

The Color of Our Future: Our National Challenge and Opportunity



Children in families of European origin [soon] will make up less than 50 percent of the population under 5. These demographic realities suggest both promising opportunities and potentially sobering challenges. The opportunities offered by a multicultural society that is cohesive and inclusive are virtually limitless – including the richness that comes from a broad diversity of skills and talents, and the vitality that is fueled by a range of interests and perspectives. The challenges posed by a multicultural society that is fragmented and exclusive are daunting – including the wasted human capital that is undermined by prejudice and discrimination, and the threat of civil disorder precipitated by bigotry and hatred.

From Neurons to Neighborhoods, 2000



Presidential Candidates Agree



America needs every one of us to lend our energy, our talents, our ambition to making our nation better and stronger -- where you can get a good job and send your kids to a good school, no matter what zip code you live in, where all our children can dream, and those dreams are within reach.

When I am President, I will work to ensure that all of our kids are treated equally and protected equally. Every action I take, I will ask myself: Does this make life better for young Americans in Baltimore, in Chicago, in Detroit, in Ferguson who have in every way the same right to live out their dreams as any other child in America?





Poverty Scholars from Left and Right Agree

Chronic stress can cause substantial changes in children's brains. ... Low stress, high predictability, and strong, stable relationships with caring adults all help children become measurably better at self-regulating, delaying gratification, and controlling their impulses. ... If we want adult citizens who can exercise responsibility, we should do as much as we can to improve the security of childhood, especially among the poor.

Strengthen families in ways that will prepare children for success. The government isn't an effective parent, and it shouldn't dictate to parents how to raise a child. But government can play a positive role by providing guidance, almost always through a third party receiving government funding, on the practices and skills that fit best with the high aspirations parents hold for their children.

- **American Enterprise Institute** and **Brookings Institution** Working Group on Poverty and Opportunity (December 2015). *Opportunity, Responsibility, and Security: A Consensus Plan for Reducing Poverty and Restoring the American Dream.*



Toward Purple Solutions to Young Child Poverty

D's speak to material and structural side:

- Minimum wage // equal pay
- Paid family leave // high quality child care
- College education affordability

R's speak to spiritual and community side:

- Personal initiative and responsibility coupled with opportunity within neighborhood and community
- Faith-based strategies
- Investments in “points-of-light” in disinvested neighborhoods

We need both – and that requires education, will-building, and advocacy (beyond either/or to both/and) from nonpartisan perspective