

# THE WEST VIRGINIA BLACK POLICY AGENDA 2024

The West Virginia Black Policy Agenda is community-rooted and community-driven—a roadmap to a thriving West Virginia where every person can live a happy, healthy life in safe and flourishing communities.

## WE BELIEVE IN A WEST VIRGINIA THAT:



### Ensures **economic** dignity and opportunity for all

- **Creation of a state Child Tax Credit** to increase economic security for families with children
- **A Small Business and Minority Populations Economic and Workforce Development Task Force** to empower small businesses and promote economic opportunities for minorities
- **Tax Credits for Diversity and Inclusion** to incentivize businesses to hire, promote, and develop women and minorities into leadership roles
- **Passage of the CROWN Act** which makes it illegal to discriminate based on hair texture or style
- **Reparations** to West Virginia's African American population



### Invests in an equitable and **well-funded public education** system

- **A Youth Advisory Council for Civic Engagement** to encourage civic engagement among young people
- **Increased access to high-quality early childhood education** in all communities
- **School suspension disparities among Black students are eliminated** through restorative practices, increased access to diverse educators, and investments in student support service
- **Equal funding for West Virginia State University** and a plan to address decades of underfunding

# WE BELIEVE IN A WEST VIRGINIA THAT:



## Shrinks the **criminal legal system**

- **Reductions in the number of West Virginians incarcerated** in prisons and jails
- **Second Chance Policies** to allow those with lengthy sentences to petition for reconsideration after serving a significant portion of their time
- **Reducing technical parole and probation violations** that drive overcrowded jail conditions
- **Ending the privatization of jail and prison services** that increases the financial burden on loved ones of incarcerated people
- **Investments in the reentry supports needed for those leaving the justice system to succeed** including affordable housing, access to health care, and jobs



## Builds healthy communities, **housing,** and **environment**

- **Giving all West Virginians access to clean drinking water**
- **Creation of a WV Community Development Equity Fund** to support equitable community development projects
- **Dilapidated Property Assessments** investing in and marking dilapidated properties



## Prioritizes the **health of its people**

- **School-based mental health supports and substance use treatment** to increase access to supports for young people
- **Enactment of West Virginia Bridge Plan** to maximize available federal dollars by instituting a Basic Health Plan option that builds on WV Medicaid's administrative and provider networks
- **Improving Black Infant and Maternal Health** through improved data collection and increasing access to culturally-appropriate care
- **Establishment of a Minority Health Advisory Team to improve Black health and well-being**
- **Fully Funds and Protects Access to Medicaid and CHIP**



## Has abundant **food security**

- **A Food Desert Produce Pilot Program** to increase access to quality, accessible, affordable food in food deserts
- **Supports for Black farmers and growers**