

Economic Justice Platform

The Economic Justice Platform at Inclusive Action for the City is a holistic approach to creating a more equitable Los Angeles for community-serving small businesses.

We know that business owners are more than their financial statements. They are immigrants, elders, women, people of color, non-English speakers, and so much more.

In order for these businesses and their owners to thrive, we need to make fundamental, systemic changes to support the important contribution these micro-entrepreneurs give to our local economies and livelihood.

Why is Economic Justice Critical for Los Angeles?

Rising inequality¹ disproportionately affects immigrants and communities of color² who are at greater risk for displacement and disinvestment.³

1

LA County has the largest unemployment rate in the country, the second highest instance of homelessness, and rapidly rising rates of income inequality, all of which are inextricably linked to racial injustice. It also has the most robust small business presence in the country.

2

One in three LA residents are immigrants. When seeking economic justice in Los Angeles, an agenda must center the communities of color that are disproportionately affected by poorly designed and implemented policy.

3

Through the next decade, there will be major investments that must be humanely allocated to ensure major events like the Olympics aren't displacement machines like they have been in the past.

This is our opportunity to hold the government accountable to its people and small businesses and ensure that entrepreneurs like street vendors have what they need to thrive.

Three Paths to Economic Justice

We are guided by a vision for an equitable future.

There are three major ways in which we do our work taking the onus of fixing issues off the individual and putting it on the systems that have kept them out of investment opportunities.

These three pillars will guide the work that Inclusive Action does currently and in the future and will help us build our relationships in a way that services both our clients and the advocacy that we do on their behalf.

The systems that we are currently working within were both intentionally and unintentionally built to suppress the economic vitality of people of color, immigrants, and elders - all populations Inclusive Action serves.

Our policy work aims to undo the systems that put entrepreneurs into cycles of debt and actively bar them from investment.

REMOVING BARRIERS AND RED TAPE

01 **Everyone has access to the capital and resources they need.**

We dismantle barriers to the systems our clients work within to ensure small business owners are able to access the capital and resources they need to thrive, while also working toward closing the racial wealth gap.

Our Impact

We successfully advocated for SB 972 and amendments to CA Retail Food Code, increasing business viability and access to health permits for sidewalk food vendors.

Our Aspiration

We will create new valuation models and redefine how we measure wealth (focusing on standardizing interest rates and ending predatory lending) to ensure broader access to capital.

JUSTICE-ORIENTED INVESTMENT

02 **Everyone can build generational wealth through access to community investments.**

We advocate for justice-oriented community investments so entrepreneurs get the tools they need to build generational wealth. We counter traditional capital policies, like redlining and credit scores, that bar people of color and working-class residents from economic livelihood.

Our Impact

Community Owned Real State (CORE), an anti-displacement tool, creates ownership opportunities so small businesses can remain in place in the face of gentrification.

Our Aspiration

We will create innovative tax credits and property ownership models focused on social value to help curb displacement of community-serving businesses.

BUDGET ADVOCACY AND GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY

03 **Everyone is supported by equitable budget allocation and transparency.**

We advocate for federal investment in small businesses barred from pandemic relief efforts. Our budgets reflect our values and Angelos deserve an active voice in how this money is used.

Our Impact

We advocated for equitable distribution of ARPA money to ensure that affected communities affected by system disinvestment are prioritized.

Our Aspiration

We will advocate for open government initiatives to create transparent and inclusive budgeting at City and County levels.