

SEPTEMBER 2023



Annual Report

COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY (C2C)
IMPACT ACCELERATOR
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
2022-2023, LAUNCH YEAR

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

**INEQUITY IS THE LEADING PROBLEM OF OUR TIME.
PUBLIC POLICY IS THE SOLUTION.**

"If you want to go fast, go alone; but if you want to go far, go together." – African Proverb

This quote isn't new. And the idea isn't revolutionary. However, in the work so many of us do, we often forge ahead on our individual paths alone. Local policy leaders often need rigorous data and analysis about which policies are most effective, yet academics typically do not apply their expertise to the most pressing policy issues in these local contexts, creating a gap between knowledge and practice. Community to Community (C2C) was born out of the belief that we are stronger, and can go farther when we take the time to work together in partnership.

C2C expands this philosophy to the larger Northeastern global campus network--starting first in our respective "hometowns" of Boston and Oakland. Hearing each other's stories, Carrie and I realized that we could achieve even greater social impact by building a community that bridges the gap between academia and policy to find solutions that are both systemic and equitable. In our first annual report, we share the initial successes of our unique "Engage, Think, and Do" model and offer ways for you to get involved. We hope you will take a moment to read and find space for yourself within our initiative.

-- With Gratitude, Founding Directors Alicia Sasser Modestino and Carrie Maulstby-Lute



Alicia and Carrie at the San Francisco Human Rights Commission Pathways to Parity conference, October 2022.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- About C2C
- By the Numbers
- Recent Successes
- Funded Scholars
- What's Next?
- Join Us!



ABOUT C2C: Policy Equity for All

VISION AND MISSION

Vision

We envision an equitable world with thriving communities and access to opportunity for all.

Mission

Our mission is to foster long-term mutually beneficial partnerships with local governments, communities, and external stakeholders in order to promote the co-production of policy analysis and implementation. We strive to move the needle on societal problems on a local level, benefitting the areas our university calls home.

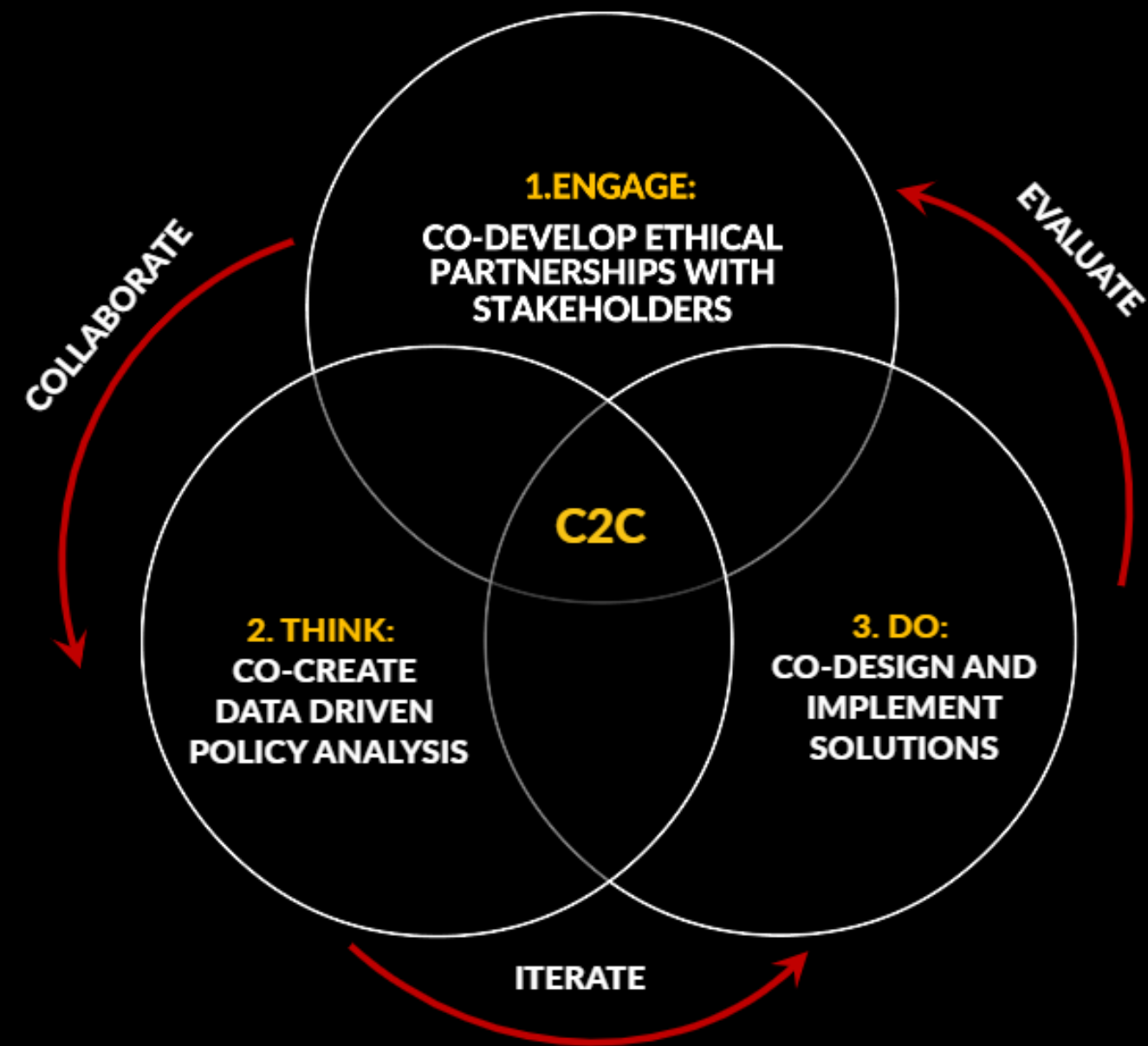


Northeastern University
Community to Community
Policy Equity for All

OUR COMMUNITY ENGAGED MODEL

ENGAGE - THINK - DO

- Fosters long-term, mutually beneficial partnerships (ENGAGE) with external stakeholders.
- Promotes the co-production of policy analysis (THINK) and implementation (DO) to maximize societal impact.
- Iterates and evaluates to move the needle on societal problems at the local level.



LEADERSHIP AND STAFF

BOSTON CAMPUS



[Alicia Modestino, PhD](#)
[Executive Director](#)



[Lynn Sanders, MPA](#)
[Boston Regional Director](#)



[Patrice Williams, PhD](#)
[Boston Research Faculty](#)

OAKLAND CAMPUS



[Alli Chagi-Starr, MBA](#)
[Oakland Regional Director](#)



[Mark Henderson, PhD](#)
[Oakland Research Director](#)



Northeastern University
Community to Community
Policy Equity for All

FACULTY ADVISORS

BOSTON CAMPUS



[Ted Landsmark, PhD](#)
[Boston Faculty Advisor](#)



[Kimberly Lucas, PhD](#)
[Boston Faculty Advisor](#)

OAKLAND CAMPUS



[Kate Karniouchina, PhD](#)
[Oakland Faculty Advisor](#)



[Carrie Maultsby-Lute, MBA](#)
[Oakland Faculty Advisor](#)

BY THE NUMBERS

BUILDING OUR RESEARCH TEAM

FACULTY

13 Funded scholars

15 Faculty affiliates

17 Resource and network contributors

STUDENTS

4 Post docs

6 PhD students

3 Master's students

3 Undergraduate students



Faculty affiliates and students researchers engage in two days of plenary sessions, “share and solve” discussions, and community building!
C2C Summer Institute, June 2023

PARTNERING WITH EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

18 *Community organizations*

13 *Government agencies*

6 *Non-profits*

5 *Educational institutions*

4 *Corporations*

[See our full list of partners here](#)



Ron Marlow, Constance Martin, Yasser Aponte, and Courtney Curran tell our researchers what they wish academics would do better!
C2C Summer Institute Policymaker and Practitioner Panel, June 2023

COMMUNICATING OUR WORK

RESEARCH

- 5 *Journal articles and policy reports*
- 7 *Seminars and invited presentations*
- 13 *Conferences and panel presentations*

MEDIA

- 4 *Op-eds and podcasts*
- 5 *Northeastern Global News stories*
- 12 *External media citations*



Year-Round Benefits from Summer Jobs, C2C
Executive Director Alicia Modestino,
EducationNext



Over 100 Connecticut State Troopers
Accused of Faking Traffic Stops,
C2C Fellow Matt B. Ross, NY Times

GROWING OUR RESEARCH FUNDING

7 new grants awarded = \$865K new funding



RECENT SUCCESSES

GLOBAL NETWORK ACCELERATOR AWARD

C2C Founding Directors Alicia Sasser Modestino and Carrie Maulsby-Lute were honored in May for creating “a model of how Northeastern’s global network can be leveraged to create real and measurable change” with the Global Network Accelerator Award. Launched in 2023, the Northeastern University Global Network Accelerator Award recognizes the contributions of faculty who continue to push the advancement of experiential learning and discovery beyond the boundaries of place. Awardees exhibit the very best of Northeastern’s mission to activate the global university system’s experience and expertise to connect diverse communities of problem-solvers with the goal of solving the greatest challenges of today.



[Professors in Boston and Oakland honored for creating ‘a model of how Northeastern’s global network can be leveraged to create real and measurable change’](#) Northeastern Global News



Northeastern University
Community to Community
Policy Equity for All

ACHIEVING MEANINGFUL POLICY WINS

Tuition Free Community College

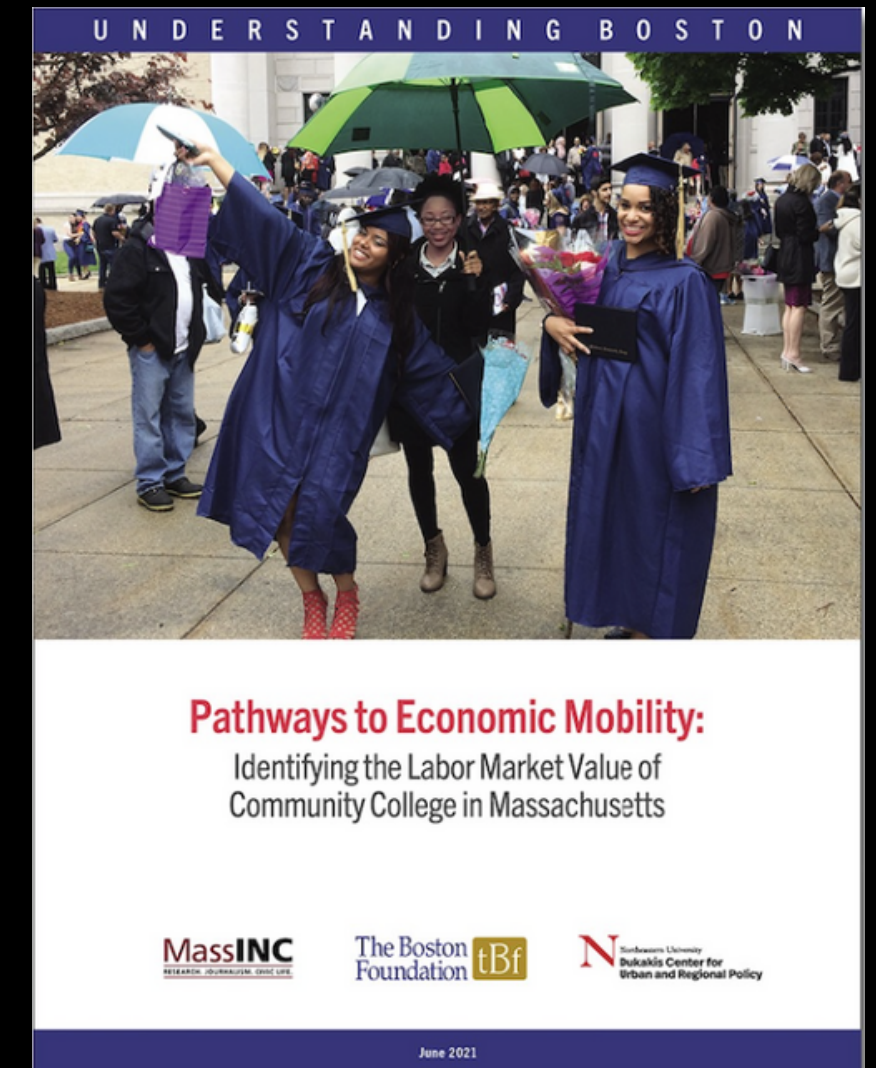
- City of Boston cited C2C research as motivation for the \$4 million expansion of their Tuition Free Community College Program
- Adopted recommendations based on C2C report to expand the enrollment period, provide stipends for all Pell-eligible students, and include short-term certificates as well as associate's degrees
- C2C will study the impacts of the newly expanded program over the next three years with funding from the Department of Labor.

In the News:

[\\$14 Million Investment to Expand Boston's Tuition-Free Community College Program](#)



[Boston Mayor Michelle Wu](#) and [C2C Director Alicia Sasser Modestino](#)



[Pathways to Economic Mobility: Identifying the Labor Market Value of Community College in Massachusetts](#)

 **Northeastern University**
Community to Community
Policy Equity for All

ACHIEVING MEANINGFUL POLICY WINS

Summer Youth Employment

- Building on C2C research findings, Boston announced the City's largest investment ever (\$18.7M) in summer youth employment to support more than 7,000 jobs across city departments and local nonprofits.
- The City adopted recommendations based on a new [report](#) and job [matching algorithm](#) developed by C2C researchers to improve both efficiency and equity in youth job assignments.
- With funding from William T. Grant Foundation, C2C will continue to [provide research](#) that supports City efforts to increase job quality, ladder opportunities across summers, and badge skill development.



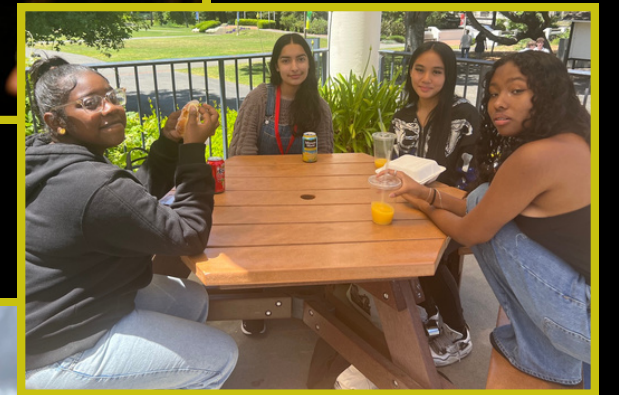
[Youth participating in Boston's SuccessLink summer jobs program learn valuable skills and build new connections!](#)
[Summer 2023](#)

In the News:

[ABCD to Offer Teenagers More Summer Jobs](#)

LAUNCHING SUMMER YOUTH LEARN AND EARN PROGRAM ACROSS TWO CAMPUS LOCATIONS

- Over 150 high school students participated in our inaugural learn-and-earn summer jobs program in [Boston](#) and [Oakland](#).
- Participants included more than 90% BIPOC youth from underrepresented communities.
- Youth worked in over 40 campus department and participated in Northeastern's Bridge to Calculus program.
- College prep and career readiness curriculum was delivered with the support of community partners.



[Watch the video here!](#)

“I feel very prepared for fall because of this program. This program really cares about our future.” --Northeastern Summer Jobs Participant

“Working as a team with (co-workers) has been one of the best parts. I am very thankful for this experience and the opportunity to step out of my comfort zone.” --Northeastern Summer Jobs Participant

[Teens don't have to choose between learning and having a summer job, thanks to Northeastern program, NGN](#)



Northeastern University
Community to Community
Policy Equity for All

SUPPORTING RESEARCH PRACTICE PARTNERSHIPS

FOR PRACTITIONERS AND POLICYMAKERS

- Pitch a Project
 - “No wrong door” to seek research assistance from capstone teams to graduate students to faculty experts
 - Sourced 5 new projects with external entities
- Executive Education
 - Joint with Jameel Abdul Latif Poverty Action Lab at MIT
 - 30+ public policy professionals across Boston and Oakland
 - 4 virtual sessions covering how to use research evidence
 - 2 virtual sessions dedicated to developing research projects



Policy professionals across Boston and Oakland come together for a “Pitch a Project” session with the C2C and JPAL teams! Evaluating Social Programs Training, August 2023

SUPPORTING RESEARCH PRACTICE PARTNERSHIPS

FOR FACULTY AND STUDENTS

- [Seed Grant](#) and [Policy Fellow Call for Proposals](#)
 - Faculty can receive up to \$5,000 in seed funding plus summer stipends and course releases
 - 9 seed grant recipients and 4 policy fellows selected
- [Faculty Affiliates](#)
 - Participate in C2C faculty trainings, research projects and partnerships, and publication series
 - 15 faculty affiliates selected for a 2-year renewable term
- [Faculty Training](#)
 - Joint with [Scholars Strategy Network](#)
 - One day training to develop research-practice partnerships with government/nonprofit/community organizations
 - 40 faculty and graduate students attended [Training Researchers to Inform Policy \(TRIP\)](#)
- [Summer Institute](#)
 - Two-day event to build a community of practice with sessions on forming ethical partnerships, seeking external funding, and receiving feedback on C2C funded projects



[C2C Executive Director moderates fireside chat with Governor Baker, “Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker talks new book, the ‘how’ of government, at Northeastern”](#)



Northeastern University
Community to Community
Policy Equity for All

FUNDED SCHOLARS

ASHLEY ADAMS

Descendant Survey and Genealogy Database Project

This project seeks to enhance the involvement of African American descendants and prioritize efforts for a future genealogy database for Nicodemus, Kansas. Nicodemus was founded by formerly enslaved African Americans in 1877 and was declared a National Historic Site by Congress in 1996. This project aims to advance equity by creating a new descendant survey model that is applicable for other historic Black settlements, like Allensworth, California. In partnership with the Nicodemus Historical Society, Nicodemus Homecoming Committee, and National Park Service, the project aims to create an African American descendant survey model to track ancestral roots for reparative justice policymaking.



POLICY PARTNERS:

ANGELA BATES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NICODEMUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
GREGORY K. EADS, SUPERINTENDENT, NICODEMUS NAT'L HISTORICAL SITE



Northeastern University
Community to Community
Policy Equity for All

JOAN FITZGERALD

An Initiative to Create Green Technology Career Ladders in Boston & Oakland

There is high growth potential in the green economy, broadly defined. The green economy comprises many employment categories and includes jobs that require only a high school education to those that require advanced degrees. The question is how to link young people in frontline communities to jobs in the green economy that pay decent wages and have advancement potential. This project will examine green economy career ladder programs to identify what works and why. Then, in collaboration with community organizations, high schools, community colleges, and universities we will develop at least one green technology career ladder program in Boston and in Oakland that serves youth in frontline communities.



POLICY PARTNERS:

DANIEL HAMILTON, SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER OAKLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

SOFIA NAVARRO, INTERIM DIRECTOR, OAKLAND ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

DEPT.

KANNAN THIRUVENGADAM, DIRECTOR, EASTIE FARM, BOSTON



Northeastern University
Community to Community
Policy Equity for All

MARIO HERNANDEZ

Community Innovation Lab: Countering Gentrification

Dr. Shellae Versey and Mario Hernandez are co-developing a Community Innovation Lab to serve as a central resource for academics, activists and policy makers working to counteract the harmful effects of gentrification. Given the rapid pace of displacement in cities around the world, The Lab will serve as a collective hub and incubator for innovative ideas and creative solutions for preserving and improving communities facing the threat of displacement and other harmful consequences of gentrification. The Lab will examine both policy and community-led initiatives to characterize the full scope and success of anti-displacement measures. Partnering with Homies Empowerment, a grassroots organization based in Oakland that focuses on the city's youth. Our goal is to evaluate pilot efforts centered on a recent acquisition of a property in East Oakland to convert into affordable housing. The program may serve as a model for sustainable community-led land reclamation and anti-displacement strategies in communities around the country.



POLICY PARTNERS:

G.T. REYES, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP, CSU EAST BAYBOARD MEMBER, HOMIES EMPOWERMENT



Northeastern University
Community to Community
Policy Equity for All

MATTHEW B. ROSS

Using Telemetric Mobility Data to Build a Better Early Warning System for Discrimination in Police Traffic Stops

States and localities face considerable challenges in producing, acting on, and sharing data on racially disparate treatment and outcomes in traffic enforcement. While many states require police to collect data on the race of the drivers involved in traffic stops, they often lack the capacity to analyze it. Best practices rely on complex statistical tests, but lack available data on driver demographics. This project develops new methodologies by leveraging “big data” on telemetric mobility patterns, will engage with state and local policing agencies in the Northeast to assist in their collection of race/ethnicity in traffic stops, and aide in their development of data-driven early warning systems to identify disparities.



POLICY PARTNERS:

WILLIAM R. DYSON, CHAIRMAN, RACIAL PROFILING PROHIBITION PROJECT
ADVISORY BOARD, STATE OF CONNECTICUT

SEED GRANT WINNERS: BOSTON

[See all project descriptions here](#)



ISABEL MARTINEZ

Assessing Massachusetts Immigration Legal Service Capacity



ADAORA UBAKA

Determining the Organizational Social Conditions That Enable Leaders to Surpass Precarious Leadership Roles



BETH MOLNAR

TEAM Health: Technology-Enhanced Approaches to Mental Health Navigation in Families with Young Children



SARA CARR

Refuge: Community-Guided Design Guidelines for Extreme Heat and Green Space Inequity in Chelsea, MA



SEED GRANT WINNERS: OAKLAND

[See all project descriptions here](#)



CLIFFORD LEE

Creative Industry Pathway and the Future of Oakland



NNEKA ALLEN HARRISON

Bay Area Black Voices: Employment Outcomes of the Black Labor Force in The San Francisco Bay Area



JOHN ALEXIS GUERRA GOMEZ

Interactive Visual Exploration of opioid exposure on Preterm Births in Oakland, California



MIKI HONG

Understanding the Role of Tobacco Control in Community Health for Underrepresented Groups



ADAM PARKER

Care Can't Wait



Northeastern University
Community to Community
Policy Equity for All

C2C RESEARCH LAB: STUDENT RESEARCHERS [See all bios here](#)

POST-DOCTORAL STUDENTS



ARIA GOLESTANI



HITANSHU PANDIT



JOSHUA LOWN



SUSAN PARKER



KAT STETCHER



MARIA SALIM



ELLIE WHITE

MASTER'S STUDENTS

PHD STUDENTS



PEIREN CHENG



ZACH FINN



JD FOSTER



YANLI LIU



TOMER STERN



SAMUEL WESTBY

2023-24 LOOKING FORWARD

2023-2024 STRATEGIC PLANNING

We convened on the Oakland campus for a two-day strategy planning session with staff, faculty advisors, and our funded scholars.

- Sessions were facilitated by Mills College alum Michelle Matos of [The Matos Method](#).
- Follow up sessions will further sharpen and hone our vision and mission!
- New staff will support this year's strategic goals and team needs around marketing and communications, project management, and external funding!



[Our C2C funded scholars on the Oakland campus joined us for lunch;](#)
[Faculty advisor Kim Lucas led our visioning exercise!](#)
[Strategic Planning Retreat, June 2023](#)

LEARN MORE - JOIN OUR COMMUNITY!

- C2C's [quarterly newsletter](#) informs, inspires and provides key resources to our growing list of 2,400+ subscribers and diverse stakeholders - take a read!
- Our new [publication series](#) features policy briefs, research reports, and working papers covering the latest C2C research - check it out!
- The C2C [website](#) will keep you up-to-date - bookmark us!



Northeastern University
Community to Community
Policy Equity for All