

The Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness presents

A Different Kind of Resource Fair: Building Strength + Connection with our State Leaders

Friday, June 5, 2020



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— P R O G R A M —

Welcome and Introduction

The Network Presentation: Combating Structural Racism,
Advancing Equity, Ending Homelessness

Leslie Garcia, Youth Action Board Leader

Undersecretary Jennifer Maddox, Massachusetts Department
of Housing and Community Development

Our Legislative Leaders

Next Steps (and a couple of farewell toasts!)

Closing

The Western MA Network to End Homelessness

creates collaborative solutions across Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire Counties to prevent and end homelessness through a Housing First approach that makes homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring.

Over 400 partners across every sector

An umbrella to federal and state dollars: Western Massachusetts awarded \$4.3 million in federal funds to prevent and end youth homelessness

An engine for addressing the region's racial inequity in homelessness

Combating Structural Racism, Advancing Equity, Ending Homelessness

Systemic racism impacts every part of life in the United States. As a result, people of color are hit the hardest by both failed policy and by disasters.

We need to understand this and center the needs of people of color as we respond to the pandemic.

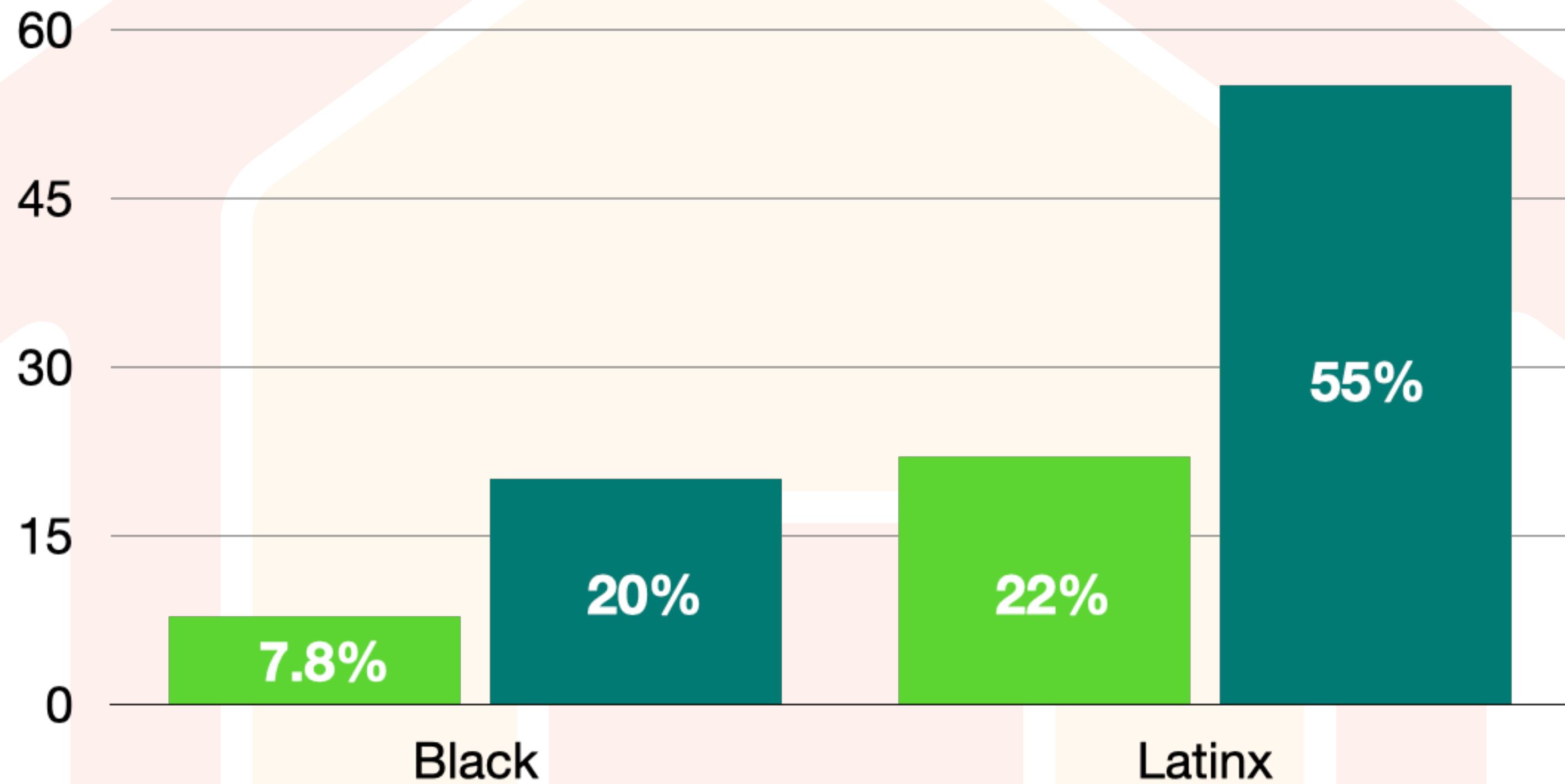
Public health requires housing. Why did it take COVID-19 to get us there?

Addressing systemic racism is a defining part of the answer.



Housing = Health

and structural racism denies both to
Black and Latinx communities.

Hampden County: Racial Disproportionality in Homelessness

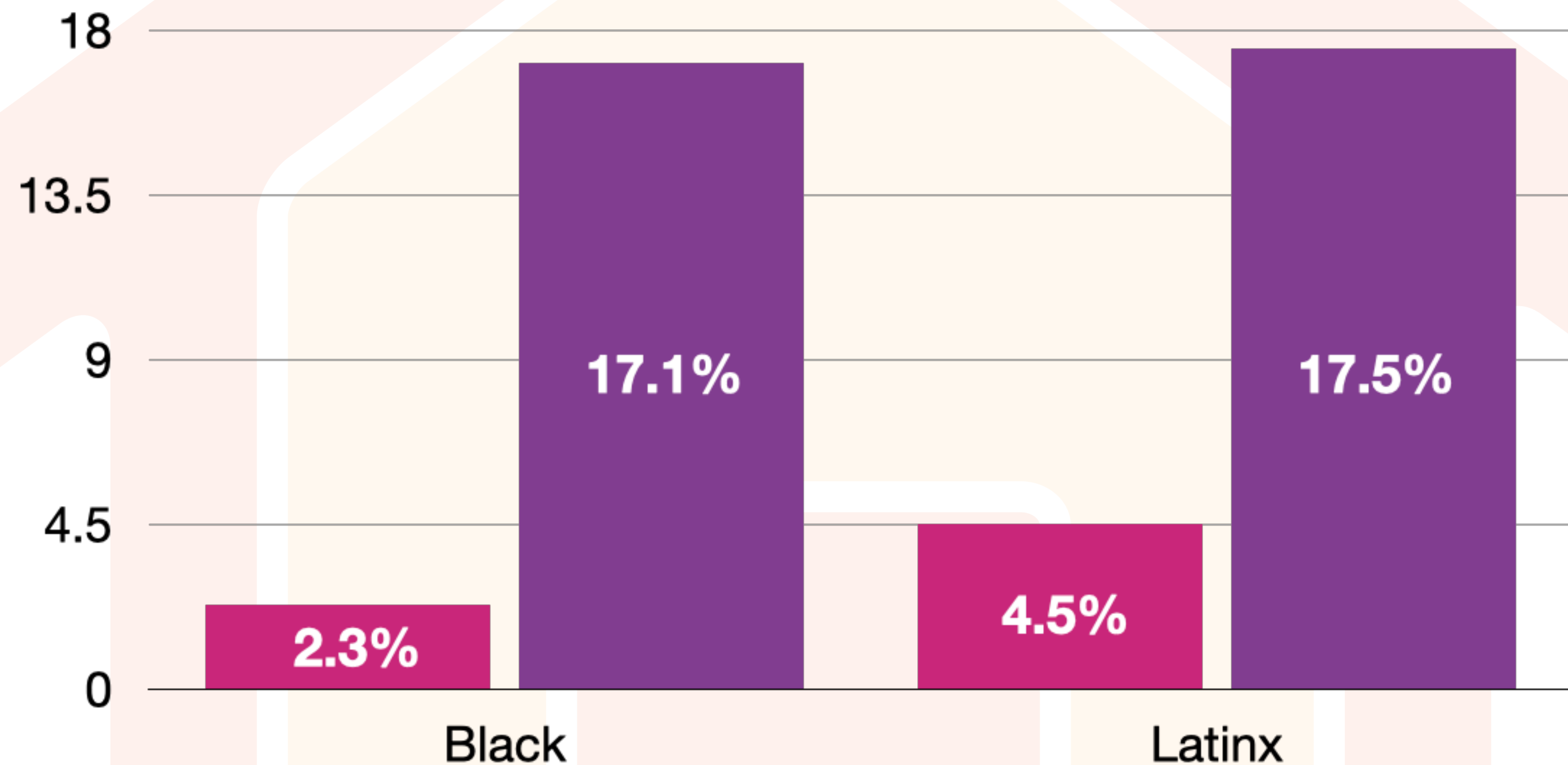


Black Disproportionality = 2.5:1
Latinx Disproportionality = 2.5:1



 General Population
 Homeless Population

Hampden County Racial Disproportionality in Homelessness:
HUD Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS):
7/1/17– 6/3/18

Franklin/Hampshire/Berkshire Counties: Racial Disproportionality in Homelessness



Black Disproportionality = 7.4:1
Latinx Disproportionality = 3.9:1

 General Population
 Homeless Population

Three County Racial Disproportionality in Homelessness:
HUD Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS)
— 1/1/17–1/1/20

County-by-County COVID-19 Data (as of 6/1)

	Cases	Deaths
Hampden	6,188	601
Hampshire	886	89
Berkshire	567	40
Franklin	335	37

County-by-County COVID-19 Data: Massachusetts Department of Public Health

The Network Stand for Equity:

Support the Statewide Emergency Task Force on Coronavirus and Equity Policy Priorities

- Criteria for equitable reopening
- Data equity bill: Thank you!
- Eviction and foreclosure moratorium: Thank you! (and next up...)
- Safe quarantine for people experiencing homelessness
- Emergency paid sick time
- Decarceration of prisons and jails
- Safe access to testing and treatment for immigrants

Federal Funds: Maximize. Allocate Transparently.

- Expanded FEMA authorization to de-congregate shelters
- Legislative oversight, public comment on coronavirus relief fund allocation
- **EVICTION PREVENTION: Fund RAFT at \$50 million (to start)**

State Funds: It Is About Choices.

To balance the state budget, Massachusetts lawmakers have raised taxes in each of the last three recessions.

It would be unprecedented to NOT do so now.

New Taxes Spur Recovery

A letter from 91 Massachusetts economists¹ states:

*“Large cuts would erode the health and social infrastructure needed to continue combatting COVID-19, **increase an already high level of inequality**, and exacerbate the economic downturn. Instead of budget cuts, the state should look to raise revenues to balance its budget.”*

Economic theory and historical experience show that spending cuts are more harmful than tax increases during recessions.

¹ https://scholars.org/sites/scholars/files/MA_Economists_Letter_05262020.pdf

The Money Exists: 17 Billionaires in Massachusetts²

Their wealth grew by \$10 Billion in the last two months.

Since the late 1970s, Massachusetts has cut taxes³ as a share of state personal income more than all but two other states—and far more than the United States average. Massachusetts now is a middle-of-the-pack state.

The highest-income households in Massachusetts pay a much smaller share of their household income toward state and local taxes than do ALL other Massachusetts households.

We can do better: many policy proposals are at the ready to raise revenue by taxing wealthy households and large, profitable corporations.

² https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1j_QD_ky8OYeCRbbtpubfFj3YKv9Z9DqiagSrVBuMSo/edit#gid=28236512
<https://www.massbudget.org/>

³ <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/05/21/american-billionaires-got-434-billion-richer-during-the-pandemic.html>

Going Forward: **Let's Be Bold Together.**

We know we must put everything we do to the test of ending structural racism. Every policy, every investment, every decision. Are we advancing equity as we go forward? Are we ending racism?

That is how we end homelessness.

Get Connected.

Subscribe to the Network blog:

www.westernmasshousingfirst.org