

# BECOMING FAIRFAX

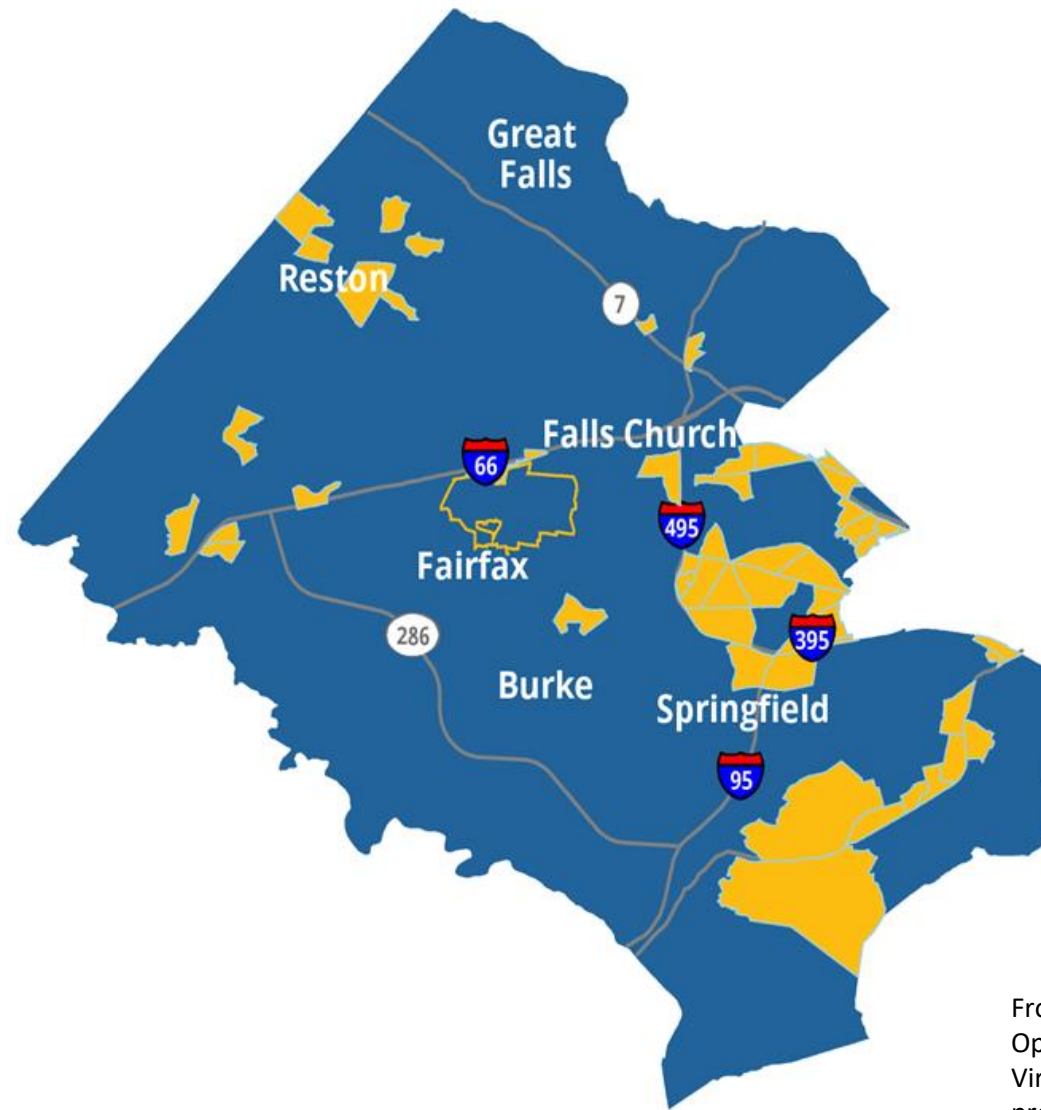
A DISCUSSION WITH THE LORTON LAND USE TASKFORCE – PART I

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SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

# There is an “uneven opportunity landscape” in Fairfax County

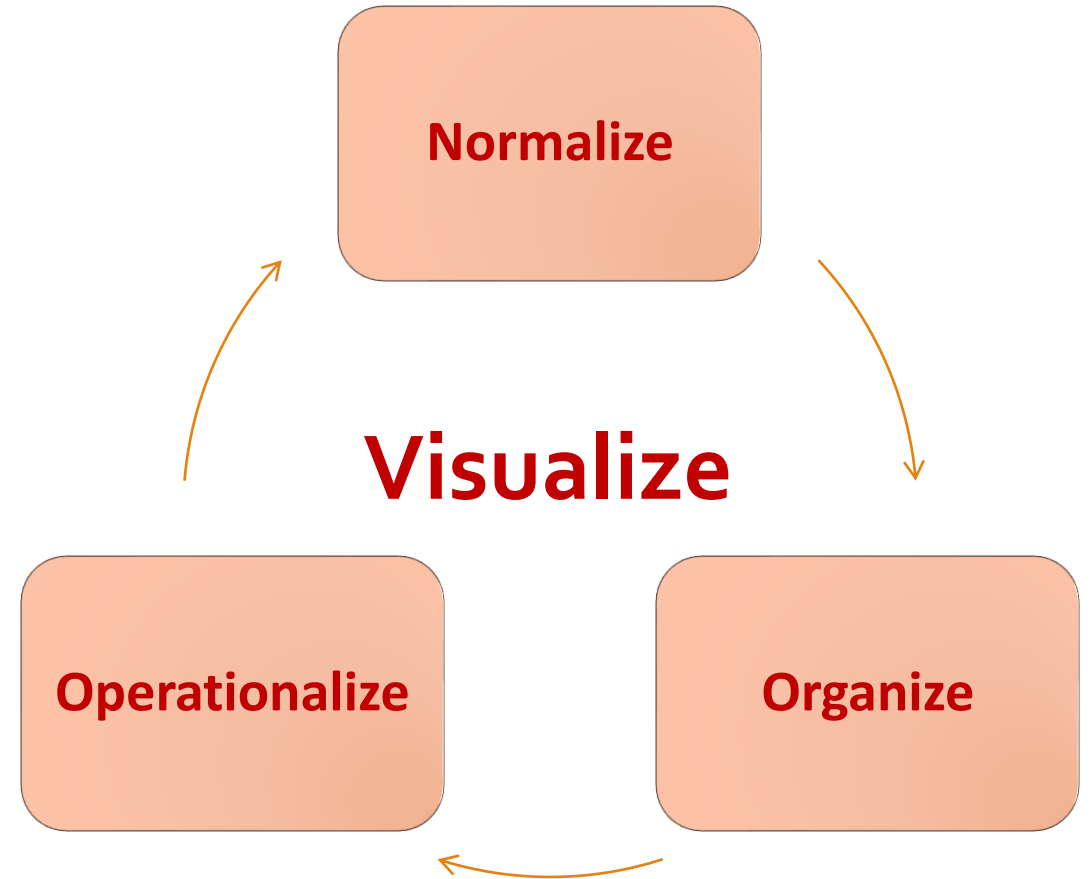
- Reports from the *Northern Virginia Health Foundation*, *PolicyLink*, and *Urban Institute* and our own analysis document **variances in opportunity and vulnerability** within Fairfax County and across the Northern Virginia and Metropolitan Washington regions.
- The most effective solutions must be **place-based** and **system-focused** and **address the spatial inequities** that constrain opportunity and ensure equitable access to services and resources that **promote economic mobility**.



From Getting Ahead: The Uneven Opportunity Landscape in Northern Virginia  
produced by The Center on Society and Health with the support of The Northern Virginia Health Foundation  
<https://novahealthfdn.org/getting-ahead-report/>

# Governing & Managing to Advance Equity

- One Fairfax is a Racial and Social Equity Resolution and Policy committing the county and FCPS to intentionally consider equity when making policies, planning and delivering programs and services
- It's a way to think about and approach the governance and management of the county and involves:
  - Facing our **history** and our current reality
  - Understanding where we are now and **what we want for the future**
  - Establishing clear **priorities** and making explicit **choices**
  - Committing to **bold and innovative approaches**
  - Meaningfully **engaging community and key stakeholders**



# Racial Inequity in Fairfax County (and the U.S.)

Equity exists when one can no longer predict advantage or disadvantage by group identity.

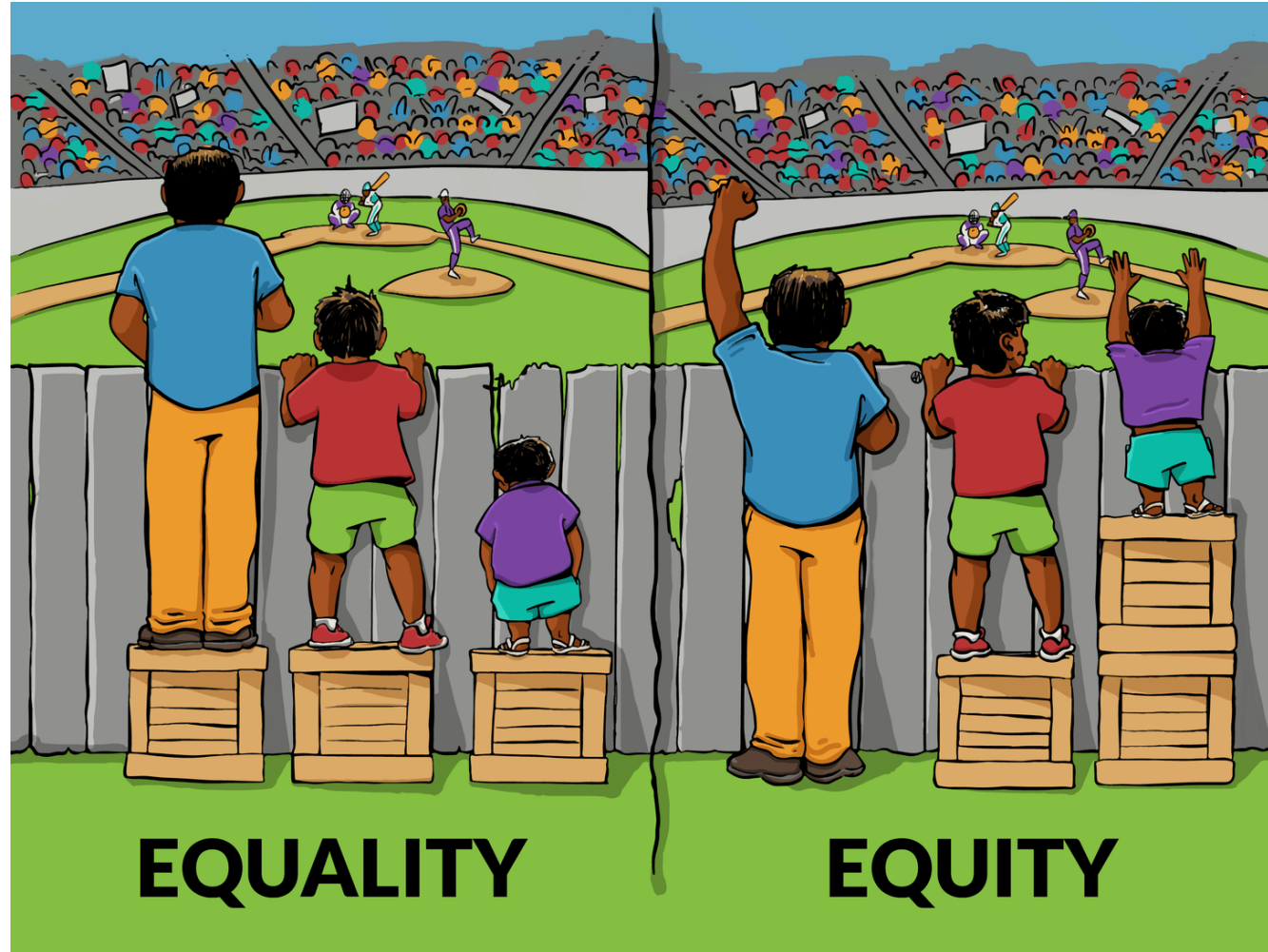
From infant mortality to life expectancy, race predicts how well you will do.

So, our focus is on Racial Equity...

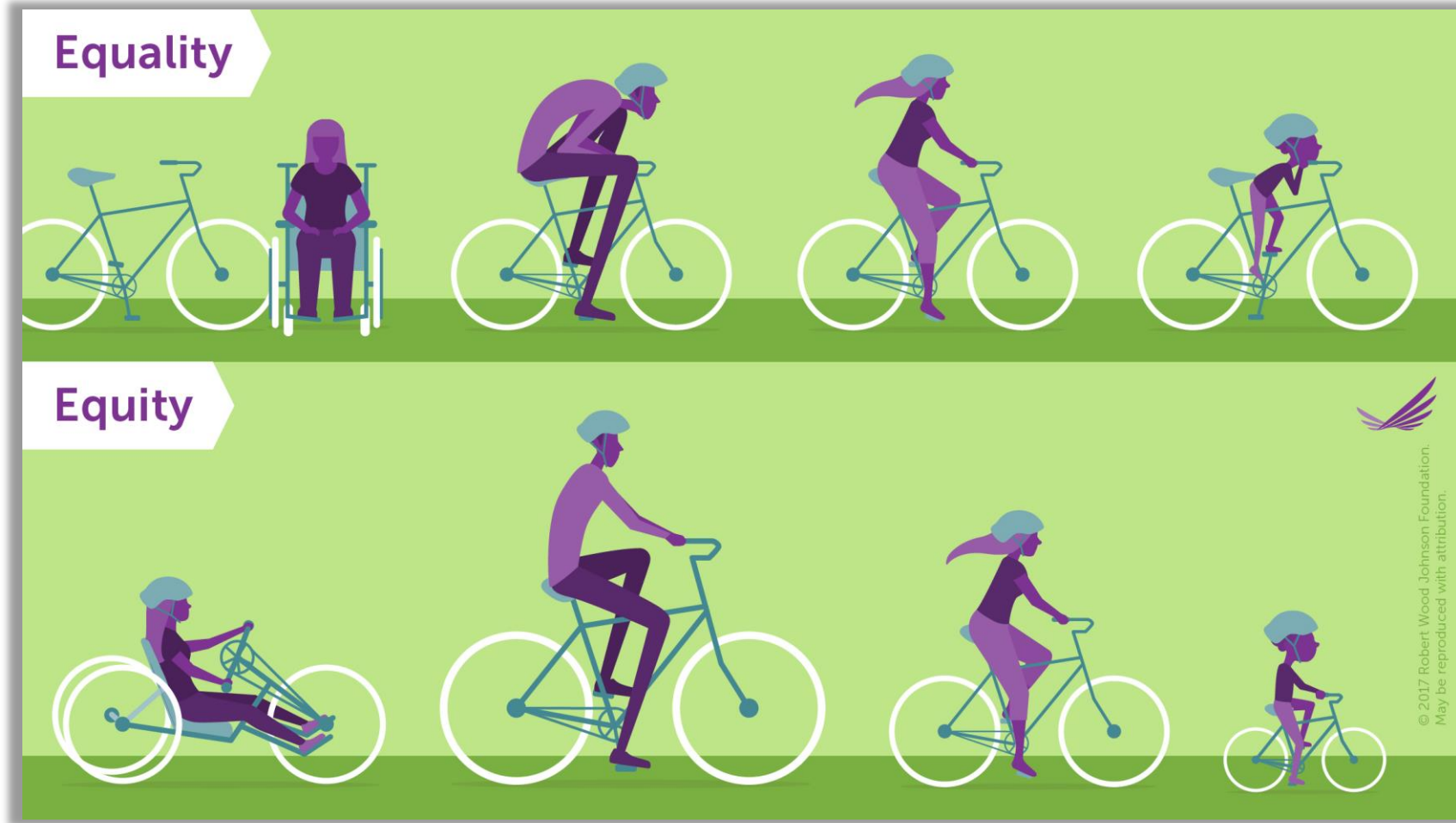
- Improving **Outcomes**
- Closing **Racial Gaps**



# Equity is **Fairness** not **Sameness**



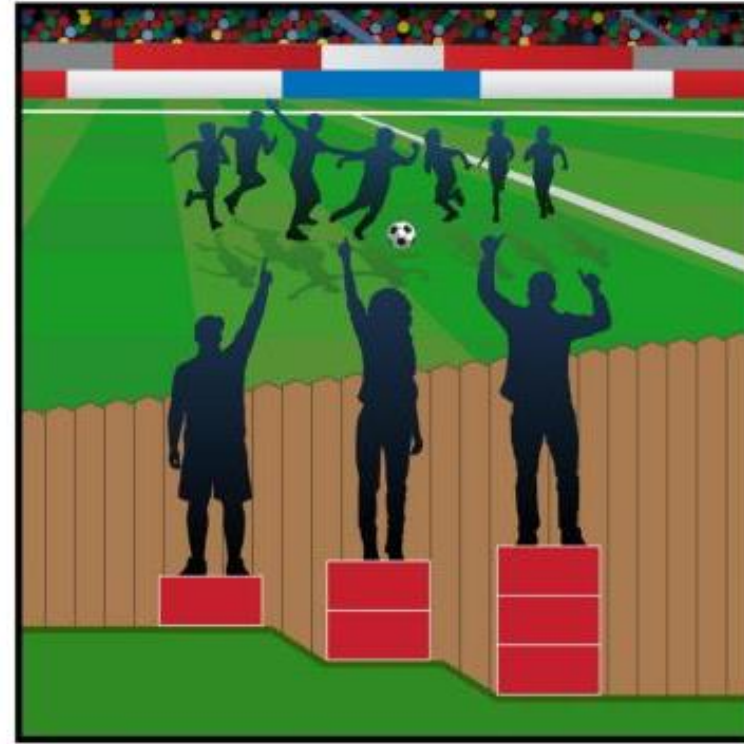
# Equity is **Fairness** not **Sameness**



# Equity is **Fairness** not **Sameness**



**EQUALITY**



**EQUITY**

Not the people's "lack" preventing them from participating in the soccer game, it's the unjust system and structure.



Placing a strategic focus on turning “*Islands of Disadvantage*” into “*Communities of Opportunity*”

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KEY CONCEPTS FOR PROMOTING THE SUCCESS OF ALL NEIGHBORHOODS & POPULATIONS IN FAIRFAX COUNTY



The **Countywide Strategic Plan** lays out a community-based vision for the next 10 to 20 years featuring strategies and metrics to advance that vision over the next 3 to 5 years.

Planning will be prioritized to define where we're going together, how we're going to get there, and what we plan to achieve, through the lens of equity.

**How are we doing across each of these areas by population and/or by place?**

The graphic features the Fairfax County logo on the left, followed by the slogan "Shaping the Future Together" and "Fairfax County Strategic Plan". To the right, the title "STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITY AREAS" is displayed in large, bold, blue letters, with the website "www.fairfaxcounty.gov/strategicplan" below it. The main content is a 3x3 grid of blue-bordered boxes, each containing an icon, a title, and a brief description of the priority area.

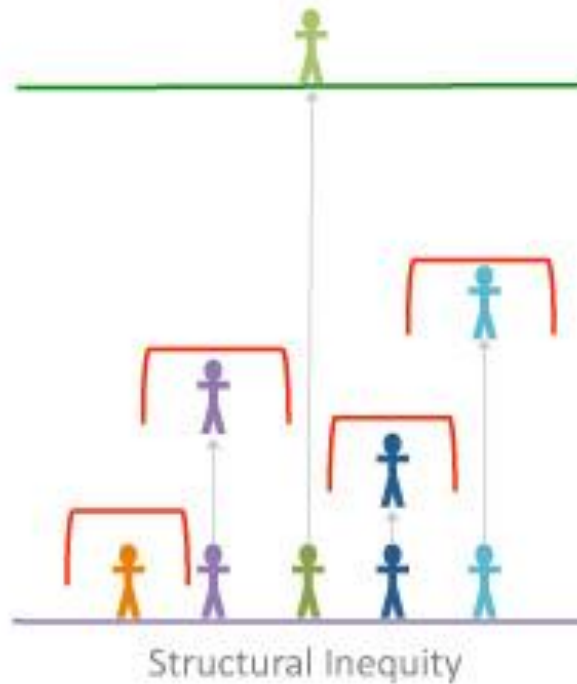
Priority Area	Description
<b>Cultural and Recreational Opportunities</b>	All residents, businesses and visitors are aware of and able to participate in quality arts, sports, recreation and culturally enriching activities.
<b>Economic Opportunity</b>	All people, businesses and places are thriving economically.
<b>Effective and Efficient Government</b>	All people trust that their government responsibly manages resources, provides exceptional services and equitably represents them.
<b>Empowerment/Support for Residents Facing Vulnerability</b>	All residents facing vulnerability are empowered and supported to live independent lives to their fullest potential.
<b>Health and Environment</b>	All people can attain their highest level of health and well-being within a healthy sustainable environment.
<b>Housing and Neighborhood Livability</b>	All people live in communities that foster safe, enjoyable and affordable living experiences.
<b>Lifelong Education and Learning</b>	All residents at every stage of life are taking advantage of inclusive, responsive and accessible learning opportunities that enable them to grow, prosper and thrive.
<b>Mobility and Transportation</b>	All residents, businesses, visitors and goods can move efficiently, affordably and safely throughout the county and beyond via our well-designed and maintained network of roads, sidewalks, trails and transit options.
<b>Safety and Security</b>	All people feel safe at home, school, work and in the community.

# The Principle of Targeted Universalism:

Abandoning a *one-size-fits-all* policy development formula in favor of an approach that is more inclusive and outcome-oriented

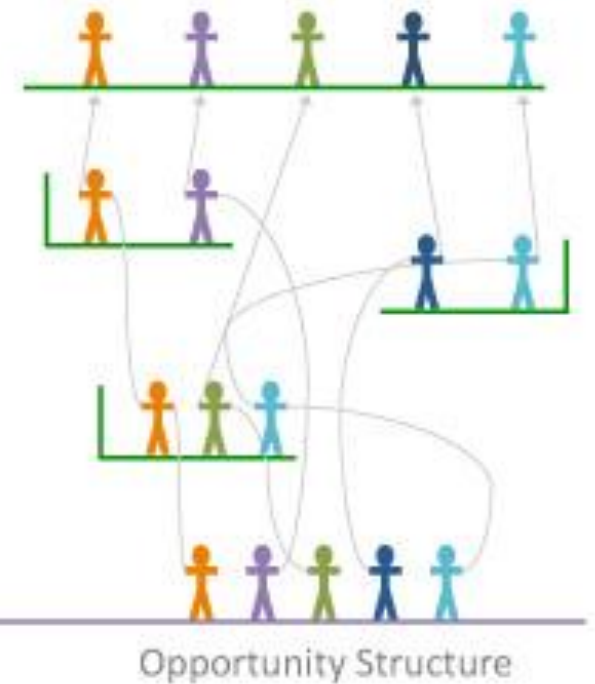
## Universal Goal with Targeted Solutions

*Structural Inequity* produces consistently different outcomes for different communities.



vs.

*Opportunity Structures* respond with necessary resources and multiple paths needed for different communities & individuals to thrive.



# Key Elements of a Communities of Opportunity



**EDUCATION**



**EMPLOYMENT**



**MOBILITY**



**FOOD**



**RECREATION/CULTURE**



**HOUSING**



**JUSTICE**



**HEALTHCARE**



**DIGITAL ACCESS**



**QUALITY CHILDCARE**

A map of Northern Virginia and surrounding areas, including Sterling, Aspen Hill, Arlington, Washington, Alexandria, Manassas, and Dale City. The map shows various streets and geographical features.

**Understand Vulnerability  
& Opportunity**

An isometric illustration of a cityscape with various buildings, trees, and a clear sky. The buildings are in shades of red, yellow, and grey.

**Target Interventions  
to *Build* Opportunity**

A horizontal orange banner with a slight gradient, containing the text "Communities of Opportunity".

**Communities of Opportunity**

A magnifying glass with a grey handle and frame, focusing on a group of colorful, stylized human icons in various colors (blue, orange, green, purple).

**Target Interventions to  
*Connect* to Opportunity**

A clear glass filled with water, with a green leaf floating on top. The water has ripples and reflections.

**Encourage the  
Development of an  
Inclusive Economy**

# Key Demographic Data

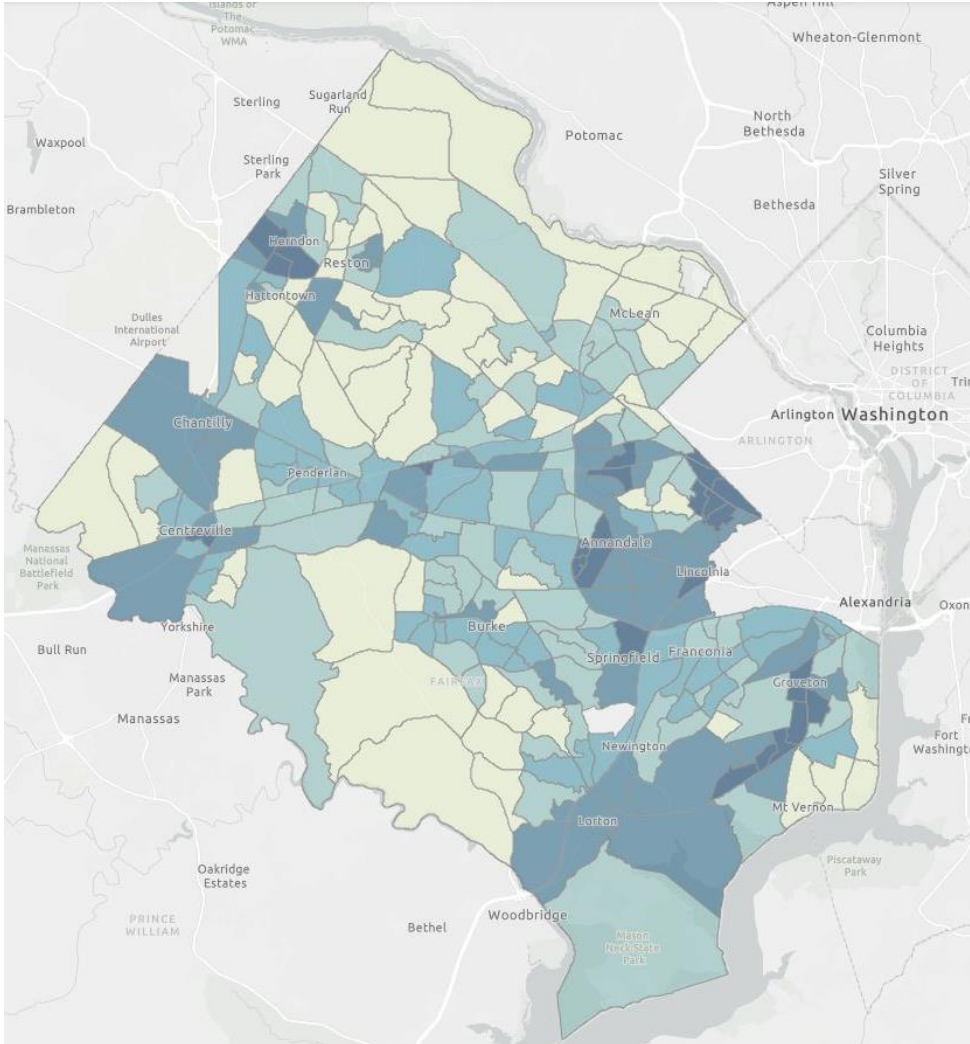
Indicator	County	Tract 4221.02	Tract 4221.01
Median Household Income	\$124,831	\$105,686	\$99,889
Percent Severely Burdened Renter Households	19.8%	23.7%	24.7%
Percent Population with a Disability	7.2%	7.6%	8.7%
Percent Population Below Poverty level	6.1%	3.8%	11.4%
Percent Elementary Students Eligible for Free and Reduced-Price Lunch	30.7%	33.2%	51.5%
Percent Households without a Vehicle	4.2%	5.9%	4.7%
Percent Population Age 65+	13.1%	10.1%	5.5%

*Source: American Community Survey 2015 - 2019*

Census Tracts 4221.02 and 4221.01 have significantly higher percentages of people of color, Black and Other/Two or More Races populations than the County

Demographics	County	Tract 4221.02	Tract 4221.01
Percent Population of Color	49.3%	75.9%	64.3%
Percent Hispanic Population	16.3%	16.8%	27.5%
Percent White	61.2%	37.5%	48.6%
Percent Black/African American	9.8%	38.7%	24.4%
Percent Asian	19.2%	18.9%	10.5%
Percent Other/Two or More Races	4.7%	4.9%	16.5%

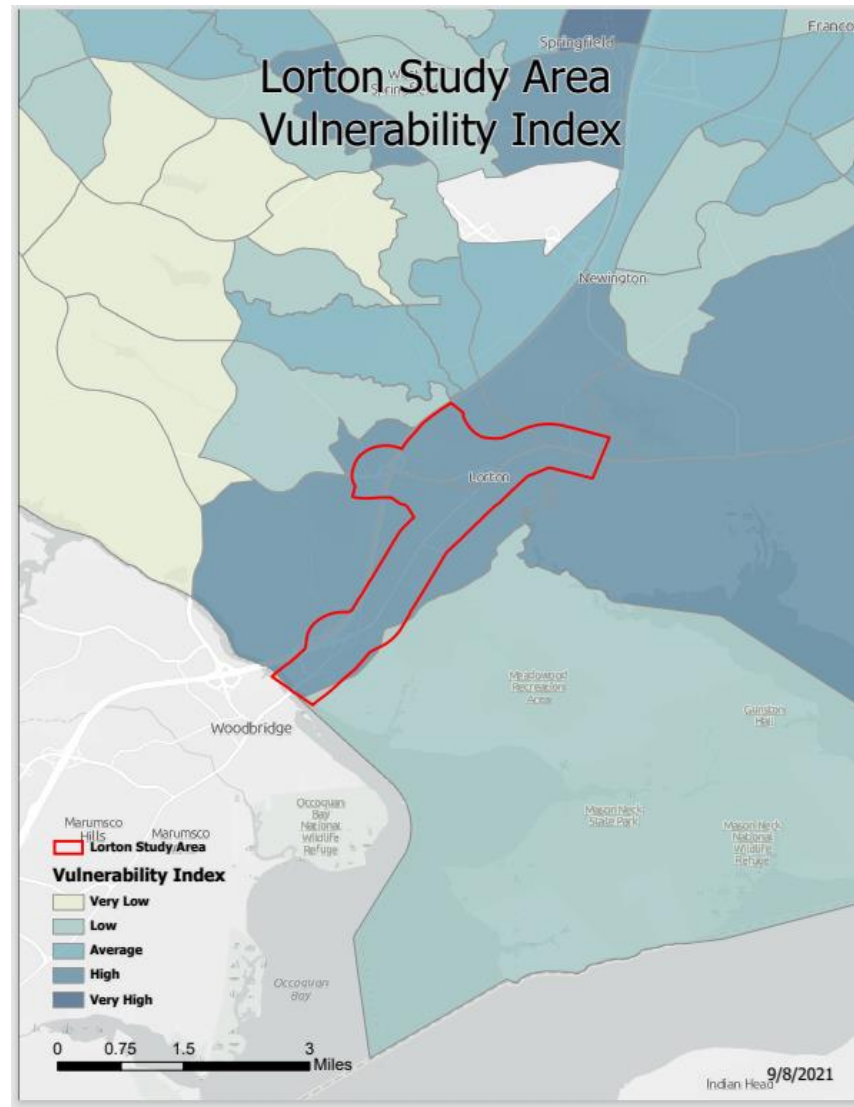
*Source: American Community Survey 2015 - 2019*



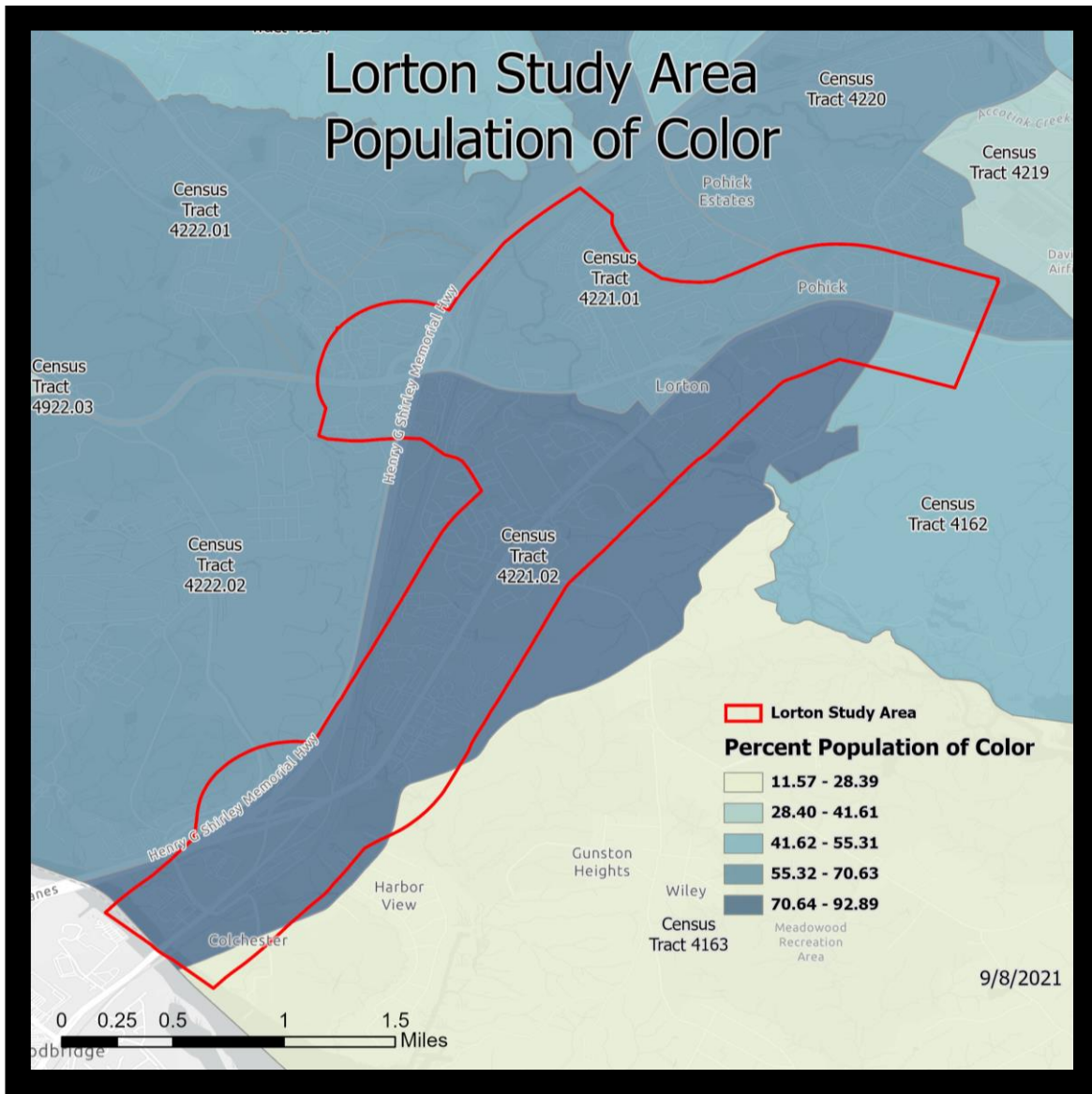
# Fairfax County Vulnerability Index

The Fairfax County Vulnerability Index was created in 2019 to show areas of the county that have the highest levels of vulnerability based on race, language, income, education, housing, transportation, and health insurance.

Source: American Community Survey 2015 – 2019; Link: [Fairfax County Vulnerability Index](#)



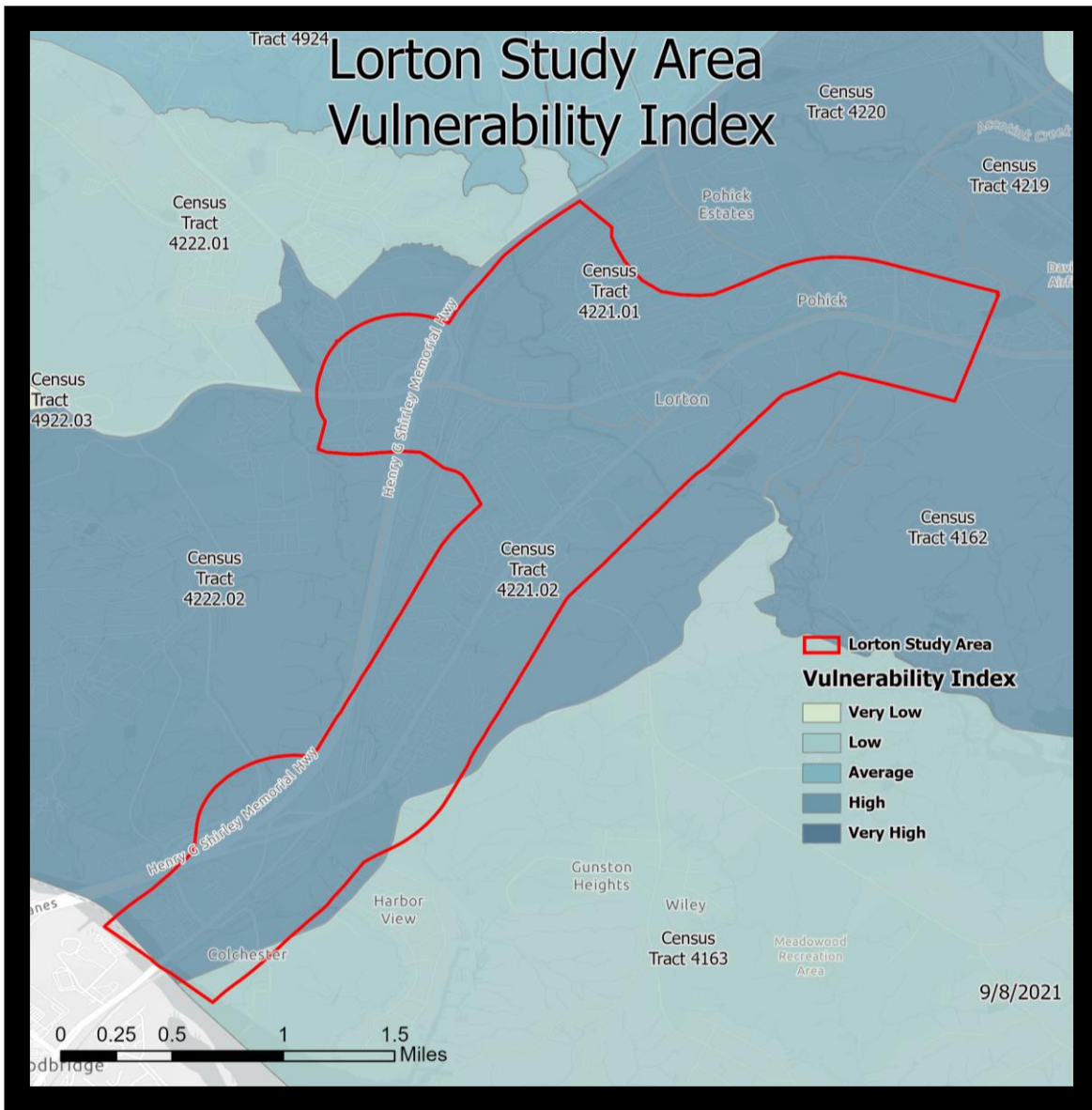




The population that makes up Lorton is diverse.

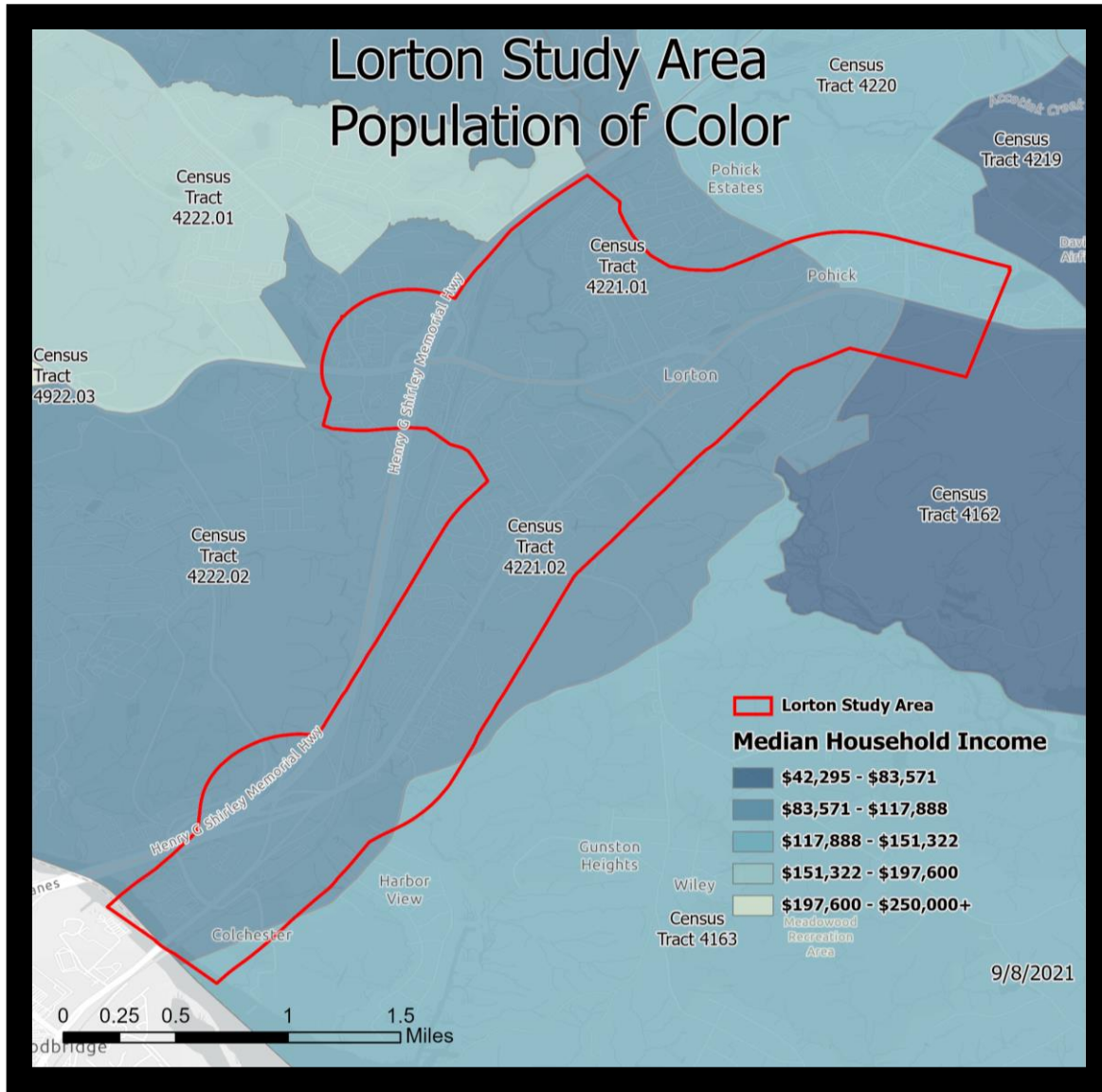
The percent population of color in the two primary census tracts are 75.9% and 64.3%. The percent population of color in the County is 49.3%.

Source: American Community Survey 2015 - 2019



Vulnerability Index scores within the Lorton Study Area are all in the high category. The range of the categories in the county range from very low to very high.

Source: American Community Survey 2015 – 2019 and [Vulnerability Index \(V8\)](#)



Median household income in the two primary census tracts is \$105,686 and \$99,889. The range for the County is between \$41,589 and \$250,000+ with a median household income of \$124,831.

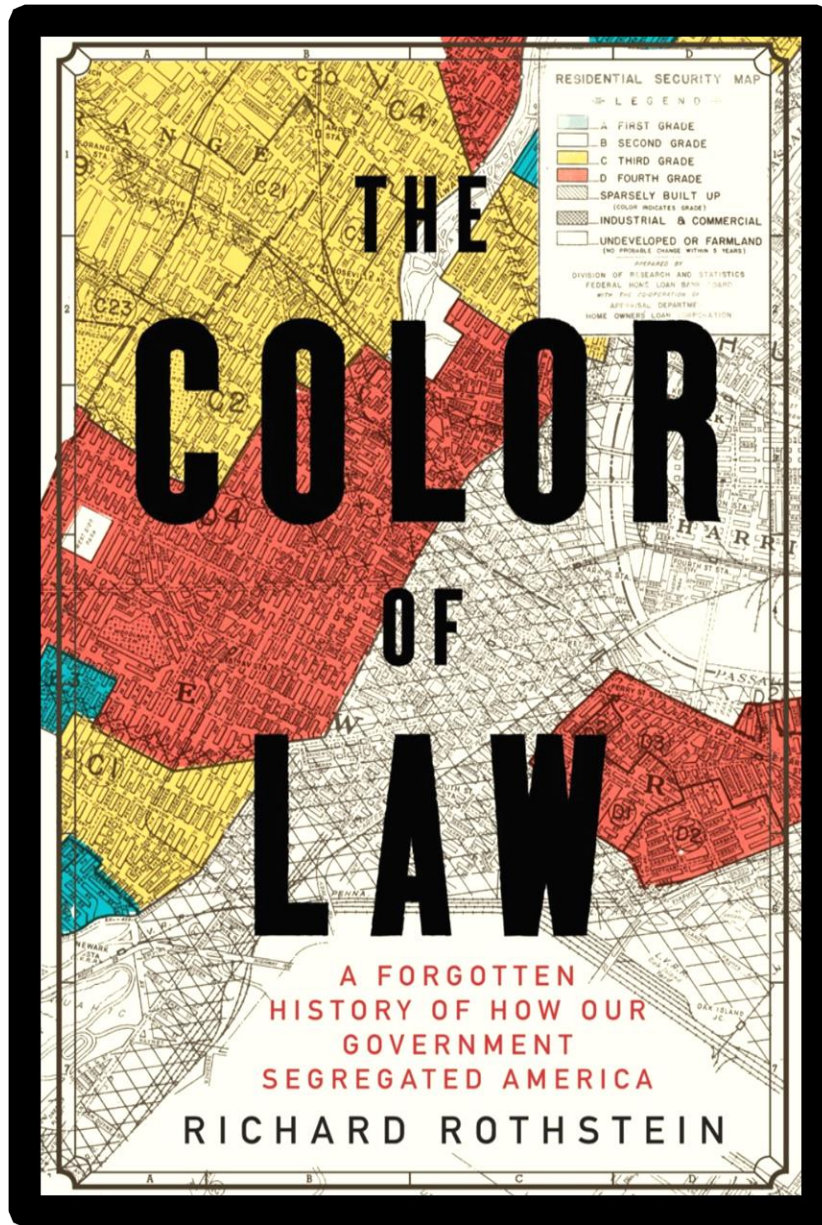
The Lorton Study Area contains areas with lower-than-average median household incomes.

*Source: American Community Survey 2015 - 2019*



# One Fairfax in Practice: Applying an Equity Lens

- **The Proposal:** What is the policy, program, practice or decision under consideration?
- **Desired Results:** What are the outcomes we want to achieve? What are the community-level conditions we aim to impact?
- **Assumptions:** What are our beliefs and ideas about the issue, situation, and people involved? How can we counter implicit bias?
- **Analysis of Data:** What data do we have? What data do we need? What does it tell us?
- **Community Engagement:** How have the people affected by the proposal been engaged? Are there opportunities to expand engagement?
- **Strategies for Equity:** Who will benefit from or be burdened by this action? What strategies will address vulnerability or build opportunity? How can we mitigate unintended consequences?
  - **Implementation:** Is the plan feasible? Is it adequately resourced? How can we think and act creatively to make “it” happen?
  - **Contextual Factors:** What factors might influence the proposal? What factors are in and/or out of our control?
  - **Accountability:** How will impacts be documented and evaluated? Are anticipated outcomes being achieved? How can we course correct?



**Segregated by Design** – a video summary of the book **The Color of Law**  
<https://www.segregatedbydesign.com/>

## **Considerations on Addressing Inequity through Land Use Policy...**

### **Habitat for Humanity Cost of Home Policy Platform –**

*“Advocates and policymakers must acknowledge and address the well-documented historic patterns of racial discrimination in housing and land use policies — at all levels of government — that still impact the makeup and opportunities of our communities.”*

### **Andre Perry, Senior Fellow, Metropolitan Policy Program, Brookings Institution –**

*“Nothing grows without investment.”*

***You can't solve a problem without understanding what's at the root of it.***

# Reports and Other Resources

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## REPORTS

[Getting Ahead: The Uneven Opportunity Landscape in Northern Virginia](#)

[Uneven Opportunities: How Conditions for Wellness Vary Across the Metropolitan Washington Region](#)

[Racial Inequities in Fairfax County 2011-2015](#)

[Health and Human Services Needs Assessment 2019](#)

[Equitable Growth Profile of Fairfax County](#)

## OTHER RESOURCES

[COVID-19 Vulnerability Index](#)

[The Opportunity Index for Northern Virginia](#)

[Healthy Places Index: A New Resource for Measuring Opportunity in Northern Virginia](#)

[Fairfax County Strategic Plan](#) (draft)

Fairfax County Public Library [page](#) on social and racial justice

For additional information on One Fairfax, please visit our website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/one-fairfax>



# Questions & Discussion

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