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ON EMBARGO UNTIL 6/18/15 4pm EST

New Report Examines Racial and Economic Inequality in Fairfax, VA

With a median household income of \$110,292, Fairfax County, Virginia is one of the wealthiest counties in the nation—but not all residents share in this economic prosperity. As its population has grown and diversified over the past 25 years, inequities in income and opportunity have also increased, particularly within communities of color. Understanding the racial, ethnic, and economic disparities facing Fairfax County is the first step towards building a stronger, more inclusive County, which is why Fairfax County in partnership with Leadership Fairfax, Inc. and Northern Virginia Health Foundation is excited to release *The Equitable Growth Profile of Fairfax County*—a first-of-its kind analysis of racial and economic equity in Fairfax.

Synthesizing demographic, educational, workforce, housing, and economic data, the Profile examines how well all County residents are accessing the resources and opportunities they need to fully participate in the local economy. Ensuring that all Fairfax residents can thrive is essential for the economic growth and continued prosperity of Fairfax County, and this Profile will serve as a catalyst to spark a new conversation about equity as a key economic driver.

[QUOTE FROM LOCAL SPOKESPERSON ON HOW THE REPORT WILL HELP (spur conversations, set an agenda, etc.)]

The profile was prepared by [PolicyLink](#), a national research and action institute advancing economic and social equity, and the [University of Southern California's Program for Environmental and Regional Equity](#) (PERE), in partnership with the Equitable Growth Profile Advisory Group of Fairfax County—a group of local public, private, nonprofit, faith, and community sector partners.

Some key findings of the Profile include:

- Since 1980, the population has increased from 600,000 to over one million, and the percentage **people of color has more than tripled from 14 to 45 percent.**
- Youth are at the forefront of this change: In 2010, about **52 percent of youth are people of color compared with only 27 percent of seniors.**
- **Nearly 1 in 3 residents are immigrants**, and more than half of the Latino, Asian and Middle-Eastern population are immigrants.
- **Median hourly wages for full-time workers are about \$37 for Whites but only \$23 for Blacks and \$16 for Latinos.** Even when controlling for education, large disparities remain: Among those with a BA degree, **Blacks and Middle Easterners earn \$9/hour less (\$28/hour) than their White counterparts (\$37/hour), and Latinos earn \$16/hour less (\$21/hour).**
- Child poverty rates are **4 times higher** among residents of color. While only about 3 percent of both U.S.- and foreign-born White youth live below the federal poverty level, **18 percent of all**

Black youth and 15 percent of U.S.-born Latino youth live in poverty, as do 11 percent of all Middle Eastern youth.

- **The County's economy would have been about \$26 billion larger** in 2012 without racial gaps in income (a 24 percent increase).

The release of the report will be accompanied by a launch event from **4-6pm EST, on June 18, 2015**, where a local panel with representatives from the business, faith, non-profit and government sectors will discuss the implications of the report and Sarita Turner of PolicyLink will make a presentation. Registration information for this event is [here](#).

Research shows that greater economic and racial inclusion fosters stronger economic growth. Simply stated, equitable growth results in greater economic security for families, increased revenue for businesses, and an even stronger local economy. Fairfax County, Leadership Fairfax, Inc., and Northern Virginia Health Foundation are proud to be taking critical action towards building a stronger, more equitable Fairfax County.