

A banner image showing several hands of different skin tones and sleeve colors (green, orange, white) reaching towards the center, symbolizing unity and collaboration. The text "Marin Equity Summit" is overlaid in white, sans-serif font.

# Marin Equity Summit

## Living Equity Agenda 2017

Actions, Resources, Organizations

2017 Nonprofit Partner: Systems Thinking Marin

Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017

The Marin Center

10 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael, CA 94903

[www.marinequitysummit.com](http://www.marinequitysummit.com)

# Living Equity Agenda 2017

## Introduction

November 7, 2017

This document was assembled pre-Summit. We hope that the actions that come out of our day together will be informed by some of this information, but will ultimately transcend our collective knowledge as it stood prior to the November 9<sup>th</sup> event.

That said, many organizations will not be present at the Summit: individuals who have worked for many years to improve conditions for everyone in Marin County. Therefore, we hope that some of the material herein will help to bridge the gap of their absence (with a focus on local organizations).

While we hope to have captured at least *a few* highlights of some important topics, there is no way this short document could be remotely complete, either in topic area or content for specific topics. Further, the linear format of the written word necessitates a “siloeed” presentation: by issue area. However, it is in the connections between these various issues that the true understanding lies: an understanding of how access to food impacts school participation; of how adequate housing impacts health; of how hourly wage impacts overall wellbeing.

We hope your experience at this year’s 2017 Marin Equity Summit will support you in your work for a more equitable county, and that you will continue to share your knowledge with the greater community well beyond this event.

*Felicia Chavez*

Director, Systems Thinking Marin

## Acknowledgements

Contributions by the following people are varied. Some produced the material you see in this packet personally; others supplied details via phone or email.

Felicia Chavez, Economics

Don Carney, Community Cohesion for a Safe Marin: Juvenile Justice

Dave Coury, Housing (see additional separate document) & Transportation (separate document)

Linda Jackson, Transportation

Nancy Johnson, Race & Segregation

Melanie Hamburger, Health

JC Farr and Michell Fadelli, Education

Jessica Hollinger, Douglas Mundo, Environmental Justice

Alexandra Danino, Food Access

Blog: john a. powell and Arthur Brooks

Sarah Emory, Canal Alliance, Immigration (see separate documents on Canal Alliance letterhead)

Note: we were not able to connect with representative from the LGBTQ community to provide input for this document. Please refer to the [SPAHR Center](#) as one resource for information.

# Environmental Justice

## Challenge:

Marin's least resourced communities are also the most vulnerable to impacts of sea level rise.

## Ways you can take action:

### 1) Attend a Shore Up Marin walking tour:

- Visit [www.shoreupmarin.org](http://www.shoreupmarin.org) for announcements.

### 2) Attend Flood Control Zone Board meetings:

- <https://www.marincounty.org/main/calendar> (Scroll down to "Sponsor" menu on left > Select "Flood Control and Water")

### 3) Support State Climate Adaptation Initiatives

- <http://arccacalifornia.org/legislative-tracking>

## Resources to learn more:

### **Marin County**

Marin Bay Waterfront Adaptation and Vulnerability Evaluation (BayWAVE)

<https://www.marincounty.org/main/baywave/vulnerability-assessment>

Marin City Drainage Study

[http://www.marinwatersheds.org/documents/Combined\\_MarinCityDMP\\_Report.pdf](http://www.marinwatersheds.org/documents/Combined_MarinCityDMP_Report.pdf)

Canal Communities, Rich and Poor, Prep for Wetter Feet

<http://www.acclimatewest.org/san-rafael-san-rafael-canal>

Bay Area Climate & Energy Resilience Project Marin Climate Snapshot

<http://bayarearegionalcollaborative.org/pdfs/Climate%20Snapshot%20Marin%20Co.pdf>

### **San Francisco Bay Area**

Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Resilience Program

<http://resilience.abag.ca.gov/projects/2016-mitigation-adaptation-plans>

Bay Conservation Development Commission (BCDC)

Adapting to Rising Tides Program

<http://www.adaptingtorisingtides.org>

Mapping Our Future: A Work Plan for Public Engagement & Equity in Climate Adaptation Planning in the San Francisco Bay Area

<http://bayarearegionalcollaborative.org/pdfs/Task%207c1%20Social%20Equity.pdf>

### **California**

The Climate Gap

[https://dornsife.usc.edu/assets/sites/242/docs/The\\_Climate\\_Gap\\_Full\\_Report\\_FINAL.pdf](https://dornsife.usc.edu/assets/sites/242/docs/The_Climate_Gap_Full_Report_FINAL.pdf)

Social Vulnerability to Climate Change in California

<http://pacinst.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/social-vulnerability-climate-change-ca.pdf>

Advancing Climate Justice in California

<http://www.healthyworldforall.org/en/express-img/17081516-3570-img1.pdf>

Pathways 2 Resilience

<http://pathways-2-resilience.org/ebook>

## Organizations doing this work:

### **Marin County**

Shore Up Marin

<http://www.shoreupmarin.org>

### **San Francisco Bay Area**

Resilient Communities Initiative

<https://www.facebook.com/ResilientEquity>

Resilient by Design Bay Area Challenge

<https://www.marincounty.org/main/rbd>

CivicSpark Climate (AmeriCorps)

<http://civicspark.lgc.org/portfolio/san-francisco-bay-area>

## Other Resources:

Guide to Equitable, Community-Driven Climate Preparedness Planning

[https://www.usdn.org/uploads/cms/documents/usdn\\_guide\\_to\\_equitable\\_community-driven\\_climate\\_preparedness\\_high\\_res.pdf](https://www.usdn.org/uploads/cms/documents/usdn_guide_to_equitable_community-driven_climate_preparedness_high_res.pdf)

Essential Capacities For Urban Climate Adaptation

<http://www.in4c.net/files/City-Adaptation-Essential-Capacities-March2017.pdf>

Oakland Climate Action Coalition People's Climate Resilience Campaign Plan

[http://oaklandclimateaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/OCACPeoplesClimateResilienceCampaign-KresgeProposal-Final-9\\_27\\_15-1.pdf](http://oaklandclimateaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/OCACPeoplesClimateResilienceCampaign-KresgeProposal-Final-9_27_15-1.pdf)

# Health

## **Challenge:**

Some Marin residents do not have access to quality medical, dental, behavioral health care.

## **Ways you can take action:**

### **1) Preserve Medi-Cal coverage for those who are poor by telling people that it's important:**

- US Senators: Diane Feinstein, Kamala Harris
- US Assemblyman: Jared Huffman
- Friends who live in Republican districts

### **2) Come to a public health clinic to get care:**

- Doctors, dentists, therapists, maternal care
- Health education, nutrition & exercise
- MediCal and CalFresh enrollment

### **3) Donate to programs insurance doesn't fund:**

- Youth programs to help with trauma
- Recovery and addiction programs
- General operating or capital support

## **Resources to learn more:**

2012 Portrait of Marin

[www.measureofamerica.org/marin](http://www.measureofamerica.org/marin)

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

[www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/index.html)

CA Adolescent Health Data

[www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CFH/DMCAH/Pages/Data/Adolescent-Health-Data.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CFH/DMCAH/Pages/Data/Adolescent-Health-Data.aspx)

CA Dept. of Public Health Office of Health Equity

[www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OHE/Pages/OfficeHealthEquity.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OHE/Pages/OfficeHealthEquity.aspx)

CA Women's Health resources

[www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OHE/Pages/Womens\\_Landing\\_Page.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OHE/Pages/Womens_Landing_Page.aspx)

Health Care for All Marin (Single Payer)

[www.healthcareforall.org](http://www.healthcareforall.org)

Marin Health & Human Services Community

[www.marinhhs.org/community-health-policy-prevention](http://www.marinhhs.org/community-health-policy-prevention)

## **Organizations doing this work:**

### **Marin County Public Health Clinics**

Coastal Health Alliance

[www.coastalhealth.net](http://www.coastalhealth.net)

Marin City Health & Wellness Center

[www.marincityclinic.org](http://www.marincityclinic.org)

Marin Community Clinics

[www.marinclinic.org](http://www.marinclinic.org)

Planned Parenthood

[www.plannedparenthood.org](http://www.plannedparenthood.org)

Ritter Center

[rittercenter.org/our-programs/health-center](http://rittercenter.org/our-programs/health-center)

### **Youth Resources**

Crisis Text Line (text 741741)

[www.crisistextline.org/](http://www.crisistextline.org/)

Healthy Teen Network

[www.healthyteennetwork.org](http://www.healthyteennetwork.org)

Tamalpais Union H.S. District Wellness Centers

<https://www.tamdistrict.org/wellness>

Teen Source

[www.teensource.org/contact](http://www.teensource.org/contact)

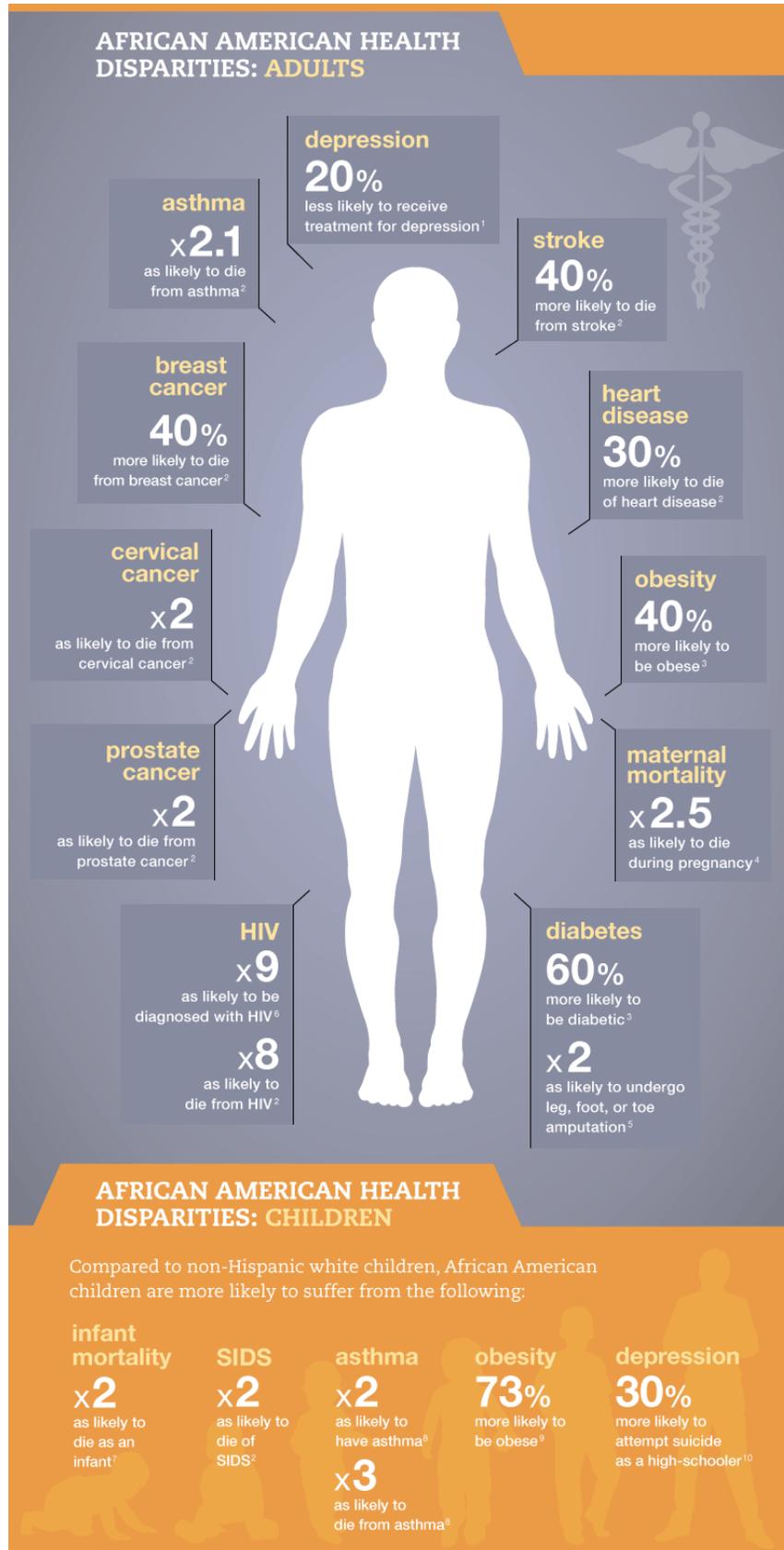
## **Additional Resources:**

Families USA: Health Disparities

<http://familiesusa.org/health-disparities>

(see next page)

# Health cont.



Infographic used with permission from Families USA.

# Economics and Employment

## **Challenge**

The gap between the rich and poor is getting wider, as the middleclass shrinks. Lower income more often than not impacts all areas of health and wellbeing.

## **Ways you can take action**

### **1) Take your money out of big banks and put it in Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs).**

Community banks and credit unions are more sustainable alternatives to large banking institutions, but CDFI's specifically exist to reinvest in local, underserved communities. Put your money to work in an institute that exists to serve you and your values, not for-profit entities. (I.e., lower fees, much better interest rates.)

### **2) Pay your workers a "living wage" or "self-sufficiency" wage.**

See the "Resources regarding wages" section below to educate yourself on this critical issue.

### **3) Buy local.**

You've heard this so many times before. Buying local supports your friends, neighbors, and the local tax base for schools, roads, transportation, health care, you name it.

## **Resources to learn more**

CDFI Locator: <https://ofn.org/cdfi-locator>

Defund DAPL (Dakota Access Pipeline):  
<http://www.defunddapl.org/defund>

[PolicyLink Toolkit](#)

Report - [Marin City Community Development Corporation Strategic Plan 2015-2018](#)

Report - [Rise Together: Promoting Family Economic Security in the Bay Area](#)

Report - [Marin County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy \(CEDS\) 2015](#)

Report and interactive website – [State of the Region \(ABAG\) 2015](#)

[County Health Rankings and Roadmaps – Marin County](#)

## **Organizations doing this work**

Phoenix Project, Marin City

Rise Together – a project of United Way Bay Area  
PolicyLink

Marin City Community Development Corporation

Canal Welcome Center: Leadership and Economic Development

## **Resources regarding wages**

[MIT Living Wage Calculation](#) – Marin County

1 Adult Household: \$16.13 / hr

[Insight Self-Sufficiency Standard Tool](#) – Marin County

1 Adult Household: \$17.98 / hr

PolicyLink Toolkit: "Good Jobs"

Report (National Employment Law Project), ["Raise Wages, Kill Jobs?" 2016](#)

## **Resources for Entrepreneurs**

[Benefit Impact Assessment](#): Every organization in Marin can use this tool to measure their triple-bottom line.

[Marin Women at Work](#)

[Networking Entrepreneurial Women of Marin](#)

[The Hivery](#): women's co-working organization

[VenturePad](#)

# Food Access

## **Challenge:**

Many families in Marin County have unstable access to food.

## **Ways you can take action:**

### **1) Attend a Marin Food Policy Council meeting.**

Meetings occur on the third Tuesday of each month, from 3:00 – 5:00. If you are unable to attend in person, [check out the website](#) for meeting notes: a copious overview of current efforts to improve food access and food quality for all in Marin County, right now.

### **2) Volunteer?**

Statement about that...

### **3) Donate to local organizations**

Reference the list below as a place to start to financially support local organizations working to reduce hunger, and increase wellness in Marin County.

## **Resources to learn more:**

[Equitable Access to Healthy and Local Food in Marin County - 2016](#)

## **Marin-based organizations:**

[SF-Marin Food Bank](#)

[Sanzuma](#)

[UC Cooperative Extension, Marin](#)

[Women, Infants, and Children \(WIC\)](#)

[Community Action Marin, SparkPoint Marin](#)

[ExtraFood.org](#)

[Conscious Kitchen](#)

[Marin City Community Services District](#)

[Marin Master Gardeners Community and School Gardens Project](#)

[Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative](#)

[Respecting Our Elders](#)

[Zero Waste Marin](#)

County of Marin:

- [Marin Health and Human Services, Healthy Eating Active Living \(HEAL\)](#)
- [Marin Health and Human Services, Nutrition Wellness Program](#)
- [Marin Health and Human Services, Public Assistance](#)
- [Marin Health and Human Services, Public Health](#)

## **Stop Food Waste:**

[AmpleHarvest.org](#)

[FallingFruit.Org](#)

[ivaluefood.com](#)

[refed.com](#)

[savethefood.com](#)

[stopfoodwaste.org](#)

# Education

## **Challenge:**

While many children in Marin County have access to quality education, many children do not, and these differences fall largely along race and neighborhood lines. Even with access to good schools, other quality of life factors strongly impact a student's ability to participate and thrive in an academic environment.

## **Ways you can take action:**

### **1) Attend your local schoolboard meeting.**

Even if you don't have children in school, decisions made in your local school district impact everyone. Get to know the agendas of board members. Contribute your knowledge and resources toward helping ensure the next generation has the best chance to contribute meaningfully to society. Meetings usually occur every other week, after business hours, and include public comment time.

### **2) Learn about the critical importance of early childhood education**

Marin Kids has a comprehensive report and action guide to serve this purpose, [Opportunity for Every Child: Data and Action Guide](#). Download it online, or get a printed version today at the Summit.

### **3) Be an active, involved parent (and support parent involvement).**

"Extensive research has shown that students achieve more in school when their parents are involved in their education." Source: [Public School Review, July 2, 2017](#)  
Even if you are not a parent, paying employees who are parents a living wage, and enabling them to have a flexible work schedule supports their efforts to be involved in their children's education.

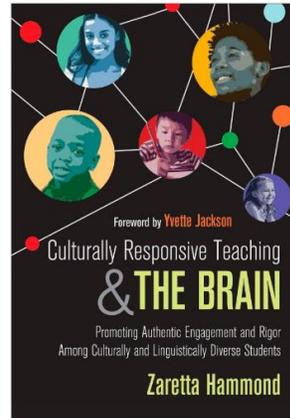
Book: *Be a Parent Champion: A Guide to Becoming a Partner with Your Child's School*, by Tovi C. Scruggs

## **Resources to learn more:**

Marin Kids - [Opportunity for Every Child: Data and Action Guide](#)

Marin Promise – [Partnering for Educational Equity](#)

Highly Recommended Book - *Culturally Responsive Teaching and The Brain: Promoting Authentic Engagement and Rigor Among Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students*, by Zaretta Hammond



## **Organizations doing this work**

- Marin Kids
- Bridge the Gap College Prep
- 10,000 Degrees
- Marin Promise

(For a much larger list, visit the Marin Promise [Partnership Council](#) webpage.)

# Race & Segregation

## **Challenge:**

Despite at least a century of civil rights work, prejudice and segregation along race lines are persistently rooted in the fabric of the United States, including Marin County.

## **Ways you can take action**

### **1) Work to become aware of your own prejudices.**

And don't sit idly by when others speak or act in a prejudiced way. Don't just act out of habit. Attend a cultural competency or diversity workshop. See the Racial Equity Resource Guide of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation to search for organizations in California: [Guides and Workshops](#). Bring friends.

### **2) Discover the ways some of our current social structures promote segregation and undermine resources available for non-whites: "structural racism" or "institutionalized racism."**

Given that the United States has evolved in a highly racially and economically prejudiced setting, it is unfortunately unavoidable that many of our social institutions are rigged against non-whites. Reference books, films, and talks to educate yourself.

### **3) Get together with friends and new people.**

One of last year's Marin Equity Summit keynote speakers, Lateefah Simon, Executive Director of the Akonadi Foundation, encouraged the audience to "talk about race every day." Host a Living Room Conversation. Use this resource to schedule and promote one: [livingroomconversations.org](http://livingroomconversations.org)

### **4) Attend city council and schoolboard meetings.**

Observe whether typically under-represented groups are Be an advocate for groups

## **Organizations doing this work**

Do you know of organization in Marin County that focus their work on promoting understanding across race and ethnic lines? If so, please email me so I can add them to future lists: [felicia.chavez@gmail.com](mailto:felicia.chavez@gmail.com)

[Marin Interfaith Council](#)

Unity in Marin

Reference the [W. K. Kellogg Foundation](#) for organizations at the state and national level.

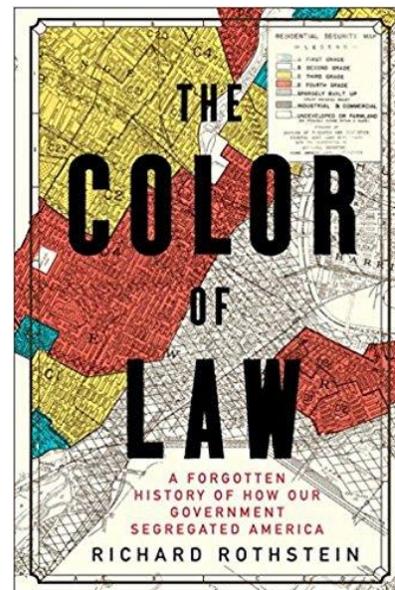
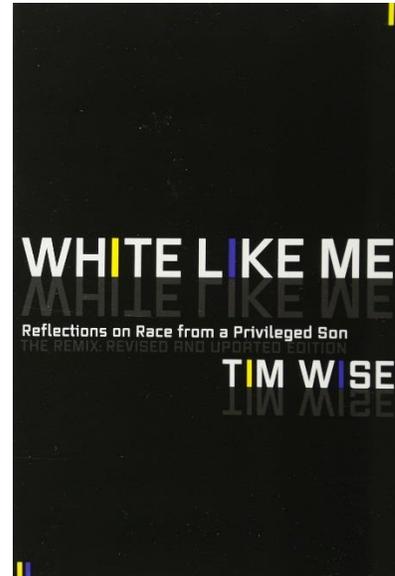
## **Resources to learn more:**

[Hass Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society](#)

Book and film - *White Like Me*, Tim Wise

Book - *The Color of Law*, Richard Rothstein

Racial Equity Resource Guide – W. K. Kellogg Foundation: [Guides and Workshops](#)



# Community Cohesion for a Safe Marin (Juvenile Justice)

## ***Ways you can take action***

### ***1) Join the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission***

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJJPC) is dedicated to providing justice for youth (less than 18 years) in Marin County. The Commission focuses on understanding and promoting best practices and resources for preventing youth from entering the Juvenile Justice system, and providing fair and equal treatment if they do. Participating in the JJJPC involves collaborative discussions and a willingness to work in an inclusive and transparent environment.

The Commission is a volunteer organization and its members must be residents of, or employed in, Marin County. Our duties include: attending monthly meetings, participating in inspections and investigations, preparing reports, working on subcommittees, as well as leading and assisting in community forums and events.

The Commission is committed to recruiting members who reflect the diversity of Marin County. Every effort is made to have a balance regarding: ethnic background, age, gender, socio-economic background, and regional representation.

<http://www.marincourt.org/JJJPC.cgi>

### ***2) Support the Canal Welcome Center's Youth Programs*** <http://www.cwcenter.org/>

Consejo: A youth mentorship program promoting the use of restorative justice practices in Latino communities to support the Probation Department's continued efforts in addressing Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) in Marin County.

Partners for Success (Compañeros Para el Exito) In coordination with staff from the Juvenile Division of the Probation Department and community partners, the program's goal is to build a path of success from the completion of probation requirements to high school

graduation, access to employment opportunities and college entry.

### ***3) Support Marin City's Phoenix Project***

This Phoenix Project is located at 261 Drake Ave. It is a prevention program that targets "at risk" youth with goals of reducing crime, promoting job skills, improving grades, providing technical knowledge opportunities and improving health. The program provides youth with mentors who support their success. It also provides life skills classes, job readiness workshops and a computer lab. The program is supported by county sheriff's office, probation department, public defender, district attorney and the Marin County Housing Authority.

<https://phoenixprojectmarin.wordpress.com/about-us/>

### ***4) Support YMCA Marin County Youth Court/Become a Volunteer Case Manager***

The Youth Court is based on the philosophy of restorative justice. The program keeps youth in school and out of the juvenile justice system. In its 13 years the program has successfully diverted 1,050 youth. The program also provides suspension diversion in many Marin schools. The public is invited to observe Youth Court proceedings which are held every Thursday afternoon. We train volunteers to be case managers to support the success of our youth. For more information contact [dcarney@ymcasf.org](mailto:dcarney@ymcasf.org) (415) 459-9622.

<https://www.ymcasf.org/programs/restorative-practices-marin>

### ***5) Support Project Avery***

Project Avery is a year-round program, which is tailored to meet the unique emotional needs of children of inmates. They intervene early in the lives of children at the ages of 8 to 11, and we make a long-term 10-year commitment to each child and family. It is a safe space where families and children of prisoners, who share a common experience, can be open and honest about the pain and grief of losing a loved one to the criminal justice system.

# How do we create Housing Equity?

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## **Challenge:**

Fair and affordable housing is becoming scarcer and causing displacement of our workers and increasing stress on those who live here who have low incomes, are disabled, elderly, and experience structural discrimination. The recent devastating fires in Sonoma and Napa displaced more than 5,000 persons, many of them low income workers who have become homeless. This has had the dual effect of reducing critical housing stock while at the same time increasing the demand for rentals.

## **Ways you can take action:**

- a) Emergency rent freeze – join our neighbors who have been affected by the fires
- b) Tenant Protection – just cause eviction (see below...BOS on Dec 5).
- c) Housing Hotline (where tenants and others can call to report problems without worry of retaliation)
- d) Assessment of Fair Housing: Engaging the community, impediments, solutions
- e) Provide zoning for land for new housing for young families, lower income workers, people with disabilities and low income seniors. Multifamily has been branded “High Density” but that is what was called for in the 1973 Countywide Plan which “saved” Marin from unbridled development and which formed the three corridors. Land use opportunities for multifamily housing have diminished since.
- f) Pursue teacher and school worker housing on school sites.
- g) Expand Housing First program and monitor use of Section 8 vouchers
- h) Ease restrictions on JADU/ADU to increase infill opportunities; data on occupants and Section 8 acceptance
- i) Eyler study – we have some of the highest rents in the Bay Area...Marin is much more like San Mateo than Sonoma, Napa and Solano

Nov. 7, 2017

- j) Impact of recently signed state housing package; mobilizing for 2018 Bond Vote.

## **Resources to learn more:**

2012 Portrait of Marin

[www.measureofamerica.org/marin](http://www.measureofamerica.org/marin)

2011 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (Federally required)

[https://www.marincounty.org/~media/files/departments/cd/federal-grants/analysis\\_of\\_impediments\\_to\\_fair\\_housing\\_choice.pdf](https://www.marincounty.org/~media/files/departments/cd/federal-grants/analysis_of_impediments_to_fair_housing_choice.pdf)

Marin Equity Coalition <http://marinequitycoalition.org/>

United Marin Rising <http://unitedmarinrising.org/>

County of Marin Affordable Housing

<https://www.marincounty.org/depts/cd/divisions/housing/affordable-housing>

Marin Housing Authority

<https://www.marinhousing.org/>

Marin Organizing Committee

[bayareaiaf@gmail.com](mailto:bayareaiaf@gmail.com)

Marin Environmental Housing Collaborative

<http://marinmehc.org/>

Lilypad Homes

<http://lilypadhomes.org/>

Housing Crisis Action Group

<https://www.hcagmarin.org/>

Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California

<http://www.fairhousingnorcal.org/>

Legal Aid of Marin

<https://legalaidsanmarin.org/>

SPUR

<http://www.spur.org/>

# How do we create Housing Equity?

6 Wins <http://www.sixwins.org/p/welcome-and-who-we-are.html>

Bay Area Rising

<https://www.risetogetherbayarea.org/>

Public Advocates

<http://www.publicadvocates.org/>

Tenants Together

<http://www.tenantstogether.org/mission-and-vision>

CA Dept of Housing and Community Development

<http://www.hcd.ca.gov/community-development/community-acceptance/index.shtml>

Marin Income Property Association

<https://caanet.org/local/marin-income-property-assn/>

Marin Association of Realtors

<http://marincountyrealtors.com/>

## ***Opportunities for Action:***

- 1) *December 5 BOS Hearing*
  - a. *Mediation*
  - b. *Renter Protection/ Just cause eviction*
  - c. *Housing Hot Line*
  - d. *Emergency rent freeze to relieve rent spikes caused by the Sonoma/Napa fires*
- 2) *Marin County Federal Assessment of Fair Housing*
- 3) *Mobilize to Pass Housing Bond in 2018*
- 4) *Support Teacher Housing*
- 5) *Expand Housing First for Housing of People who are Homeless – Monitor Use of Vouchers*

**1) At these hearings, advocates have a key opportunity to protect renters rights and advance renters protections to reduce displacement. This represents a key opportunity to reach out to health, education, employment, and other key areas which are related to housing but have rarely come together to advocate for specific policies.**

The Marin County Board of Supervisors will conduct two public hearings—a First Reading on Tuesday, **December 5, 2017** at or after **1:30 PM\*** and a Merit Hearing on **Tuesday, December 12, 2017** at or after **5:30 PM\***—to consider adoption of an ordinance to establish a **Rental Housing Dispute Resolution** (i.e., “**Mandatory Mediation**”) program. The proposed ordinance could require landlords and/or tenants to participate in a mediation process in good faith; it would not require the parties to reach a binding resolution. The Board Ad-Hoc Housing Subcommittee (“Subcommittee”) recommends that the Board adopt an ordinance to establish a program to mediate disputes for rent increases above five percent (5%) and service reductions.

The Board will also receive a report containing the recommendation of the Subcommittee with regards to a **Residential Landlord and Tenant Relations** (i.e., “**Just Cause for evictions**”) ordinance. Such ordinances typically identify acceptable reasons that a landlord may terminate a tenancy, or they may list specific unacceptable reasons for which a landlord could not terminate a tenancy. The Subcommittee recommends that the Board defer consideration of Residential Landlord and Tenant Relations (i.e., “Just Cause for evictions”) ordinance for twelve months.

These actions are part of the work plan which was originally comprised of eleven programs, and was approved by the Board of Supervisors on February 9, 2016 with an eighteen-month, three-phase implementation timeline. At a public hearing on August 1, 2017, the Board received a comprehensive progress report on the work plan to preserve housing affordability and prevent displacement. It recommended that staff add a twelfth policy option to the work plan—exploration of a Rental Housing Dispute Resolution program (i.e., “Mandatory Mediation”)—and requested that staff research methods to collect more accurate and precise data on trends in Marin’s rental housing market. The Board referred Rental Housing Dispute Resolution and a Residential Landlord and Tenant Relations (i.e., “Just Cause for evictions”) policy options back to the

# How do we create Housing Equity?

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Board Ad-Hoc Housing Subcommittee (“Subcommittee”) to develop a recommendation to be presented to the full Board of Supervisors later in 2017.

The staff report is anticipated to be made available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese on the County of Marin [Affordable Housing webpage](#) in mid-November. In addition, an agenda and staff report will be made available on the Friday before the scheduled hearing on the Board of Supervisors meeting webpage and at the Community Development Agency, Suite 308, San Rafael (open Monday through Thursday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, closed Friday). If you have comments regarding this hearing, please contact Planner Debbi La Rue at [dlarue@marincounty.org](mailto:dlarue@marincounty.org) or 415-473-7309, or Planning Manager Leelee Thomas at [lthomas@marincounty.org](mailto:lthomas@marincounty.org).

The Board of Supervisors hearings will be held in the Board of Supervisors Chambers (Room 330, Administration Building), 3501 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael, California, where anyone interested in these matters may appear and be heard. Spanish interpretation services will be provided. Please contact Debbi La Rue, Planner, at 415.473.7309 or [dlarue@marincounty.org](mailto:dlarue@marincounty.org) to request additional interpretation or translation services. Speakers using interpretation services will be granted additional time to testify at the hearings.

**2) The Governor’s Housing Package** signed on October 16, 2017 included SB3 which calls for a \$4 billion bond to fund affordable housing units and homeownership programs for veterans. This will be a tough fight and will require a great deal of advocacy and organizing.

**3) Under the leadership of Liz Darby**, Marin County is conducting an Assessment of Fair Housing (similar to the Analysis of Fair Housing Choice from 2011). Over the next few months, the opportunity for community education, engagement, and involvement will be critical.

**4) Teacher Housing** is being introduced as a means to meet the needs of our communities. Your support and engagement will be critical in order to get this done.

# Blog: America Can't Fix Poverty Until It Stops Hating Poor People

Thursday, October 12, 2017, By John A. Powell & Arthur Brooks. *This piece was originally published on [CityLab](#).*

“Hell is other people,” famously wrote the French existentialist Jean-Paul Sartre at the close of his 1943 play *No Exit*. While for Sartre this was a philosophically sophisticated point, in America today it has become simply the way we increasingly treat people at the margins of our society. We see whole groups of people as unlike ourselves—as the undesirable “other.”

Many different kinds of people have been harmfully “othered” throughout our country’s history, and the plights of these groups have received well-deserved attention and focus. But there is one group that we systematically other today—with hugely damaging consequences—while hardly even realizing that we are doing it. Those people are Americans living in poverty.

Research consistently finds that Americans exhibit a disturbing level of antipathy towards those on the economic margins. In a [2001 word-association study](#), researchers from Kansas State and Rice Universities asked subjects to rate how well a variety of words described different social groups. Compared to their ratings of middle-class people, and given no information except economic status, the average subject described poor people as 39 percent more “unpleasant,” 95 percent more “unmotivated,” and twice as “dirty.”

In another [2002 study](#), researchers from Princeton, UCLA, and Lawrence University asked students and adults to gauge society’s views toward several often-stereotyped groups. Other outgroups were demeaned as either incompetent but personally warm, or unfriendly but competent; only the poor were consistently classified as both unfriendly and incompetent. Americans, it seems, have a uniquely low opinion of poor people: We offer them neither our empathy nor our respect.

This antipathy is not the result of comfortable Americans having to endure constant exposure to the poor. On the contrary, a sharp uptick in socioeconomic stratification and segregation has been widely documented across the right and left, from Charles Murray to Robert Putnam. For growing percentages of middle- and upper-class Americans, interactions with poor and working-class people are very rare. Well-to-do Americans have almost no meaningful cultural contact with anyone from economically marginalized communities—from struggling inner cities to decaying suburbs to depressed rural counties.

One might surmise this separation is the result of the widespread negative attitudes about people in poverty. But there is good reason to believe the causality also runs in the other direction. Psychologists have long studied a phenomenon called the “[Ben Franklin effect](#),” named for the Founding Father’s observation that our appraisals of other people can actually follow our behavior towards them, rather than just the other way around. Specifically, Franklin noted, we tend to like people more after we have granted them a favor.

A canonical psychology experiment from 1971 lent weight to Franklin’s hypothesis—and its unpleasant flip side. Researchers at the University of North Carolina divided subjects into “learners” and “teachers” and asked the latter to teach the former a simple task. When the learners made mistakes, the teachers were randomly assigned either to reassure and encourage the learners or to insult and criticize them. Later, the teachers were questioned about the likability of their learners. Rather than sympathizing with the people the experiment had randomly forced them to victimize, the teachers rated the learners they’d insulted more negatively than the people they had praised and encouraged. Even though the teachers had not chosen the structure that surrounded them, it nevertheless adulterated their empathy and reduced their fellow-feeling for people they had no reason to dislike.

Given all this, it is reasonable to conclude that middle-class and wealthy Americans’ social distance from people in poverty exists in a mutually-reinforcing cycle with the contempt they feel towards them. This textbook case of othering grows even more intense when social distance involves the overlay of multiple identities, such as race, class, religion and ethnicity. When the range of ascribed differences between groups is greater, the outgroup is that much likelier to be viewed as intrinsically different or alien.

Some evolutionary biologists describe this tendency to sort ourselves into ingroups and outgroups as an organic phenomenon that once served a defensive function. But today, othering is a political and social process, and it poses a grave moral problem. Othering uses bonds of shared identity to deny empathy and a sense of belonging to others. It

gives elites and dominant groups an excuse to see social problems as distant pathologies, rather than soluble crises affecting people who are like them. And in the specific case of people living in poverty, it creates manmade barriers to the social inclusion and economic mobility of vulnerable people and communities.

Without intervention, this problem is likely to only get worse. A prosperous society like ours will always have the ability to sustain those in poverty in ways that may be materially adequate, but this can be totally bereft of any meaningful sense of autonomy or earned success. We need to address the forces that are pulling us apart along social and economic lines. We need, both personally and structurally, to change the way we see our fellow citizens who are struggling.

To begin with, traditional welfare programs—while materially important—sometimes exacerbate othering insofar as they treat temporarily poor people as permanent cases of “dependency” who are net liabilities to the American economy and do not really belong in productive society. These programs are secondary lines of defense against poverty at best. And if we continue to see these brothers and sisters of ours as people who do not really belong in our country, we are not likely to support policies that actually lift them up into economic self-sufficiency.

Our primary policy focus must not merely be *helping* the poor or the marginalized “other,” but rather restoring them to a position in which they are *needed*—in which they are necessary, integral participants in our economy, our communities, and our collective imagination.

To be sure, there is no single silver bullet. Proposed policies will vary as widely as do Americans’ political preferences. Some will advocate for education reform to improve the human capital prospects of children in poverty. Others will call for criminal justice reform so our society incarcerates fewer people and better prepares the formerly imprisoned for re-entry. Still others will insist that broad tax and regulatory reform are the surest path to robust economic growth and more job opportunities for everyone.

A competition of ideas is healthy. But it requires a deep moral consensus: a shared belief in the equal dignity of *all* people. And that entails a deliberate, conscious effort to bridge the growing physical, cultural, and emotional gaps that increasingly set low-income people apart as something other than the rest of America.

Focusing intently on this problem is neither a progressive nor a conservative stance; it simply follows from remembering our national roots and our shared humanity. Everyone reading this has a different family story. Some of us descended from penniless immigrants; others from political refugees; some were dispossessed of their land and culture; still others, to our country’s shame, were brought here in chains. What very few American families have in their past is power or privilege.

We are a nation comprised of people with huge variation in our racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds—and in our current economic status. But there are many things we share, and not least among them is the fact that almost everyone is descended from people whose families experienced poverty and marginalization. We respect our ancestors by recognizing and claiming today’s poor people as our brothers and sisters, and by rebuilding a society and an economy capable of creating greater justice for everyone.

Othering the poor will only cease when we acknowledge the truth: They are us, and we all belong together.

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john a. powell is the director of the Haas Institute.

Arthur Brooks is the president of the American Enterprise Institute.

Both authors are members of the [US Partnership on Mobility from Poverty](#).

### ***Advocacy Actions: #DefendDACA***

The activism and advocacy necessary in the wake of the rescission of DACA does not end with successfully renewing the work permits and deferred action of eligible beneficiaries. Immigrant rights groups, advocacy networks, and politicians are already working hard to get Congress to pass the bipartisan DREAM Act. This Act would finally create a direct path for citizenship for a select number of undocumented immigrants, a group which includes those eligible for or currently benefitting from DACA.

To find out more about this national fight to #DefendDACA and make the DREAM Act a reality, we highly recommend learning about the organizations United We Dream (<https://unitedwedream.org/>) and We Are Here to Stay (<http://weareheretostay.org/>).

You can also join in defending DACA by calling your elected officials and telling them you support DACA. The above listed websites can help you with this, and you can also find the numbers for your Member of Congress here: <https://www.contactingcongress.org/3-1-1-1-1/n/n>.

### ***Advocacy Actions: Fight for Immigrants' Rights and Immigration Reform***

Thanks to the advocacy of people from all walks of life, and from all parts of California, Governor Brown recently signed to very important pieces of legislation into law: **SB-54** and **SB-29**. SB-54, commonly known as the "Sanctuary Bill," has made California a safer place for immigrant communities, by separating the actions of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers from the duties of local law enforcement officers. SB-29, or the "Dignity Not Detention Act," is designed to stop for-profit immigration detention facilities in California from expanding or contracting with ICE.

Despite these victories, there are still many ways to advocate for change on a local or state-wide level. The California Immigrant Policy Center is a wonderful place to find ways to engage in everything from the fight for expanded healthcare to workers' rights: <https://www.caimmigrant.org/what-we-do/>. The Immigration Legal Resource Center (ILRC) is another great source of information, educational material, and the famous Red Cards: <https://www.ilrc.org/>

Another important organization, especially with the Trump Administration's discourse on youth from Central America, is Kids in Need of Defense (KIND). By visiting their website, you can find out more about how to help some of the most vulnerable immigrants in our country: <https://supportkind.org/>

### ***About Canal Alliance***

Canal Alliance is the only provider of comprehensive and affordable Immigration Legal Services (ILS) in Marin County. ILS also serves as another initial point of service entry for many clients seeking information about their legal rights and options and offers a key pathway out of poverty by helping clients gain legal work authorization.

Canal Alliance has been the leading service provider and community advocate for Marin's extremely low-income immigrant community for 35 years. Our primary goal is to help individuals and families access education and legal services in order to break the cycle of generational poverty. Also recognizing the many challenges and barriers the Latino community confronts in attempting to access education,



earn a living wage, and improve their financial security, we utilize four integrated strategies aimed at removing these barriers: Case Management, Behavioral Health, and Education, in addition to the work of the Immigration Legal Services team.

### ***Ways to Get Involved***

**Sign up to receive our monthly newsletter:** Learn more about our services and impact, access immigration resources, and find out about ongoing and special volunteer opportunities: [canalalliance.org](http://canalalliance.org).

**Make a donation:** Your donation in any amount supports our capacity to meet the needs of our clients, which rise in times of uncertainty. Please make a secure one-time or recurring gift online at [donate.canalalliance.org](http://donate.canalalliance.org), or mail a check to the address below.

**Invite Canal Alliance to speak to your company, school or group:** For immigration related issues, contact Sarah Emory at [SarahE@canalalliance.org](mailto:SarahE@canalalliance.org) or 415-306-0414. For other topics, please contact Margarita Galindo at [MargaritaG@canalalliance.org](mailto:MargaritaG@canalalliance.org) or 415-306-0415.

**Create an online, peer-to-peer fundraising campaign** and invite your friends and colleagues to support Canal Alliance on #GivingTuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. For more information contact David Parada at [DavidP@canalalliance.org](mailto:DavidP@canalalliance.org) or 415-306-0443.

**Food Pantry & Open Market Assistants:** Individual and group volunteers are needed on Tuesday mornings to provide residents with access to healthy, free groceries: [food-pantry/canalalliance.org](http://food-pantry/canalalliance.org).

**Other Volunteer Opportunities:** If you are interested in volunteering in volunteering with Canal Alliance, you can find the full list of opportunities, as well as how to sign up to be a volunteer here: <https://www.canalalliance.org/volunteer>. You can also feel free to contact our Development Coordinator, Fernando Barreto, directly to enquire about opportunities for engagement. He can be reached at [FernandoB@canalalliance.org](mailto:FernandoB@canalalliance.org) or (415) 306-0452.



## ***Immigration Legal Services***

***We offer immigration legal services to low-income Marin County residents***

Address: 91 Larkspur St. San Rafael, CA 94901

Phone (415) 306-0437 Email: [immigration@canalalliance.org](mailto:immigration@canalalliance.org)

**Asylum for minors:** children or young people under 21 who have left their country of origin and are afraid to return may be eligible for asylum.

**Citizenship classes:** we offer classes in English to prepare for the citizenship test.

**DACA:** no new applications or renewals are available at this time, but we are offering consultations to evaluate eligibility for other remedies.

**Know Your Rights:** we provide information on how to prepare in case of an encounter with law enforcement agencies and immigration officers. Know your constitutional rights regardless of legal status!

**Legal consultations:** learn about your immigration options, including family petitions, and other remedies.

**Naturalization:** we help permanent residents apply for US citizenships after 3 or 5 years as permanent residents, depending on the case.

**Renewals:** we assist in the renewal of green cards and work permits.

**Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS):** for young people under 21 years old and single. They have to prove that they cannot be reunited with one or both parents and have suffered abuse, neglect or abandonment.

**T Visa:** victims of human trafficking may be eligible for a T visa that allows them to obtain a work permit.

**Temporary Protected Status (TPS):** people from certain countries that the US government has designated, may be eligible to remain in the US temporarily

**U Visa:** the victims of a serious crime (e.g., domestic violence, kidnapping, sexual abuse, and many other crimes) may be eligible to receive a work permit.

**VAWA (Violence Against Women Act):** spouses and children of US citizens or lawful permanent residents and parents of US citizens who have been beaten or abused, may qualify for permanent residence.

**Note:** We reserve the right to change this list according to our capacity. Given the volume of customers we serve every day, we can't guarantee immediate availability. The fee for the first consultation is \$25

***Canal Alliance helps low-income Spanish-speaking immigrants acquire the tools they need to thrive.***



### **Servicios Legales de Inmigración**

**Ofrecemos servicios legales de inmigración a residentes de bajos recursos del Condado de Marin.**

Dirección: 91 Larkspur St. San Rafael, CA 94901  
Teléfono (415) 306-0437 Email: Immigration@canalalliance.org

**Asilo para menores de edad:** niños o jóvenes menores de 21 años que han dejado su país de origen y tienen miedo de regresar pueden ser elegibles para el asilo.

**Ciudadanía estadounidense:** para residentes permanentes luego de 3 o 5 años, dependiendo del caso. Preparamos y enviamos la solicitud.

**Clases de ciudadanía:** ofrecemos clases en inglés para prepararse para su examen de educación cívica (historia y gobierno).

**Conozca sus derechos:** ofrecemos información sobre cómo prepararse en caso de tener un encuentro con un agente de inmigración. Conozca cuáles son sus derechos constitucionales independientemente de su estatus legal.

**Consultas legales:** infórmese sobre sus opciones de inmigración, peticiones familiares, y otros alivios migratorios.

**DACA:** No se puede solicitar ni renovar los beneficios de DACA ahora mismo, pero ofrecemos consultas legales para evaluar elegibilidad para otros remedios.

**Estatus de Protección Temporal (TPS):** las personas de ciertos países que el gobierno de EE.UU. ha designado, pueden ser elegibles para permanecer en los EE.UU. temporalmente.

**Estatus Especial Para Inmigrantes Juveniles (SIJS):** para los jóvenes menores de 21 años de edad y solteros. Tienen que demostrar que no pueden ser reunificados con uno o ambos padres y que han sufrido abuso, negligencia o abandono.

**Renovaciones:** asistimos en la renovación de la tarjeta de residencia y permisos de trabajo.

**VAWA (o Ley de Violencia contra la Mujer):** los cónyuges e hijos de ciudadanos estadounidenses o residentes permanentes legales y los padres de ciudadanos estadounidenses que han sido golpeados o abusados pueden calificar para la residencia permanente.

**Visa T:** víctimas de tráfico de personas pueden ser elegibles para una visa T que les permite obtener un permiso de trabajo.

**Visa U:** las víctimas de un crimen grave (por ejemplo, violencia doméstica, secuestro, abuso sexual, y muchos otros delitos) pueden ser elegibles para recibir un permiso de trabajo.

**Nota:** nos reservamos el derecho de cambiar esta lista de acuerdo con nuestra capacidad. Dado el volumen de clientes que atendemos diariamente, no podemos garantizar citas inmediatas. El pago por la cita inicial es \$25

**Canal Alliance ayuda a inmigrantes de habla hispana y de bajos recursos económicos, adquirir las habilidades y capacidades que necesitan para prosperar.**

