

# 2023 Black Policy Agenda Framework



## Social Determinants of Health

*The Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) are the conditions in our environment that impact our health, functioning, and quality-of-life in our communities and influence how we interact with the world through work, play, and worship. These conditions can also affect how we live, learn, and age.*

*Our agenda encompasses inclusive coalition-based movement for restorative action and justice for all communities, especially those communities seeking more involvement in creating a more equitable and unapologetically Black future. This agenda involves seven major policy areas with each series containing previously introduced or prospective legislation, as well as enacted/unfunded legislation, that would help to restore and strengthen our communities. These areas all speak to an unmet need, harm that has occurred due to past and current legislation, or the disparate impacts that current policies have on the Black community.*

## Criminal Justice

- **Eliminate restrictions on voting rights for formerly incarcerated individuals**  
This legislation was introduced in 2022 as SB 488 with Senator Bill Hamilton as the lead sponsor.
- **Less is More Act**  
This would reduce incarceration for technical violations of parole and probation. There is currently no existing legislation.
- **Second Look Sentencing**  
Currently no existing legislation. This would ensure that those with long incarceration sentences, serving majority of their time, could petition their original judges for reconsideration after 10-15 years of their sentence.
- **Cap jail population number**  
Currently no existing legislation; but, is under review by WV Criminal Legal Reform Coalition.

## Economics

- **Establish a tax credit for businesses who hire, promote, and develop women and minorities into executive, professional, or administrative roles**  
This legislation was introduced as [HB 2640](#) in 2022 with Delegate Sean Hornbuckle as the lead sponsor
- **Create a Small Business and Minority Populations Economic and Workforce Development Task Force**  
This legislation was introduced as [SB 186](#) in 2022 with Senator Glenn Jeffries as the lead sponsor
- **Creating the WV Community Development Equity Fund**  
This legislation was introduced in 2022 as [HB 4783](#) with Delegate Sean Hornbuckle as the lead sponsor
- **Create a youth advisory council for civic engagement**  
This legislation was introduced in 2022 as [HB 4812](#) with Delegate Sean Hornbuckle as the lead sponsor
- **Requiring reparations for West Virginia African Americans**  
This legislation was enacted in 2021 as [HB 2878](#). This bill is to establish a task force to study and develop reparations for African Americans; legislative findings; composition and authority; requiring report to the Legislature; and providing that state level reparation actions that are undertaken as a result of this article are not a replacement for any reparations enacted at the federal level.

## Education

- **School suspensions to be considered excused absences**  
This legislation was introduced in 2022 as [HB 4304](#) with Delegate Caleb Hanna as the lead sponsor
- **Broader legislation to address the disparate impact of school suspensions on Black students**

## Environment

- **Clean Drinking Water Act of 2022**  
This legislation was introduced in 2022 as [HB 4055](#) with Delegate Evan Hansen as the lead sponsor

## Food

- **Establishing food desert produce pilot program**  
This legislation was introduced in 2022 as [HB 3224](#) with Delegate Kayla Young as lead sponsor.

## Health

- **Establishing a pilot program to develop school-based mental health and behavioral health services**  
This legislation was introduced in 2022 as [HB 4444](#) with Delegate Sean Hornbuckle as the lead sponsor
- **Medicaid Buy-in: allowing those above Medicaid expansion eligibility to keep their coverage by paying a small monthly premium based on their income**  
This legislation was introduced in 2022 as [HB 3001](#) with Delegate Evan Worrell as the lead sponsor
- **Establishing the Minority Health Advisory Team**  
This legislation was introduced in 2022 as [SB 206](#) with Senator Stephen Baldwin as the lead sponsor
- **Increasing access to pre- and post-natal services that help families**  
Decades of research show that home visiting can improve healthy child development, help new parents, and even increase family economic security. Additional funding to home visiting programs, a simple change in the state budget, can increased resources to communities who need it most.
- **Improving maternal and infant mortality data collection and quality measures**  
While current law requires DHHR to publish data on maternal and infant deaths, it is not readily available to the public and the data is not disaggregated by race.
- **CROWN Act or Make it illegal to discriminate based on hair texture or style**  
This legislation was introduced as HB 2698 in 2022 with Delegate Danielle Walker as the lead sponsor

## Housing

- **No current legislation to our knowledge**

## Enacted Legislation Requiring Appropriation (ARPA)

- **Requesting a study of the high unemployment rate and other socioeconomic problems confronting African Americans**

A request for this study was passed in 2002 as [House Concurrent Resolution 76](#).

- **Providing procedure for economic development authority to address problems of state minorities**

This statute was enacted in 2004 as [Senate Bill 573](#)

- **Creating the Neighborhood Housing and Economic Development Stabilization Program for low-income minority neighborhoods**

This statute was enacted in 2009 as [House Bill 2950](#)

- 2010- SB-2009- Community Development School Pilot Program law.

- **Developing special community-based pilot demonstration project to improve at-risk youth outcomes**

This statute was enacted in 2012 as [Senate Bill 611](#)

- **Relating to the Herbert Henderson of Minority Affairs to create a Pilot Project to Improve Community and Populations Health by addressing Poverty and other Social Determinants of Health through a comprehensive community development model.**

- **Requiring Department of Education develop plan based on analyzed data on school discipline**

This legislation was enacted in 2020 as [Senate Bill 723](#). It requires the Department of Education to compile and analyzes state-wide school discipline data, to compile a report, to develop and implement a state-wide plan, and to report on the success of the plan