violence by implementing more evidence-based prevention strategies while providing needed services and supports to traumatized communities. We do this by holding the small percentage of those who are driving the gun violence accountable for their actions, and offering them alternatives to violence.



Reducing gun homicides in **Operation Pinpoint** areas by 25 percent by end of 2021 and citywide by 30 percent by end of Mayor Kenney's second term; and



**Reducing the jail population** by 50 percent and eliminating racial disparities, with the next phase of criminal justice reform focused on reentry and community reinvestment.

Critical to our success will be seeking greater local control for Philadelphians through changes at the state and federal levels of government. Mayor Kenney will fight for:

**Common sense gun control and gun trafficking legislation to reduce the flow of illegal guns into neighborhoods**

**Pennsylvania legislative police reforms, especially changing the arbitration process for officers who are rightfully terminated**

“If there is one thing that I am most intent on fixing, it is the mind-boggling arbitration system in which officers who are fired for abhorrent behavior are able to get their jobs back. Our residents deserve better than that, and so do the great majority of proud police officers who are dedicated to public service. I will fight my damndest to get bad officers off the force—and keep them off. You have my word.”

- Mayor Kenney





## HEALTH EQUITY FOR ALL

A thriving city that ensures the health of all communities, eliminates health disparities and safeguards residents from threats that cause disease and injury.







Building a best-in-class COVID-19 pandemic response, including testing and treatment, contact tracing, and community outreach that is [responsive to communities of color outlined in our Health Equity Plan](#), ensures continued access regardless of immigration status, insurance status, and languages spoken, protects the most vulnerable, and ultimately ensures rapid and equitable deployment of a vaccine once available;



Preventing chronic health conditions like diabetes and heart disease by ensuring all children and families have access nutritious foods, decreased use of addictive and toxic products, and access to safe, green spaces and upgraded [Rebuild](#) sites;



Addressing mental health concerns, including those exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, through a system of care in which professional treatment, along with family, individual, and other resources, allows people to manage their own conditions and build self-resilience;



Keeping residents in their homes by investing more than \$300 million over five years for home repairs, rental assistance, eviction and mortgage diversion, support for people experiencing homelessness, and affordable housing development;



Making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring through a robust program of prevention and diversion, and the use of innovative models to increase the supply of permanent housing for very low-income individuals;



Tackling food insecurity by ensuring all children and families have access to nutritious, affordable, and culturally appropriate food throughout and after the pandemic; and



Saving lives from drug overdose by removing barriers to treatment, supporting overdose prevention sites, and focusing on the root causes of addiction.



## **AN INCLUSIVE ECONOMY AND THRIVING NEIGHBORHOODS**

Philadelphia is a dynamic, diverse city with a thriving economy that provides opportunities to all its residents and neighborhoods.







Prioritizing job training for residents who have lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic and preparing residents for a tech enabled future and new skills essential for family-sustaining, **quality jobs, especially in high-growth sectors**, by working in partnership with employers and promoting skills-based hiring;



**Building wealth** in low income communities by increasing investment in commercial corridors, directing flexible capital and resources to minority- and women-owned small businesses, financing home ownership through **Philly First Home**, and ensuring all projects utilizing publicly-owned land return wealth to communities;



Expanding opportunities for Black and Brown founders by engaging MWDSBEs in significant business with the city, by investing in business technical assistance, by assisting with capacity building designed to help businesses grow and by actively advancing public and private sector procurement reform;



Enforcing Philadelphia's worker protections laws—fair workweek, domestic worker bill of rights, paid sick leave, and more—to ensure that the individuals driving our economy are safe and treated with dignity and respect;



Reaffirming our status as a Welcoming City and ensuring maximum access to the city's civic, economic, and cultural life for immigrant residents and their families. We do this by continuing to promote inclusive local policies and advocating against anti-immigrant policies;



Supporting a **transportation system that is safe, affordable, accessible, and reliable**, and prioritizing our transit system so it is safe and emerges from the pandemic well-positioned to contribute to equitable growth. Launching a new path forward to Vision Zero with a Vision Zero Action Plan 2025 to save lives and make Philadelphia streets safe for everyone.

Critical to our success will be seeking greater local control for Philadelphians through changes at the state and federal levels of government. Mayor Kenney will fight for:

**A \$15 minimum wage to support family-sustaining jobs**

**More flexible recovery funds for City services and direct financial support for residents and businesses to safely navigate the pandemic**



**Addressing the climate crisis** by advancing policies and programs to reduce harmful emissions from buildings and transportation 28 percent by 2025, in line with the Paris Climate Agreement, and beginning a citywide climate adaptation plan to help protect our most vulnerable residents from a hotter and wetter climate;




Delivering clean streets and investing in neighborhood spaces, including parks, recreation centers, and libraries through **Rebuild**, and providing safe, welcoming spaces for children and families during the pandemic; and



Attracting and maximizing federal **Recovery** funds, regardless of immigration status whenever possible, to equitably and effectively support City operations, residents, and business.





**My pledge today** is to devote every ounce of my energy until my final day in office to bring true and lasting equity to Philadelphia—for all residents.

**You have my word.** And I hope all of you will join me.

— **Mayor Jim Kenney**