

# Advancing Data Literacy and Availability for CBOs Serving Communities of Color

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# The Black Progress Index

- Analysis of the places where Black people are thriving most as measured through life expectancy
- Interactive dashboard that examines the impact of social and neighborhood conditions on Black life expectancy in cities and counties nationwide
- Focus on the social determinants of health provides insight into key issues for civic engagement and areas for future research

# The Black Progress Index, cont'd.

- Variables that most explain the variation in Black life expectancy:
  - **Wealth** — Black median household income; rate of entrepreneurship; homeownership rate
  - **Environmental quality** — levels of air pollution; moderate or low population density
  - **Safety** — levels of gun violence or homicide; rates of people walking or biking to work
  - **Human and social capital** — higher educational attainment; public school math proficiency; geographic diversity of friend networks (Facebook); religious membership; share of foreign-born Black residents
  - **Family health** — share of Black children who don't live with their father

# Mississippi Front Porch Focus Groups (FPFGs)

- Designed to provide insight into the lives, opinions, and needs of Black communities in MS, factoring in age, income, gender, and geography
- Help understand the factors driving low voter propensity among some Black Americans in the SE and how best to reengage them in the democratic process
- 461 conversations and nearly 4,800 door knocks as of Oct 6; goal is to have 600 conversations

# MS FPFG Initial Findings

- Racism and discrimination viewed as the main cause of persistent socio-economic inequities, and voter intimidation and disenfranchisement targeting Black people
- In Jackson, infrastructure, clean water access, public safety, and affordable housing were among the top issues cited; *bigger concern than the ability to vote*
- In less densely populated areas, access to quality health care, lack of affordable housing, and lack of educational opportunities were top of mind
- Overall, ongoing hurdles to voting and lack of social and economic change post-elections are key reasons many Black residents of MS vote rarely or not at all

# The Democratization of Data

- Making data available, accessible, understandable, and usable
- Using data to paint a more holistic picture of people's reality
- Using data to get to the truth, not manipulate the truth
- Supporting how data are used and embedded in civil rights and social justice work  Partnerships to assist with build-out, analysis, mapping
- Using data to build a stronger and more inclusive, equitable, and just democracy and society

# Thank you!

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