

Mission and Vision:

Founded in 2022, the George Washington University Institute for Racial, Ethnic, and Socioeconomic Equity (EI) is a research-driven institute with a mission to dismantle systemic barriers through rigorous research and community-powered solutions. The Institute aims to foster justice and equity by incubating future social justice leaders, policymakers, and innovative scholars. EI envisions a world where all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic background, are treated with dignity and empowered to thrive.

Strategic Objectives:

EI's five-year strategic plan focuses on four main objectives:

- 1. Advance Equity:** Through initiatives like closing the racial wealth gap and analyzing racial inequity in the Washington, D.C. area, EI seeks to develop policy solutions that address historical and current disparities.
- 2. Support GW Researchers:** EI will foster a transdisciplinary approach to equity research, establishing a minor in Equity Studies and developing training programs for students and professionals.
- 3. Policy Translation:** The Institute aims to bridge academic research with actionable policy, creating partnerships with Congressional groups and holding roundtables to influence legislation.
- 4. Sustainability:** EI will focus on attracting funding to support its research, policy initiatives, and continued development.

Hubs Research and Scholarship:

EI's research and engagement are organized around four interconnected pillars: **Habitat, Education, Justice, and Democracy**. These pillars aim to address the systemic drivers of inequity by focusing on the social determinants of health, access to housing and education, criminal justice reform, and democratic participation.

The Equity Institute's Policy Lab will be at the **center** of the Institute's research initiatives, helping to ensure that scholarship undertaken under EI's aegis spans disciplines and operates at the intersection of issue pillars.

Projects will involve researchers from all four hubs, coordinated by the Policy Lab.



Signature Initiatives:

In its first year, EI will focus on three key initiatives:

- **Closing the Racial Wealth Gap** - This initiative tackles the racial wealth gap, where White households hold significantly more wealth than Black households. EI will conduct research in five U.S. cities to understand the historical and systemic causes of this gap, such as discriminatory housing policies. The findings will inform targeted policy solutions aimed at reducing wealth disparities and promoting investments in marginalized communities.
- **America 250** - As the U.S. approaches its 250th anniversary, America 250 will explore the legacy of racial and socioeconomic inequities in the D.C. area. By analyzing past federal policies that have reinforced inequality, EI will identify systemic drivers of inequity in housing, education, and employment. The initiative will engage communities and policymakers to develop policy reforms for a more equitable future.
- **Equity Policy Bootcamp** - The Equity Policy Bootcamp will provide federal lawmakers and staff with training on equity-driven research and policy solutions. Through workshops and roundtable discussions, participants will learn strategies to address disparities in areas like housing and justice. The program will expand to include state and local lawmakers by year three, fostering policy reforms across all levels of government.

Current Policy Lab Project:

- **Truth and Equity Regarding Termination and Relocation: The Need to Address Policy-based Social Determinants of Community Health to Build Authentic Equity for Urban Indigenous Communities:** To help lawmakers understand these complexities, EI, AIOIC, and community partners will conduct five site visits illustrating the current impacts of these policies. EI will host a two-day conference in Washington, D.C., bringing together Urban Indigenous communities and lawmakers to discuss policy and funding opportunities for more equitable outcomes.

Summer Institute For 2025

The Equity Institute (EI) is pleased to announce the launch of a Summer Institute featuring a series of short courses led by George Washington University (GW) faculty and visiting scholars from around the world, commencing in Summer 2025. This initiative will be accessible to all members of the GW community, as well as students and professionals from institutions in the Washington, D.C. area. Each course will be worth 1 credit and will provide an opportunity for students and faculty to delve into topics relevant to equity research, encompassing methodologies, analytical frameworks, and the examination of contemporary policy issues that significantly impact race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic equity.

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