

BREAKOUT GROUP GUIDE

Hello! Thank you for joining the STEP Summit conversation.

The STEP Summit features breakout group discussions to generate resources, ideas and commitments to helping lift Chicagoans out of poverty. We welcome you to participate! Just download and print this guide for your group. There is no size limit to the group, but we recommend conversations of 10 people or fewer. If you gather more than 10 people, you can break up into smaller groups to discuss different topics below.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Choose one of the three topics to have your conversation about: **Access, Equity, or Resiliency**. Below are definitions for how the Mayor's team is defining these concepts:

ACCESS

We want to **expand access**.

This means that all residents who want to work should have access to stable employment opportunities with fair wages. They should have access to housing they can afford, rather than rents that swallow entire paychecks. They should have equitable access to green spaces, excellent schools, safe neighborhoods, and thriving local businesses.

EQUITY

We want to **build equity**.

This means taking intentional measures to design policies that specifically address decades of racism, segregation, and disinvestment. This means ensuring that any metric of success takes into account our residents of color who are experiencing hardship at disproportionately high rates.

RESILIENCY

We want to **foster resiliency**.

This means that all families should have the income they need to thrive, not just survive, and the savings and social capital needed to weather financial shocks like a medical diagnosis or a job loss.

Once you have chosen a topic to start, follow the directions below to build a discussion around it. If you'd like to choose multiple topics, feel free! One way to approach discussing multiple topics is to go through the same prompts below with a new topic when you finish the first one.

For ease of having these discussions, pick one person to be the facilitator who will read through the prompts and keep the group on topic, and one person to take notes. At the bottom of this guide is a page you can print out for the note-taker.

Discussion Prompts

- ❑ **Warm-up (~7 min):** Ask people to share their name and something from the STEP Summit's morning's presentations that's sticking with them.
 - ❑ If you did not watch the Summit sessions via livestream, ask instead for people to share one thing that has them interested in the topic of Solutions Toward Ending Poverty.
- ❑ **Review the definition of the topic you chose (~2 min):** Access, Equity or Resiliency. See the topic definitions above. *Read the definition with the group and refer back to it as needed for the following questions.*
- ❑ **Mapping the landscape (~20 min)**
 - ❑ **Question 1:** What people, organizations or movements in Chicago are already working to address this topic that everyone should know about or lift up? What work are they doing?
The goal is to shine a light on the work that is already happening, and help others learn about efforts they may not have known about.
 - ❑ **Question 2:** What people, organizations or movements working *outside of Chicago* are doing work we can learn from to address this topic? What work are they doing?
The goal is to shine a light on the work that is already happening, and help others learn about efforts they may not have known about.

- ❑ **Big, bold visions (~15 min):** Ask the group: what's one step toward solving for this topic that you can picture happening in the next two years, if there was unanimous support and sufficient resources?

The goal is to think big: generate bold ideas.

Commitments

- ❑ **Commitments (~10 min):** In the remaining time in this breakout session, everyone will be encouraged to reflect on what role they can play in ending poverty in Chicago. You can go around the group and ask people to share what they will do. If someone doesn't have an idea, or chooses not to share, that's fine - it's a personal commitment. For people who are experiencing poverty, this can be a complex question.

Commitments Inspiration

Feel free to share these ideas with the group to help get ideas flowing around what types of actions they can commit to.

Ideas for Individuals

- Read up: self-educate on the topic of poverty
- Share out: have conversations with family, friends, neighbors and colleagues on these issues
- Volunteer with existing organizations

Ideas for Workplaces

- Start an apprenticeship program at your place of work
- Hire veterans, hire returning residents
- Host hiring fairs in neighborhoods

Note-taking

If your group discussion has someone willing to take notes, print this page and write down key insights.

Warm-Up Question Notes

What people, organizations or movements in Chicago are already working to address this topic that everyone should know about or lift up?

What people, organizations or movements working *outside of Chicago* are doing work we can learn from to address this topic?

What's one step toward solving for this topic that you can picture happening in the next two years, if there was unanimous support and sufficient resources?

SHARING BACK WITH THE MAYOR'S STAFF

The Mayor's staff would love to hear the insights generated from your group.

- To share back your group's responses, you have a two options:
 - Fill out this [Google Form](http://bit.ly/STEPshare) (<http://bit.ly/STEPshare>)
 - Email STEPSummit@cityofchicago.org with your notes, or photos of your notes
- To share commitments, you can enter them at: chicago.gov/steptoolkit
- To share photos of your group or other materials, email STEPSummit@cityofchicago.org