The Center for American Progress and PolicyLink wish to thank the Ford Foundation for its generous support. Without it, this book would not have been possible. We are particularly grateful to our incredible essayists: Michelle Alexander, Geoffrey Canada, Marian Wright Edelman, America Ferrera, Ai-jen Poo, former Gov. Edward Rendell, Robert K. Ross, M.D, and Larry Summers. In addition, we appreciate each of the terrific authors who worked with us through accelerated timelines and a detailed editing process. It has been a pleasure working with you. We would also like to thank all of the organizations that participated in our policy roundtables, which were instrumental in informing our policy recommendations.

Special thanks also go to our advisory committee members for their support:

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**From Vanessa Cárdenas, Center for American Progress**

Special thanks first and foremost to Neera Tanden and Angela Glover Blackwell for their leadership and support of this project, and to John Podesta for fostering an environment that thrives in innovation. Likewise, thanks go to Jennifer Palmieri and Sarah Wartell—no longer at CAP—but whose support was crucial in the inception of this book.

I would also like to thank members of the Progress 2050 team, past and present, who contributed in shaping the ideas and vision for this book, including our wonderful interns—too many of them to mention by name, but thank you for your hard work, attention to detail, and your willingness to tackle big and small tasks. Thanks also to Daniella Gibbs Léger for her sage advice and support, Julie Ajinkya for reviewing every chapter of this book, and Sophia Kerby for providing research and administrative support. We are a small team but we are mighty indeed!

Thanks also to our PolicyLink partners, especially Anita Hairston, Sarah Treuhaft, and Milly Hawk Daniel for hanging in there through so many months of work.

Much gratitude also goes to our colleagues at CAP for their substantive contributions and their collegiate support, including John Halpin and Ruy Teixeira, from our Progressive Studies team; Maura Calsyn from our Health Policy team; Melissa Lazarín from our Education team; Angela Kelley from our Immigration team; Crosby Burns and Kellan Baker from our LGBT team; Melissa Boteach and Erik Stegman from our Half in Ten team; and Christian Weller, Robert Lynch, Patrick Oakford, Julia Gordon, and Sarah Edelman from our Economic Policy team.

In addition, none of our ideas could read as well and look this good without our Editorial and Art teams, led by Lauren Vicary and Matt Pusateri respectively. The lion’s share of the editorial work fell to Carl Chancellor and David Hudson who worked with us hand in hand to bring this book to fruition. Thanks also to Jan Diehm, Alissa Scheller, and the rest of the Art team for their talent and for making all the data shine. Thanks also to the website team, George Estrada and Kerry Mitchell for working on the book’s website.

Final thanks go to my partner Jorge Delgado for his support, patience, and for all the evening dinners on his own while I was working on this book. And to my children Elizabeth and Henry, who along with every other child deserve the opportunity to live in an All-In Nation.
From PolicyLink

PolicyLink would like to give special thanks to Peter Morris and his colleagues at the National Congress on American Indians for their assistance in identifying data related to tribal communities. In addition, we would like to thank Melissa Young of the Heartland Alliance, who helped us frame some of our criminal-justice recommendations. Many PolicyLink staff have been critical to the success of this project, including Judith Bell, Stephanie Boarden, Chris Brown, Milly Hawk Daniel, Chione Flegal, Erin Hagan, Anita Hairston, Rubén Lizardo, Shireen Malekafzali, Michael McAfee, Jme McLean, Marc Philpart, Kalima Rose, Victor Rubin, Chris Schildt, Mildred Thompson, Jennifer Tran, and Sarah Treuhaft. Jme McLean and Chris Schildt, in particular, made significant writing contributions, and drafted many of the examples of innovative local programs that are interspersed throughout this book.

Acknowledgements from chapter authors

Charting New Trends and Imagining an All-In Nation
The authors wish to thank John Schmitt, Michael Ettlinger, Julie Ajinkya, and Vanessa Cárdenas for their helpful comments and suggestions.

Infrastructure: Supporting Communities So All Can Thrive
Many thanks to Judith Bell, Chris Brown, Chione Flegal, Anita Hairston, Genne Murphy, Jme McLean, Kalima Rose, and Victor Rubin for their thoughtful reviews and contributions to this chapter.

Building Healthy Communities for a Healthy Nation
We are grateful to Judith Bell, Rajiv Bhatia, Robert Garcia, Shireen Malekafzali, and Mildred Thompson for their feedback, innovative ideas, and advice.

Education and Job Readiness for a Prosperous America
The author thanks Cynthia G. Brown, Michael McAfee, and Amy Wilkins for their thoughtful comments and review of earlier versions of this chapter. Rubén Lizardo contributed to the workforce section of this chapter, and Jme McLean provided the cradle-to-career section.

Jobs, Income, and Assets: Economic Security for All
The authors thank Chris Schildt for her contributions to this chapter.

Americans in Waiting: Immigration Reform for a Stronger Nation
Vanessa Cárdenas thanks co-author Jeanne Butterfield for her work, expertise, and excellent writing, Angela Kelley, Phil Wolgin, and Ann Garcia
for their helpful edits and feedback, and Angeline Vuong for her research help.

Locked-Up Potential: A Blueprint for Ensuring Justice for All
Julie Ajinkya would like to thank the organizations that have been active for more than a decade in the criminal-justice reform movement and have won hard-fought victories on the path toward a more equitable justice system for all. In particular, she thanks Noah Bookbinder, Marc Mauer, Marc Philpart, Nicole Porter, Jeremy Haile, David Domenici, Ryan Kling, and Sarah Kuck Jalbert for their thoughtful comments and feedback on versions of this chapter.

Democratic Participation and Leadership in a Diverse Nation
The author thanks Andrew Blotky, Ian Millhiser, Shirley Sagawa, Joy Moses, Catherine Singley and Katherine Culliton-Gonzalez for their input and helpful feedback. Angeline Vuong provided helpful research for this chapter.
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 Blackwell founded PolicyLink in 1999 and continues to drive its mission of advancing economic and social equity. Under her leadership, PolicyLink has become a leading voice in the movement to use public policy to improve access and opportunity for all low-income people and communities of color, particularly in the areas of health, housing, transportation, education, and infrastructure. Prior to founding PolicyLink, Blackwell served as Senior Vice President at the Rockefeller Foundation, where she oversaw the foundation’s Domestic and Cultural divisions. A lawyer by training, she gained national recognition as founder of the Oakland (CA) Urban Strategies Council, where she pioneered new approaches to neighborhood revitalization. From 1977 to 1987 Blackwell was a partner at Public Advocates, a nationally known public-interest law firm. She is the co-author of *Uncommon Common Ground: Race and America’s Future* (W.W. Norton & Co., 2010), and contributed to *Ending Poverty in America: How to Restore the American Dream* (The New Press, 2007) and *The Covenant with Black America* (Third World Press, 2006).

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 Ajinkya’s work at the Center for American Progress focused on race, ethnicity, and gender, with particular attention to the changing demographics of multicultural societies such as the United States and Western Europe. Prior to her tenure...
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Michelle Alexander, Legal Scholar and Author

Alexander is the author of *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, which the New York Review of Books described as “a book...that might in time touch the public and educate social commentators, policymakers, and politicians about a glaring wrong that we have been living with that we also somehow don’t know how to face.” Alexander is also a highly acclaimed civil rights lawyer, advocate, and legal scholar. In recent years, she has taught at a number of universities, including Stanford Law School, where she was an associate professor of law and directed the Civil Rights Clinics. In 2005, she won a Soros Justice Fellowship, which supported the writing of *The New Jim Crow*, and that same year she accepted a joint appointment at the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity and the Moritz College of Law at The Ohio State University. Since its first publication, *The New Jim Crow* has been featured in national radio and television media outlets, including MSNBC, NPR, *Bill Moyers Journal*, *Tavis Smiley*, C-SPAN, and *Washington Journal*, among others. The book won the 2011 NAACP Image Award for best nonfiction.

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Boarden is a member of the PolicyLink health team, where she works to promote social and economic equity through environmental and policy change, particularly in low-income communities and communities of color. Focusing on food systems, transportation, community development, and multifield partnerships, her work involves technical assistance, research, and writing. Prior to joining PolicyLink, Boarden worked at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, coordinating community-based research and programmatic evaluation activities related to health inequities, food access, active transportation, and obesity. She holds a master’s degree in public health from the University of California, Berkeley, and a bachelor’s degree in physiology from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Jeanne Butterfield, Special Counsel, The Raben Group

Butterfield brings a broad and deep knowledge of immigration law and policy to her work at The Raben Group, as well as significant experience managing nonprofit organizations and building collaborative relationships with volunteer leaders. Prior to joining The Raben Group, Butterfield led legislative advocacy and agency liaison work in support of needed
reforms to U.S. immigration laws. She worked for more than 15 years as Advocacy Director and then Executive Director of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, the nation’s preeminent voluntary bar association. Prior to coming to Washington, D.C., Butterfield served as an executive director and legal director at a number of community-based non-profits in Massachusetts that provided pro bono legal services to refugees seeking asylum in the United States. She managed teams of volunteer lawyers, paralegals, and translators, and represented clients in immigration court. Butterfield completed her law degree at Northeastern University School of Law in Boston, Massachusetts, and her undergraduate degree at Michigan State University.

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Canada leads the Harlem Children’s Zone, Inc., or HCZ, which The New York Times Magazine called “one of the most ambitious social experiments of our time.” In his 20-plus years with the agency, Canada has become nationally recognized for his pioneering work helping children and families in Harlem and as a passionate advocate for education reform. In October 2005, he was named one of “America’s Best Leaders” by U.S. News and World Report. In 1997 the agency launched the Harlem Children’s Zone Project, which targets a specific geographic area in Central Harlem with a comprehensive range of services. The Zone Project today covers 100 blocks and aims to serve over 10,000 children. The work of Canada and HCZ has become a national model and has been the subject of many profiles in the media. Their work has been featured on “60 Minutes,” “The Oprah Winfrey Show,” “The Today Show,” “Good Morning America,” “Nightline,” “CBS This Morning,” “The Charlie Rose Show,” National Public Radio’s “On Point,” as well in articles in The New York Times, The New York Daily News, USA Today and Newsday.

Vanessa Cárdenas, Vice President, Progress 2050, Center for American Progress
Cárdenas leads Progress 2050, which focuses on researching the implications of the demographic change the United States is undergoing. Her work examines the intersection of race, policy, and demographic change; immigration policy; and issues related to the Latino community. Cárdenas graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in government and politics and a master’s degree in public administration from George Mason University. She is a 2010 fellow of the National Hispana Leadership Institute and alum of the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership at the University of Virginia and Leadership Arlington.

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Between 1996 and 2006 Carnevale served as Vice President for Public Leadership at the Educational Testing Service, or ETS. While at ETS he was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve on the White House Commission on Technology and
Adult Education. Before joining ETS, Carnevale was Director of Human Resource and Employment Studies at the Committee for Economic Development, or CED, the nation’s oldest business-sponsored policy research organization. While at CED he was appointed by President Bill Clinton to Chair the National Commission on Employment Policy. Carnevale was the founder and President of the Institute for Workplace Learning, or IWL, between 1983 and 1993. While at the IWL, he was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to chair the human resources subcommittee on the White House Commission on Productivity between 1982 and 1984. Carnevale joined the Senate Budget Committee shortly after it was established by the passage of the Budget Impoundment and Control Act of 1974. While there he was responsible for budget development and enforcement in Budget Function 500: all accounts in education, training, employment policy and social services. Carnevale received his bachelor’s from Colby College and his doctorate in public finance economics from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University.

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Chancellor is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who has a passion for human rights and social justice issues. For more than 20 years he was a reporter and columnist for the Knight-Ridder news service and its flagship paper, the Akron Beacon Journal. As a reporter he covered criminal justice, social services, features, education, and national politics. In 1993 he was a lead writer on a yearlong series focusing on race relations—“A Question of Color”—that won the 1994 Pulitzer Prize Gold Medal for Meritorious Public Service. Before coming to American Progress, he was a columnist and blogger for the online advocacy group Change.org writing about issues of race, poverty, and criminal justice. He also taught journalism at Howard University and contributes articles to a number of national publications, including USA Today, BlackAmericaWeb.com, and the website Civil Rights in America.

Marian Wright Edelman, Founder and President, Children’s Defense Fund (CDF)
Edelman has been an advocate for disadvantaged Americans for her entire professional life. Under her leadership, CDF has become the nation’s strongest voice for children and families. The Children’s Defense Fund’s Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start, and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. Edelman, a graduate of Spelman College and Yale Law School, began her career in the mid-60s when, as the first black woman admitted to the Mississippi Bar, she directed the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund office in Jackson, Mississippi. In 1968, she moved to Washington, D.C., as counsel for the Poor People’s Campaign that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. began organizing before his death. She founded the Washington Research Project, a public interest law firm and the parent body of the Children’s Defense Fund. For two years she served as the Director of
the Center for Law and Education at Harvard University and in 1973 began CDF.

America Ferrera, Actress and Activist
Ferrera is best known for her leading role as Betty Suarez in ABC’s hit television series “Ugly Betty.” For her role in “Ugly Betty,” Ferrera won the 2007 Golden Globe for Best Performance by an Actress in a Television Series – Comedy or Musical. As a result of the award, she was congratulated by the U.S. House of Representatives as being a role model for young Hispanics. Also in 2007, TIME chose Ferrera as one of the top artists and entertainers in their “Time 100: The Most Influential People In The World” issue. Ferrera is active in getting Latinos in the United States to vote through her involvement with the organization Voto Latino and for appearing on various news programs. In 2010 Ferrera partnered with Save the Children, a nongovernmental organization dedicated to improving the lives of disadvantaged children in the United States and around the world. As an artist ambassador she traveled to the village of Diassadeni, Mali, to help the organization raise funds to build a school. In 2011 Ferrera met with President Barack Obama at the White House to discuss immigration issues with prominent Latinos in the United States.

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Halpin’s work focuses on political theory, communications, and public opinion analysis. He is the co-director and creator of the Progressive Studies Program at CAP, an interdisciplinary project researching the intellectual history, foundational principles, and public understanding of progressivism. Halpin is the co-author with John Podesta of The Power of Progress: How America’s Progressives Can (Once Again) Save Our Economy, Our Climate, and Our Country, a 2008 book about the history and future of the progressive movement. Halpin has been at CAP since 2003, previously serving as Director of Research and Executive Speechwriter. Halpin wrote the daily Talking Points newsletter for the Center for American Progress Action Fund from 2004 through 2005 and has directed numerous CAP communications projects on issues, including faith in politics, health care, consumer debt, taxes, poverty, and foreign policy. Prior to joining CAP he was a senior associate at Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research, providing strategic guidance and
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Ai-jen Poo, Director, National Domestic Workers Alliance and Co-director, Caring Across Generations Campaign
Poo has been organizing immigrant women workers since 1996. In 2000 she co-founded Domestic Workers United, or DWU, the New York organization that spearheaded the successful passage of the state’s historic Domestic Workers Bill of Rights.
in 2010. In 2007 DWU helped organize the first national domestic workers convening, out of which formed the National Domestic Workers Alliance. Poo serves on the Board of Directors of Moms Rising, National Jobs with Justice, Working America, the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy, and the National Council on Aging. Among Poo’s numerous accolades are the Ms. Foundation Woman of Vision Award, the Independent Sector American Express NGen Leadership Award, Newsweek’s 150 Fearless Women list, and TIME’s list of the 100 Most Influential People in the World.

Ed Rendell, former Governor of Pennsylvania

Rendell served two terms as Governor of Pennsylvania and oversaw a budget of $28.3 billion as the chief executive of the nation’s sixth-most-populous state. As governor, Rendell was committed to making government more responsible and responsive to the public’s needs, and he successfully cut wasteful spending and improved efficiency leading to savings of more than $1 billion. After 34 years of public service, including 24 years as an elected official, Gov. Rendell continues to pursue many of the same issues he was passionate about while serving. His commitment to making America a cleaner, more efficient place and to fostering investment in our nation’s crumbling infrastructure is as strong as it ever was. Gov. Rendell has become a champion for progress in the area of alternative energy, and now serves as a consultant or board member for several green and alternative energy firms, including Own Energy, Element Partners, and Ocean Thermal Energy. As governor, Rendell worked with New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to create an organization called “Building America’s Future.” The organization focuses on the need for more significant investment in American infrastructure projects to ensure that America maintains its place as a global economic power. Gov. Rendell currently serves as co-chair of the organization and travels throughout the country speaking about this issue.

Robert Ross, President and CEO, California Endowment

Ross leads The California Endowment one of the nation’s largest foundations dedicated to advancing new avenues to expand access to affordable, quality health care for underserved individuals and communities, and to promote fundamental improvements in the health status of all Americans. Prior to taking the Endowment’s helm in 2000, Ross served as director of the Health and Human Services Agency for the County of San Diego from 1993 to 2000. He was Commissioner of Public Health for the City of Philadelphia from 1990 to 1993. He earned his undergraduate and master’s degrees in Public Administration and medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania. His clinical experience includes work as medical director for the LINK School-Based Clinic Program, Camden, New Jersey; instructor of clinical medicine, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia; and faculty member at San Diego State University’s
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Nicole Smith, Research Professor and Senior Economist, Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce
Smith leads the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce’s econometric and methodological work. Smith has developed a framework for restructuring long-term occupational and educational projections. This framework forms the underlying methodology for “Help Wanted,” a report that projects education demand for occupations in the U.S. economy through 2020. She is part of a team of economists working on a project to map, forecast, and monitor human-capital development and career pathways. Smith graduated with honors in economics and mathematics from the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine campus and received her doctorate in economics from American University in Washington, D.C.

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During the past two decades, Summers has served in a series of senior policy positions in Washington, D.C., including the 71st Secretary of the Treasury for President Bill Clinton and Director of the National Economic Council for President Barack Obama. In 1987 Summers became the first social scientist to receive the annual Alan T. Waterman Award of the National Science Foundation. In 1993 Summers was awarded the John Bates Clark Medal, given every two years to the outstanding American economist under the age of 40. On July 1, 2001, Summers took office as the 27th President of Harvard University. During his tenure as Harvard’s president, Summers focused on laying the foundations for the University in the 21st century. In 2006 Summers served as one of five co-chairs to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Summers writes a regular column for The Financial Times, The Washington Post and Reuters. Additionally, he is a frequent commentator on CNN, CNBC, BBC, NPR, and “The Charlie Rose Show.”

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Teixeira is a Senior Fellow at both The Century Foundation and American Progress. He is also a guest scholar at the Brookings Institution, where he has directed projects on political demography and geography and co-authored a series of papers with William Frey on the shifting demographics of battleground states. Teixeira is the author or co-author of seven books, including America’s New Swing Region: Changing Politics and Demographics in the Mountain West; Red, Blue and Purple America: The Future of Election Demographics; The Emerging Democratic Majority; America’s Forgotten Majority: Why the White Working Class Still Matters; and The Disappearing American Voter, as well as hundreds of articles, both scholarly and popular. He blogs at TP Ideas, a project of CAP’s ThinkProgress, and writes...
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Treuhaft collaborates with local and national partners on research and action projects that aim to build a more equitable economy and authors publications that advance the organization’s equity mission. She is currently coordinating a research partnership between PolicyLink and the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity at the University of Southern California that provides indicators of demographic change and equity to advocates and practitioners. Treuhaft holds master’s degrees in city planning and international and area studies from the University of California, Berkeley and was a Peace Corps volunteer in Togo, West Africa.

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