



Race, Place and Economics: Public Investment Strategies to Create Equity & Health in Latino Communities

**Rubén Lizardo, Associate Director
PolicyLink**

Equity is Key to Building Healthy Communities of Opportunity (Place)

Moving From Poverty to Opportunity & Health

Low- Income Communities

- Low commercial activity
- Few services
- Unsafe/Limited parks
- Poor performing schools
- Increased pollution and toxic waste sites
- Limited public transportation
- Lack of jobs
- High unemployment

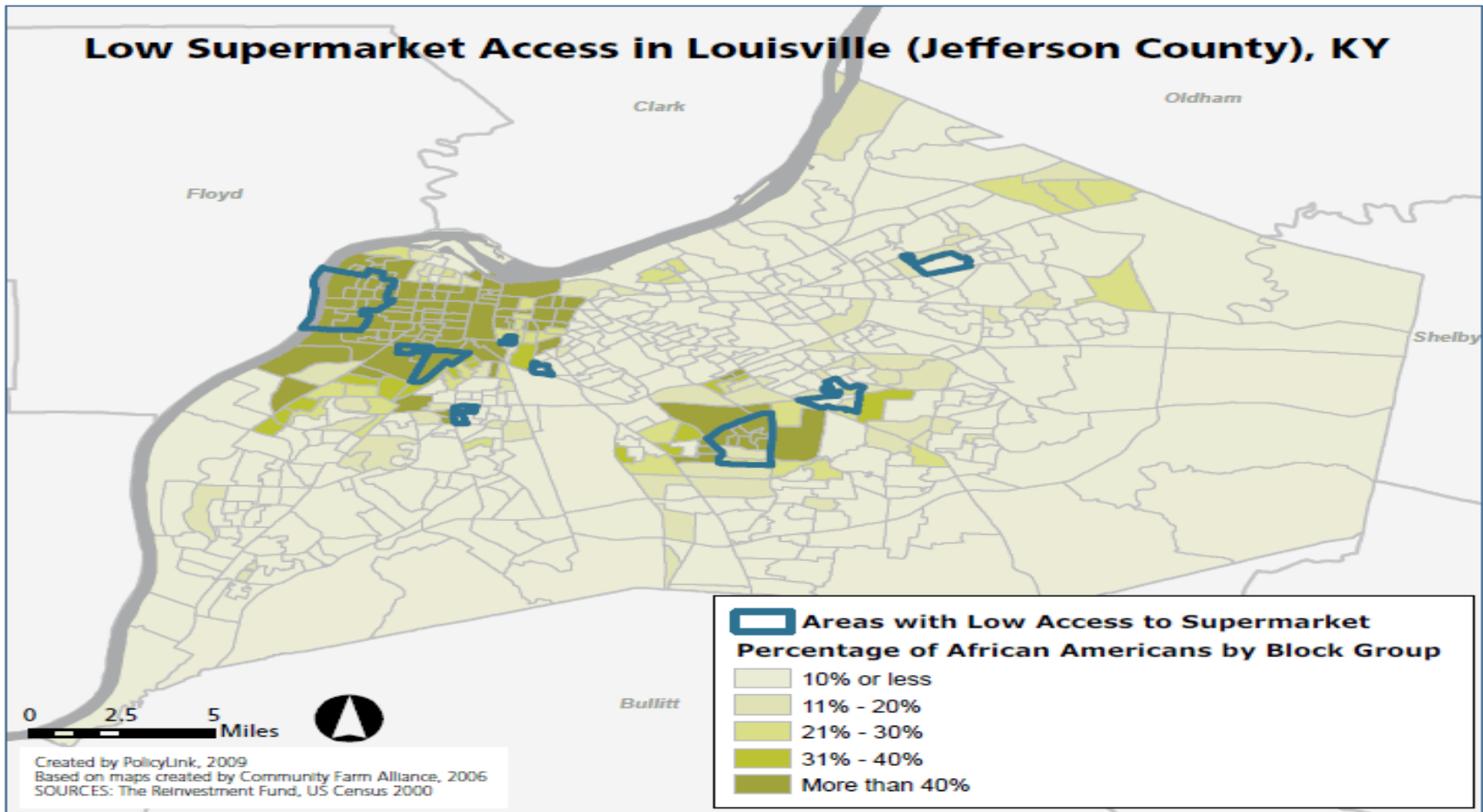
Concentrated Poverty

Healthy Communities

Communities of Opportunity

- Access to Affordable, Energy Efficient Housing
- Strong commercial activity; Employment and entrepreneurship
- Access to services
- Good public transportation
- Parks and safe public spaces
- High-performing schools

Policy to Increase Access to Fresh Food



In low access, lower-income areas, residents travel longer distances to supermarkets than similar higher-income areas. Though Jefferson County is only 19 percent African American overall, in areas with low access to supermarkets the population is 68 percent African American.

Policy and System Practices to Increase Access to Parks



Children playing at the 2006 opening of a new urban park in Los Angeles that was created through community organizing and advocacy. See www.cityprojectca.org for details.

Infrastructure Deficits and Service Disparities

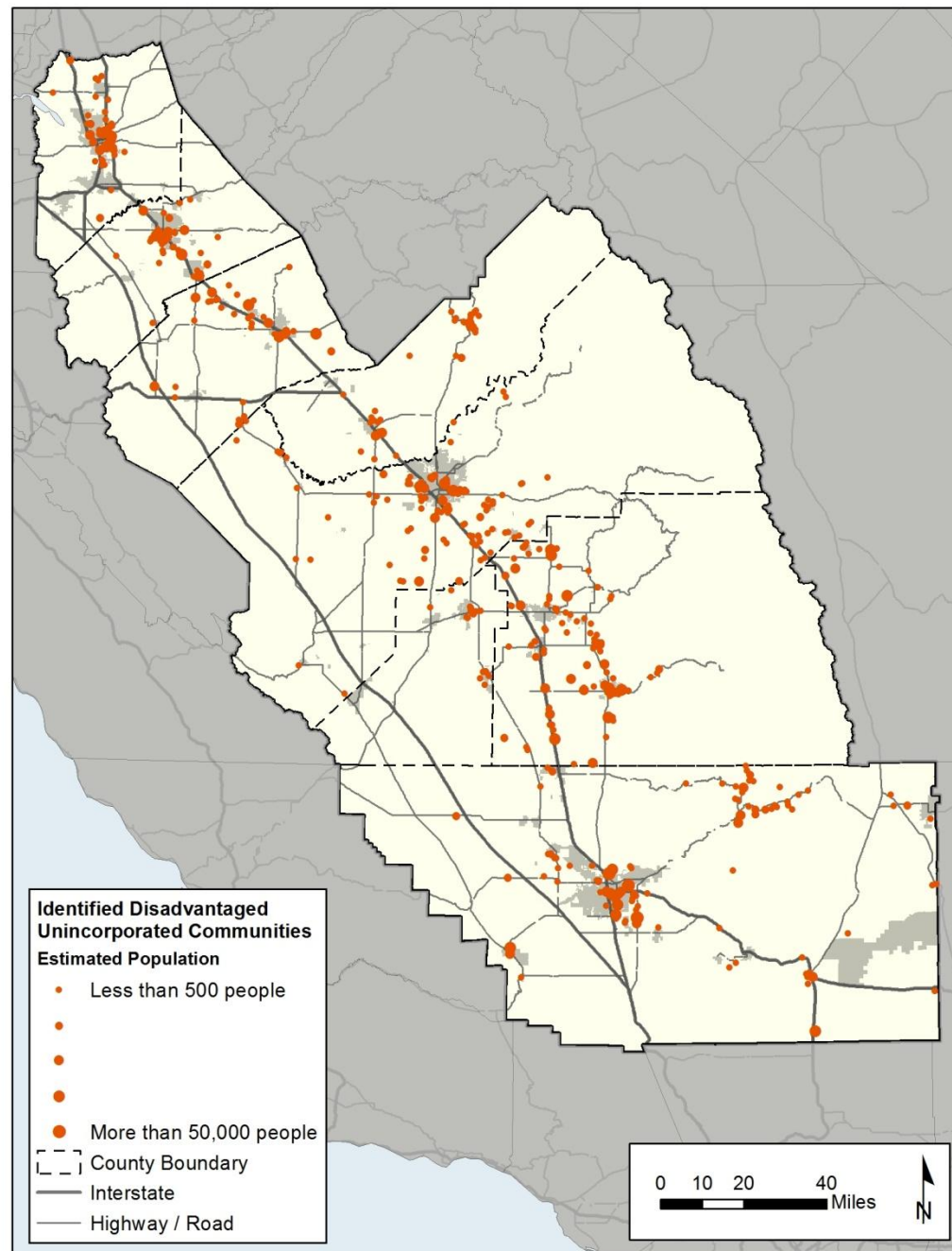
1. Inadequate Sidewalks, Storm Drains, Gutters, and Street Lights
2. Insufficient and Substandard Housing
3. Dilapidated and/or Unpaved Roads
4. Unsafe Drinking Water
5. Inadequate Waste-water Systems
6. Insufficient Garbage Collection
7. High Crime Rates and Inadequate Law Enforcement
8. Inconsistent Emergency Services
9. Insufficient Access to Parks, Recreational Opportunities, and Community Centers



First Phase Findings

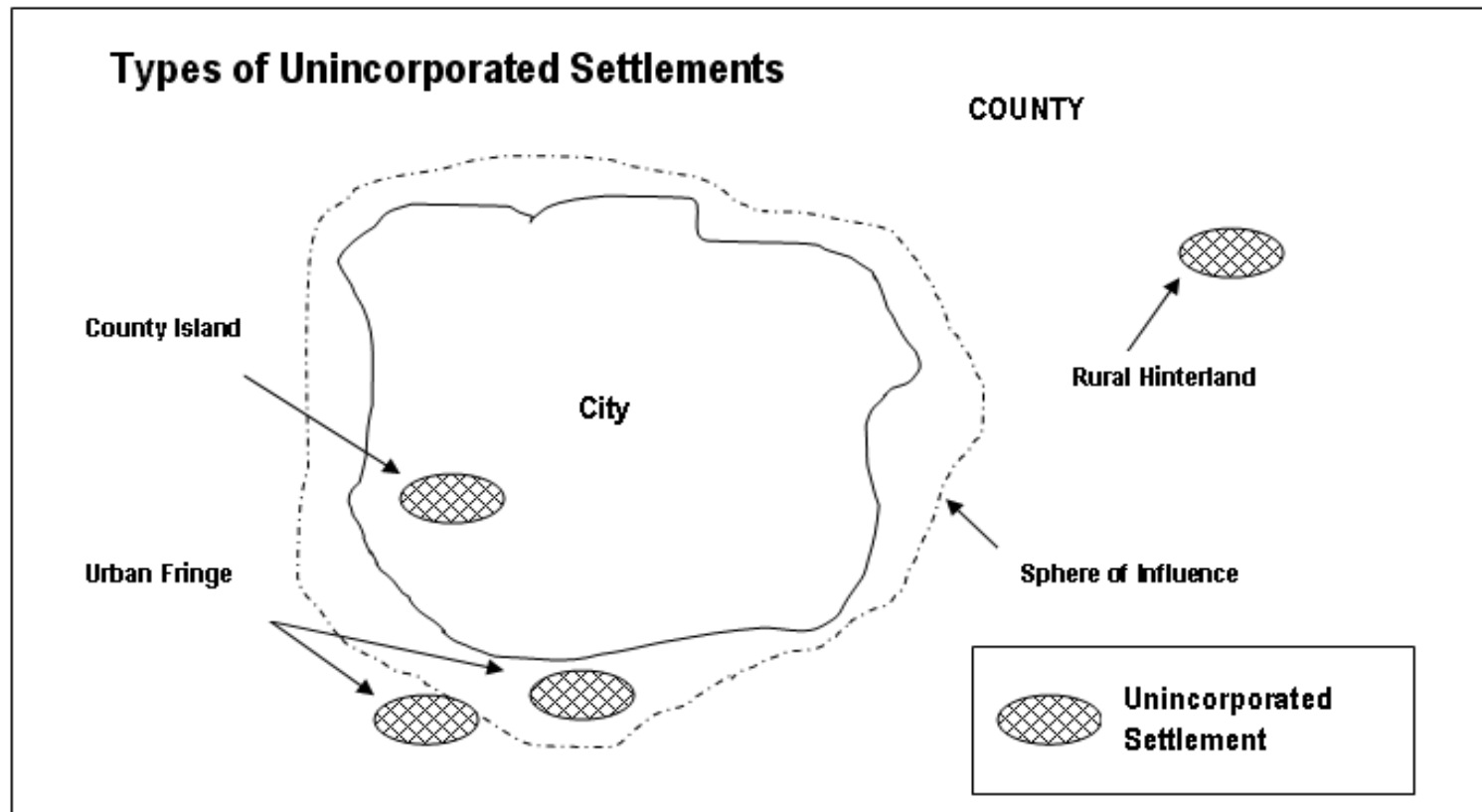
Approximately 550 communities of various sizes that are home to over half a million people in the San Joaquin Valley.

Statewide, found 1.03 million people in DUCs, 8% are Black, 3% are Asian/Pacific Islander, and 47% are Latino



Three Types of Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

1. Islands
2. Fringes
3. Legacy Communities



- No organized system to:
 - identify disadvantaged unincorporated communities
 - track deficits within those communities
- Residents lack information to engage in decision-making processes that affect their communities
- Governing bodies lack the information needed to better serve these communities

- Responsibility for service provision and infrastructure divided among:
 - County Governments
 - Special Districts
 - Advisory Bodies
 - Regional Agencies
- Each county in California has a different method for managing its unincorporated areas
- Lack of representation in decision-making bodies
- Lack of accountability

Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities:

- are not prioritized by existing funding streams
- lack sufficient tax/rate-payer base to support basic service provision
- are too small to raise capital independently
- are seen as being too costly for cities considering annexation

Can Regions Become Healthy Sustainable Without Addressing Equity?



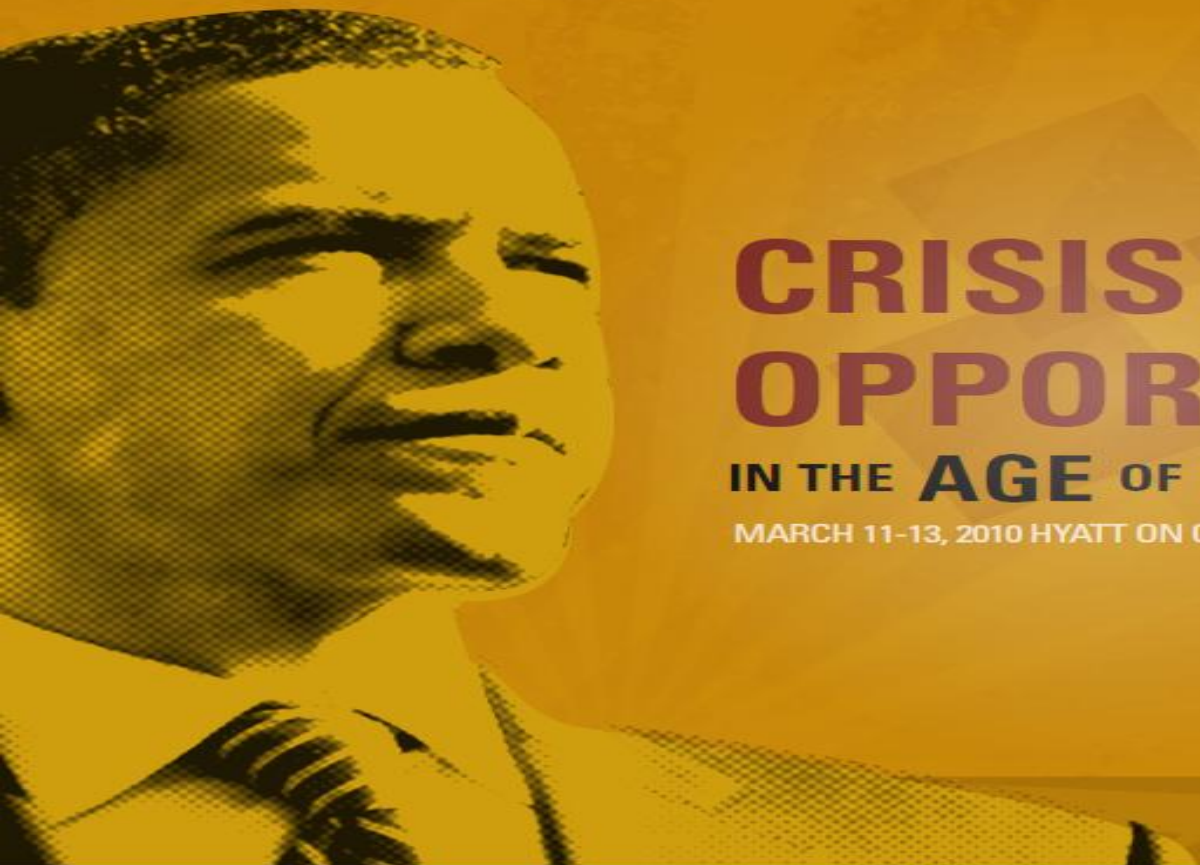
Equitable Development Principles

- ✓ **Integrate People and Place Based Strategies**
- ✓ **Ensure Meaningful Resident/Community Participation, Leadership and Ownership**
- ✓ **Reduce Local and Regional Disparities**
- ✓ **Double & Triple Bottom Line Investments & Returns**



Promise & Challenge of “Post Racial America”

PolicyLink



CRISIS AND OPPORTUNITY

IN THE **AGE OF OBAMA**

MARCH 11-13, 2010 HYATT ON CAPITOL SQUARE – COLUMBUS, OH

Racial Dynamics and Systems Thinking
Race, Recession and Recovery
Race Talk

TRANSFORMING
RACE 2010

Lifting Up What Works®



Contact Information

Rubén Lizardo, Associate Director
ruben@policylink.org