

THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

WEBINAR

THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN AT TWO YEARS:
HOW LATINOS ARE LEVERAGING EQUITABLE DEPLOYMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDS

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UNCORRECTED TRANSCRIPT – CHECK AGAINST RECORDING

WELCOMING REMARKS:

AMY LIU
Interim President, The Brookings Institution

KEYNOTE REMARKS (PRE-RECORDED):

THE HON. PAUL RUIZ
Member, U.S. House of Representatives (D-CA25)

PANEL DISCUSSION:

TONANTZIN CARMONA (Moderator)
David M. Rubenstein Fellow, Brookings Metro

JANIS BOWDLER
Counselor to the Secretary for Racial Equity, U.S. Department of the Treasury

VLADIMIR CARRASCO
Deputy Director of External Affairs, The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights
Organizing Coordinator, Immigrants are Los Angeles

DANIELA FLORES
Co-Founder and Executive Organizer, Imperial Valley Equity and Justice Coalition

JACQUELINE MARTINEZ GARCEL
Chief Executive Officer, Latino Community Foundation

SPOKEN WORD POETRY PERFORMANCE:

JOSE CORDON
Poet and Community Organizer, Monument Impact

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AMY LIU: Great. Good afternoon. It's great to see everyone. My name is Amy Liu, and I am the current president of the Brookings Institution. And I want to welcome all of you, both those who are in the room and those who are joining us virtually today. I'm just really excited that you all are gathering today for what is going to be a very important program. And in fact, I just think I'm just thrilled that Brookings is able to host a conversation about this important topic today. And what is that topic? What we're going to talk about today and what I hope we all learn today is about ways to center the nation's second largest ethnic group, the Hispanic or Latino community in the nation's economic future. And for that reason, Brookings is also very pleased to be co-hosting today's event with the Latino Community Foundation, whose mission is to convene to empower to invest in Latino led organizations in California. Now, as the title of the program implies, this month marks two years since President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act. The new law has many provisions and objectives. But the one that I want to emphasize today, I think for many of those in the room and on the zoom is the \$350 billion in flexible state and local aid to help in part. Communities and small businesses disproportionately impacted by the pandemic so they can bounce back even stronger than before. Now, as you all well know, to do that means that we have to acknowledge the structures of inequality that existed pre-pandemic, which thus made the burden of recovery highly borne by low income households. Hourly paid workers and other underserved populations. And the American Rescue Plan was a precursor to what would become a group of sweeping legislation, including the Infrastructure Jobs Act, the Inflation Reduction Act, the Chips and Science Act, which together is going to put billions of dollars right now in community revitalization. In short, in transforming the way the nation approaches place based economic opportunity and how to expand that and the place based opportunity is obviously at the hallmark of the work that the Brookings Metro program does, which is putting this program together on behalf of the institution. And I just wanted to note that Andre Perry and Manon Donohue recently put out a report that found that between 2015 and 2020, there were over 5200 majority minority U.S. cities in the country. Think about that. 5200 of our local communities are already majority people of color. And that is why a focus on empowering local communities, empowering majority Latino communities is at the hallmark of how we're going to get to a more vibrant, inclusive future. And the totality of the entire federal moment is why today's conversation is more than just about the American Rescue Plan Act. So as you listen to the panelists and the speakers today, I think we can all take some very important cues about what we can do better together to invest and improve our investment in the capacities of Latino led organizations and other majority Latino and majority black communities and leaders so they can be participants in our economic future in economic empowerment. I want to close by saying why is this topic important to Brookings now? For Brookings Mission Brookings Metro, which I know well, their mission speaks very much to what I think everyone in this room cares about. Brookings Metro's mission is to make sure that every community, no matter its starting point, can be prosperous, just and resilient. And given that cities are on the front lines of demographic change thanks to the work they are built. Our colleague Bill Frye chronicles all the time. They're also going to be at the front lines of the solutions for how we're going to embrace a multiracial, multiethnic future. The institution itself is committed to race, prosperity, inclusion. We have an initiative focused on this and our commitment to diversity Equity inclusion is not just making sure the institution itself represents the current population the future. Two generations of our leaders. But it also has to show up in the way we frame our research and who we produce research with and which organizations we empower to be part of change. I think at the end, who we convene and lift up voices in shaping our nation's future. And I think that goes back to what I think is really fundamental about Brookings is at the heart is that we do bring trusted knowledge to our civil society. And at the heart of a thriving, healthy democracy is trusted information in the hands of citizens and civil society members. So you all can really shape our future in the most proximate and responsible way. That's our job. And I'm really looking forward to hearing from our leaders today to make sure that our policymakers and our ideas are rooted in your collective experience. So let me talk about the program. We're going to have a panel here that's going to include the CEO of the Latino Community Foundation, Jacqueline Garcel, leaders from two nonprofit organizations that exemplify how philanthropy and nonprofits collaborate to ensure that the American Rescue Plan funds are deployed and invested equitably. We have Janis Bowdler, who serves as counselor to for Racial equity to the U.S. Treasury Secretary, Janet Yellen. And that panel is going to be moderated by my colleague Tonantzin Carmona. And I just

have to say, it is such a real asset for the institution to have to nance and be part of our Brookings research community. Not only is she brilliant, she also comes from experience working directly with community leaders and residents. And it is that experience working the city of Chicago and her belief in hearing directly with community leaders is what makes her research so powerful and relevant. And so really grateful to have you here at Brookings. And she is going to be leading the conversation with everyone here and her current, by the way, I should say that her current work at Brookings is going to be on how to elevate our policy understanding around the Latino wealth in the United States. Now, following the panel, I'm going to ask you, everyone, to stay because we're going to have a fantastic youth poet. Who is that? Where is that? Yes. Thank you for joining us. He's going to close our program today with his own spoken word from an original piece. Thank you for joining us today. And before I turn things over to Tonantzin, we're going to hear remarks from Congressman Raul Ruiz. Unfortunately, the congressman could not join us in person today, but he did agree to give and provide recorded remarks we're going to present in just a moment. Congress Congressman Ruiz represents California's 25th District, just east of Los Angeles, which encompasses the imperial vet Imperial Valley, where our panelist Daniela Flores and the Imperial Valley Equity and Justice Coalition resides. Daniela, where are you? Where are you? What's your hand? Say hello to everyone. Congressman Ruiz was the first Latino to receive three graduate degrees from Harvard University. He attended Harvard Medical School, the John F Kennedy School and the Harvard School of Public Health. He is the immediate past president of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, leading on issues affecting the Latino community. And with that, Karen, we're going to hear from the congressman.

RAUL RUIZ: Hello. I'm Congressman Dr. Raul Ruiz, and I'm an emergency medicine physician and I represent California's 25th Congressional District. And I'm the immediate past chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. It is my pleasure to be part of today's commemoration of two years of the American Rescue Plan. I think Brookings and the Latino Community Foundation for hosting this important event to discuss the impact of this historic legislation on the Latino communities. Before I begin, however, I want to recognize two very special guests in the audience today my constituents, Daniela Flores and Luis Gallegos. Daniela of the Imperial Valley Equity and Justice Coalition is from Calexico, California. Daniela has been on the front lines working to ensure that communities in California's 25th Congressional District are benefiting from the vital federal resources secured in the American Rescue Plan, from expanding broadband access to providing greater support for our communities. Farmworkers It is young people like Daniela who are moving our nation toward a brighter future. And Luis Gallegos of today is a champion of the immigrant and farmworker communities in the Coachella Valley and beyond. Since the start of this pandemic, Luis has worked tirelessly to provide our farmworkers with protective equipment and vaccines, and it has been a humbling experience to stand and work alongside both of them, to bring resources to our communities and to advocate for the respect and dignity that our farm workers and their families in California's 25th District deserve. When I began my tenure as chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus last Congress, we were in the depths of a global pandemic, a pandemic that weighed disproportionately heavy on Latino and immigrant communities in California and across our nation. And as the son of farmworkers and as an emergency physician and long witnessed the many health inequities that Latino communities experienced before this pandemic. But as the past chair of the Hispanic Caucus, I used those experiences to advocate and pass necessary legislation to provide the relief like the Latino communities needed to recover. In March 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan two years later. Latino communities across this nation are seeing promising results when Latinos and Latinas experience a lack of access to lifesaving vaccines. The American Rescue Plan provided the funding and resources to ramp up production and distribution when Latinos and Latinas with children experience job loss. The American Rescue Plan offered imported child tax credits to help them pay for food, rent and other essential items. And I'm happy to report that in a short amount of time, more than 1.2 million Latino and Latina children fell out of poverty because of this critical measure. And finally, the American rescue plan offered Latino and Latino leaders a chance to build the future of their own communities. California received \$16 billion of state and local recovery funds from the American Rescue Plan so that local officials could work with their residents and fund the projects most needed in their communities from providing much needed pay to farm workers to fund job training programs for our youth. It is

when people like Daniella lose who have tapped into these resources to fund a long term visions for their families. With the support of the Latino Community Foundation, Latino and Latino grassroots leaders across California have leveraged over \$300 million of their resources to address mental health, farmworker, housing and much more. The conversation you will hear today will touch on how leaders and local communities benefited from the American Rescue plan and address what more needs to be done for our communities. With the recent passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act, never before have Latino communities seen an opportunity for resources to fulfill the promise of this nation. I'm excited for what is to come, and in me, all of you are going to realize Latinas have a partner advocate and a champion. [Speaking Spanish], we will keep working for our communities and we will succeed. I wish you all a great event and thank you.

TONANTZIN CARMONA: Hello? Hello. How is everyone doing today? Thank you so much for joining us. Everyone who's here in person, it just makes me so happy to see so many familiar new faces. Thank you. For everybody who is watching online. We saw the RSVP list from all over the country and it was so heartening to see that I am Tonantzin Carmona. I am a Rubenstein fellow here at the Brookings Metro program, and I am delighted to be joined by this powerhouse panel today. Next to me is Daniela Flores of the Imperial Valley Equity and Justice Coalition. Then we have Vladimir Carrasco of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights. Yes. And immigrants are Los Angeles. Then we have, of course, Jacqueline Martinez, Garcel of the Latino Community Foundation, which we are so proud to host this event with today. And last but not least, Janis Bowdler from the BOWDLER from the U.S. Department of Treasury. And, you know, it was so great to actually hear from the congressman today because, I mean, he hit it right on the nose, as we know. And I think part of why everybody was interested in joining this conversation today is because Latinos were disproportionately impacted by the public health and the economic consequences of the pandemic. But we also know that we had a federal government that responded with historic investments aimed to recover, to rebuild our communities. I think it was about \$1.9 trillion that was injected into our economy. Of that 350 billion of those were part of the state and local fiscal recovery funds. But a big question was how are we going to ensure that they reach the communities that they that most need them, that really need that extra help to rebuild? And so we're very excited to hear directly from folks who are on the ground doing this work of meeting this need. But in addition to a story about the role of Latinos in leveraging federal funds, I think it's also really great conversation about the role that nonprofits, government and philanthropy play together in ensuring the equitable deployment of funds. So I think that it would be really great to kick off actually the panel with maybe Janis who can talk a little bit about perhaps an overview for our audience today about the way that the American rescue plan impacted local governments and maybe speak to, if possible, the ways that the Biden administration ensured that the way that these funds were deployed was done so in an equitable manner.

JANIS BOWDLER: Yeah, well, first of all, thank you so much for having me. It's great to see everybody in this room and it just makes my heart happy that we are having this conversation and at this important time. And I just want to recognize the moment that we're in where we have the two year anniversary of the American Rescue plan. And so we're appropriately reflecting on what have we have accomplished, what do we still have to do? We're having this conversation in a moment where we have three more once in a generation, pieces of legislation that are going into full implementation mode. And I know we're going to get to this. We're talk about what did we learn on our pay that we can fold into that. But we're also in a moment where it's a big open question for some, probably not so much on this panel, but for some and why have targeted strategies to reach vulnerable communities. And I'm hoping that throughout this conversation we talk about why that is so important. And we get beyond just the buzzwords, but we talk about the fact and this is certainly from the Biden-Harris administration, the reason why equity was a de one priority is because in in a moment of global competitiveness, we cannot be at our fullest strength. We cannot be our most competitive, robust economy if we're leaving talent and potential on the sidelines. And that's and that's what we have been doing. I mean, let's be honest, our economy has not worked well for black and brown people from goal, but we're in this moment where we have these infusion of resources. We had recent lessons from the 2008 Great Recession and we said this time we want

to do it. Different. We want to rebuild in a way that we are strategically investing in the most vulnerable parts of our economy. So let me just quickly hit a couple of ways that that happened. You mentioned at the top 1.2 trillion. At 1.9 trillion, 1 trillion of that was administered through Treasury, through a variety of different programs. And another benefit of this conversation that you guys have structured, as you see all the pieces that we needed, Congressman, like Congressman Ruiz, who helped, gave us a great tool set. But then we have to implement it with lots of tiny policy decisions along the way. And then we need partners on the ground to make it happen. Emergency Rental Assistance Act. Right. We had active conversations between Treasury and communities and state and local partners where we could see that we weren't quite hitting the mark. We were not getting to the most vulnerable families. And we made changes based on that, including allowing families to self attest to their hardship and being able to make payments directly to tenants when landlords were not cooperative. That changed the dynamics significantly as a result as of December. And sure, I got my numbers right. 10.3 million rental payments made, 70% to women. Almost half were black and a third were Latino. Those are incredible numbers, state and local fiscal recovery funds. We made the decision in places that were hardest hit by COVID that those localities would have the most flexibility in how they administered funds, but they had to have a community listening process in place in order to get that flexibility. We couple that with public reporting, which groups like folks on this panel have used to hold their localities accountable and to advocate for what communities need. I'll quickly mention as well, Homeowner Assistance Fund, similar process before states were allowed to be in the process of submitting their their plan for this. They had to document the hardships that families were facing and they had to document it across demographic group and where there are disparities and then demonstrate how their plan matched up against those disparities. So they had evidence based policy based on what's happening in their state. Very early days on this program as well. But so far, 57% of very low income homeowners, 35% are black, 20% are Latino, 64% are female. These are not numbers that we typically see in some of these programs. We often find that our communities actually under index according to their eligibility. But because of the, I think, some intentional policy design decisions and then an incredible partnership with folks like Vlad and Daniela and others in this room to have a ground game, to get the word out, to reach vulnerable families. I could say the same about child tax credit that we heard the congressman reference rate non-filers filing for the first time. This was incredible effort through local organizations, through faith organizations. So I could go on and on because I think there's a lot here, but I want to get into the conversation. The thing I'll underscore is I pass it back to you is that when you are doing implementation, there are dozens upon dozens of these small decisions that get made in the way that programs are structured after the statute. And I would encourage everybody to really pay attention to the implementation phase. The work that you all do is not done when the legislation passes. You have to keep going and take a look at how implementation is structured. Execution, execution, execution.

TONANTZIN CARMONA: Thank you so much. That was so great. And we actually have a lot of folks in local governments that are watching online. And so implementation, implementation, implementation. We're going to just send that as a reminder. I also wanted to note that for folks that are following either here in person or online, our hashtag is hashtag AARP at two years. So you can also submit questions or join the conversation that way. I actually love to pass it now to Jacqueline, you know, hearing that. What was your thought process when you heard of the AARP investments, like what prompted the Latino Community Foundation to respond in the way that it did and respond in such a way where it was kind of like very fast, quick action to say that we're going to leverage these funds. But I would love to hear from you.

JACQUELINE MARTINEZ GARCEL: It's a great question. And I have to say, Janis, it's so good to be sitting on this panel with you. I think we. Both have spoken this in every circles that we've been to and to share this piece at Brookings. Thank you for making this possible. To see this room filled with Latino faces is another accomplishment. So I'm so glad that we're here to discuss this. It was so good to see you. This question of why LCF stepped in with such urgency. These investments can only probably compare to what Lyndon Johnson did on his war on poverty. And in fact, the impact of it is beginning to be seen as we see childhood poverty being cut by half. When we also

look back to legislations like in the 1956, the federal highway legislation that was passed to help mostly white suburbia own homes and build those homes, that legislation had to be cut through communities of color and build highways that really damaged a lot of our communities. So number one was a moment in time we were living in. This level of investment is once in a generation, and we had to do this right. Number two, to hear the administration not only speak of equity, but hire people who spent their entire life focusing on equity was a game changer because we know that when we center the work on equity, everyone actually wins. Great paper by Angela Blackwell on how we build a multiracial democracy. Equity is not about blacks, Latinos, indigenous. It's about the country as a whole. Janis You mentioned not leaving anyone behind. The truth is that when we create economic opportunities for communities who have been marginalized, we actually create the type of inclusive economy that actually benefits the democracy as a whole. So that was number two. Number three. Philanthropy on its own will never solve this issue, these issues of inequity. So here is a moment for a sector who like government. I hate to say this works too slow. We're always waiting on more data. We're always doing a theory of change. We're always doing strategic planning. We can't afford to do that. We've known what the problems are. We've known these issues for decades now. Here's a moment in a generation where the money's on the table. How do we equip the leaders, who know the solutions, who are leading in their communities, tap into those. It was very simple. We didn't need to go back and recreate a new theory of change or a logic model. The money is on the table. There's a cliff. Everybody's talking about. This are cliff that's coming in 2026. How do we make sure that the leaders like Luiz and Daniela and others in this room have the resources to support and the information that they need to act quickly? So it was really easy to act.

TONANTZIN CARMONA: So easy. Okay. Know, I love that. I love that passion. And it's so true. It's like the urgency is there for our communities. And so I actually would love to hear from both of you in terms of that urgency. You know, how did you both are part of organizations that are constantly serving on the ground, seeing the needs that need to be met, their urgent. And I'm curious, how did you go about leveraging these investments? And in that process, you know, the challenges, the opportunities, have they been able to serve your communities in the way that they need or will they be able to serve in the way that they need? Maybe we can start with Daniela.

DANIELA FLORES: Everyone, thank you so much for having me. It's really great to be here. I want to just provide maybe a few seconds of sharing a little bit more about the community where I'm from. So Ivey Equity and Justice Coalition is a grassroots, voluntary, primarily volunteer based group in Calexico, the border between Calexico, Mexicali, California, and Mexico. And it is one of the places, unfortunately, where there is as number two and unemployment in the nation. And it also is being looked at as the future of Lithium Valley, the lithium that we need for the implementation of other big plans that we have here to move to a green industry. And unfortunately, you know, this community, like many other communities along California, the many valleys, right, where industry traditionally sits at the table. And, you know, in this case ag industry having a lot of the power. And so really this opportunity, you know, our group came about in the pandemic, not necessarily super planned, but more in response of the emergency that was at hand that we were starting to see that yet again. Industry called the shots as to how resources were distributed in the in the protective equipment to the vaccines. And, you know, we were our group came together to call out that injustice and speak that. Loudly. And in order to kind of get some some relief and ensure the distribution happened differently. And so our group was focused on the vaccine distribution and, you know, distributing a lot of the resources, getting ensuring people knew how to access things like a lot of wonderful CPO, community based organizations throughout the state and nation did. And so as an earlier group, you know, we're still feeling like we're responding. When the ARP funds are starting to get hit, the bank accounts of our cities and our counties. And so some counties made the decision really early, obligated the funds before organizers could even see that what was happening. So it really goes back to September, October 2021, when some of these decisions were being passed through to council. And, you know, we started to see the first allocation from the city of Calexico was to buy six cop cars for nearly \$1,000,000 and also to for each city worker to receive a \$7,000 bonus. And that was another million. And so there were some members of the community that were actually the ones to raise awareness, put some graphics up

there and really start to raise awareness about the amount of money and the kind of transformative opportunity that was at our fingertips. And so that was the launch of what became, you know, partnership with the policy team at the LCF. And we were able to essentially through a series of strategies, keep, keep pushing, keep resisting, keep exposing the kind of decisions that were being made. And, you know, I'm talking about Calexico, a place that has recently been exposed for, you know, decades of corruption by the auditors, the state of California. And so to be able to see one, the city's proposal for what these funds would be used. Well, we allied with one of the council members, Councilmember Ortega, now mayor, to develop an equitable plan. We wanted to see in a place where it's 100 and almost 25 degrees. We wanted to see downtown investment for climate resilience. We wanted to see funds in a place where there are no cooling centers in that degree, where unfortunately we have seen residents pass away on the side sidewalks. We wanted to see cooling centers. We wanted to see shade structures. We envisioned an investment in our essential workers, a bonus pay program to, you know, for for all the hardship that everyone has gone through. And so we really reimagine what we could do with these funds. You know, when the city was proposing funds for the airport, our our coalition and our residents in the city were advocating for human infrastructure. And so that was what we ended up envisioning for the use of what we were able to successfully approve \$7 million in an investment for our community. And from that, you know, it was using key advocacy tools, right, displaying them, making sure people knew what the council wanted to do with the money, making sure what the opportunity was, making sure what was possible with that, and asking residents like, what do we want to see this investment in? We, you know, launched several surveys to hear directly from people not only online but also in person talking to folks and were able to represent represent them, but also bring them bring us all along in their community, exercise to make decisions, funding decisions. And I'm probably already talking too much, so I'm going to start wrapping. This is great. Okay. Maybe the last thing I'll say, you know, the investment was kind of a once in a lifetime, but by we're hoping that this is just an exercise of also awareness, empowerment for our community in that we're able to see that if we organize and we vision together, we are able to tell elected officials what we would want to see the investments. And and so we're just hoping to apply these lessons with other funding opportunities in our community.

JACQUELINE MARTINEZ GARCEL: I always say and see people like Daniela run for office, so those decisions are made faster. So that's just me.

VLADIMIR CARRASCO: So I lost my hand, though, is like to to start with my Dominican line. But I sent them a part of my my job with the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights is that we get to lead the immigrants. Our L.A. campaign, born out of the immigrant integration task force that was already you see right there the example of philanthropy working with CBOs because the ITF is led by the community. California Community Foundation. So born out of this coalition of folks was the campaign that was focused on making sure that there was an equitable investment of ARPA funds, the \$1.9 billion that came into L.A. County. And then the strategy that worked for us really was an inside outside approach. We had a policy committee that focused on building relationships with the elected leaders and relevant county departments. And then we had an organizing committee and a communications committee that worked on putting the word out there to the community and then mobilizing the community to hold the elected officials accountable. And that led us to two big wins. One was the creation of a working group with county departments. And the immigrants are L.A. campaign, where communities were able to track the allocation of these funds and then also give push back and hold the elected officials accountable when it comes to the implementation of this project. And then the other win was investments in five programs that focus on the immigrant community, universal legal representation, food assistance programs, closing the digital, the digital gap, equity, digital equity. The other one was infrastructure for community based organizations, and the most important one was Equity Service Navigator. So an entirely new program that's solely dedicated on creating outreach efforts to the immigrant community so that we know that these programs exist. So for us, it was really being able to do both. The inside outside approach resulted in \$163 million being allocated for the immigrant community in L.A. County. But that's only the beginning of the work. We represent over 33% of the county. And that was only 12% of the ARPA

funds. So we were just getting started. And that's why that's why we're here and we want to keep building these relationships. Yeah.

TONANTZIN CARMONA: That is amazing. I'm like, congratulations. And that's why this work is so important, you know? You know, you have to have philanthropy to be able to provide that space for organizations to be at the table to organize. I guess, you know, a few of you already alluded to like the lessons that you're learning for here and applying them elsewhere. I think we have the alphabet soup of new investments now. I think it's the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. We have the Inflation Reduction Act, we have the CHIPS and Science Act. And then on top of that, there's all of these like state funds. But I mean, these also are historic and have the potential to be incredibly transformative. And so I'm curious if and this is a question for all or some of you, whoever wants to jump in, how would you apply the lessons that you've learned through this experience with ARPA or the American Rescue Plan and apply it to now these other programs that are coming through?

JANIS BOWDLER: Sure, I'm happy to start. So I, I mentioned earlier how important implementation is in policy decisions. Some of the things that I think we saw worked really well. Of course, I already named community listening. Proximity to community is incredibly important. There's something that we did in the Emergency Capital investment program that I didn't mention in my first pass around creating deep impact criteria where essentially we were looking at in that case, that was an investment in CDF, I mdis of which significant resources flowed to California. Under that about there are about ten recipients that are headquartered in California. But the deep impact criteria focused on institutions with a track record, a proven track record of investing in low income communities, underserved communities, the underserved small businesses, affordable housing. I stress that because I think one of the things that are really important when we look at the next round of investments is looking at who has a track record of working in our communities and how do we leverage that infrastructure as we're deploying these dollars. I think there's a moment where there are a number of institutions who are saying, Oh, look, there are some resources over here. I too would love to serve the Latino community. And if you don't have that history, if you don't have the cultural competency, if you don't have the team, if you don't understand the community, that's going to be very challenging for you to execute, even under the best of intentions. We don't want to crowd out institutions, but we want to make sure that we're working with institutions that are credible in communities. So I think that's a huge takeaway that we can roll forward. One thing that I'll quickly say, and maybe this is a way to toss to my fellow panelists here is the thing I'm looking at. Is the intersection now of shifting from recovery to growth opportunities. That's what we have lined out, and I think we've made this switch internally. Well, I understand that there. We still have plenty of communities that are still struggling that still need recovery. I have shifted my language internally to focusing on Latino communities, black communities, indigenous communities, investment opportunities that we have to make these investment opportunities. As Jacqueline said, this is growth opportunity for our entire country and we're not investing here. We're leaving critical resources on the table. We're leaving money on the table when we do that. So thinking about it from an investment perspective, we have this intersection between investments in economic growth and the green economy and climate resiliency. And we have to think about and grow the way that our community is participating in conversations around the green economy and think about what our communities need, what do and not just what our communities need, how our small businesses positioned to take advantage of these programs, how our institutions learning and advocating on these issues. So I think about how we take these lessons into our next round of implementation, but also how are we bringing kind of a set of over a set of circles that don't overlap very often and be more intentional about how we're making sure that that happens so that communities of color are not left out of these huge investments that are coming around creating a clean economy.

JACQUELINE MARTINEZ GARCEL: Jump on that because the idea of centering the alphabet of legislation you just mentioned on equity is critical, right? So we're hopeful that this was going to also influence how the other ones have been thought through, both in implementation but also accountability to what my colleague, my lead said. Right. It's also how do we track where those

dollars went so we can wave and say, this is what we know happened and how do we continue to move forward in a way that evens that out, Right. So the equity part critical and you asked me the question, why did LCF move? I gave you my three reasons. The one that I feel that everyone in this room probably knows is the impact that COVID had on the Latino community. Right. So when we say equity is because the entire nation will benefit, but it's also when we look at what inequities have caused, it's human death, right? 50% of all deaths in California of COVID were amongst Latinos. When we look at the economic impact retail service sector, these were Latino fill jobs. So on the one hand, we were considered essential because we were asked to continue to shop. One out of five Latinos had a job that allowed them to work from home. But then on the backside of that, when it came to ensuring that their wages paid them enough to keep their roof over their head, or amongst undocumented workers who, by the way, contributed \$11 billion in taxes, \$1,000,000,000 into Social Security. And yet when it came to a lot of the federal dollars for the immediate relief, they weren't eligible. So equity critical to human moral issue. It's an economic investment that we make in our country. So the second thing that I would say in terms of what worked, embedding the community component where there was a requirement of local governments to bring in leaders and hear from them, allow Daniela t la today other groups to be able to say, no, no, no. We know that city council may not look like us and represent our values, but the federal government is saying you need to sit with us and hear from us. So while you want to invest in, you know, investing and policing communities, we also need investments in creating jobs for young people. And so those conversations were critical in this process, in part because it was written into the American rescue plan. And the third part that I'll add is the transparency. It's, you know, two years went by really quickly. And I think we're all just kind of coming out of the cloud right now to trying to figure out where exactly these dollars make a difference. We need. And this is where the partnership at Brookings makes a huge difference. You've all written about this is to see the beacons of light in all of this. Right. So when the dust settles, because this is a long term game and building infrastructure, investing in Latino led organization is something that philanthropy hasn't done for decades. Less than 1% of philanthropic dollars are invested in Latino led organizations. So how do we invest in that infrastructure? So when the government turns around and say we want to work with trusted leaders, the infrastructure is steady enough that they don't have to raise money to just maintain their current staff, that they have the resources that they need to keep hiring, keep growing, and keep meeting the level of scale. All that's being required of them. And I'll end there. I have a lot more to say.

VLADIMIR CARRASCO: I mean, that that's exactly all the things that I wanted to highlight, I think, right, is it's the infrastructure right to be able to have this community input. But also beyond that, I think it's also providing the support. So when it comes to passing new legislation, creating the prerequisite that not only is community input required, but putting funding aside to create that space for community input. And beyond that. Also, one of the things that we continue to face as we're trying to advocate for these dollars is that our most vulnerable community members are still left out because of exclusionary policies based on your immigration status or your status with the criminal punishment system. So we already know that all both these systems are incredibly flawed. So to disqualify someone from receiving assistance based on those is just exacerbating the problem. So removing those policies, I think would be essential.

DANIELA FLORES: Yeah, And I mean, adding to everything that my colleagues have already shared, I, I would just add something to support some of this. So in our work, I think one of the key core, I think reasons why we were able to get this kind of community win was because it was engagement of multiple generations, right? So it was us working in partnership with not only the established community based organizations that have been holding it down for decades and in the area of equity and justice. And also, you know, we when we were able to really reach out to the younger generations, really, you know, we have a whole, you know, student movement happening in Calexico with, you know, high school students. But really with that, with our it was really folks in their early twenties coming together with folks in their early thirties. And those folks really listening to the advice also of of all the knowledge that existed and organizing history and locally. And so I would say that for us it was it is about continuing to build community power. It's about continuing to build coalitions, being able to work with the existing community based organizations, but also

investing in the in the development of youth and in the leadership and in being able to essentially help repair some of the hurt and harm that really exists in communities and residents that are the ones that, you know, experiencing so much of this marginalization. There's a lot of hopelessness when you go out and start to organize organizing your, you know, why people aren't engaging, right? It's because they've been harmed before by entities that are supposed to protect them. And so it is a careful and, you know, really trying to be responsive to the pace that our community's moving and just, you know, doing it together, not only in coalition with other organizations, but with with the residents themselves and building all that power so that we are able to run for office because we believe that we can make a difference, you know.

JACQUELINE MARTINEZ GARCEL: It is a perfect case study of so our mission is to unleash a civic and economic power. Like when I hear that you're not talking about high school and 20 year olds like organizing to leverage federal dollars, like this is what it's all about. This is what democracy is all about. This is what the U.S. is supposed to be about. And and I say supposed to be meaning like we're still pushing through to get to this ideal. But the work that Daniela said, I'm saying this for all my colleagues in the philanthropic sector are hearing this The level of investment that's needed in youth led organizing is critical for the democracy of this country. We have a moment in time to leverage federal resources to open up new opportunities. But but I mean, do we need anything else to be said when we look at the leadership, the knowledge, the that the power and I don't like the word empower because we don't need to be handed power. They have the agency to be able to navigate and negotiate. They just need the resources, a platform in the space to get it done.

TONANTZIN CARMONA: So I think we have time for maybe one or two. Audience Question Oh, we've already got one right over there.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thanks. Hi. Alejandro Manzanares, J.P. Morgan Chase, head of Business Growth and Entrepreneurship. So, John, as we have to chat later. But my question is, you know, so much of our community is always around not just the message, but the messenger across every, you know, issue area that I think regarding the federal sort of apparatus investment over the past several years, we've sort of taken a shot at codifying a different grantmaking model of bringing in whether it would be SBA. Hoban spoke, you know, and kind of breaking and institutionalizing messengers into. But I know on the implementation side that's still yet being built out, codifying trying to replicate, standardize and scaled, eventually moving into the future, not the past. Janis, how for you is, you know, five years from now, how would you like the implementation model to bake in equity in a way that's not just, you know, a check in the box exercise, but actually, you know, a appropriate modern day policy delivery mechanism for multiracial America?

JANIS BOWDLER: That is an expansive question. So so I'm going to paint a broad picture here without trying to while still saving time for question, because I have some other questions. Okay. A couple of things. Implementations, a lot of things. The American Rescue plan, \$1 trillion at Treasuries in measure administered largely through states and localities. That has a certain set of requirements that come with it. It has advantages. It has disadvantages. How I would answer that question for ARPA funds is one where we're moving into Inflation Reduction Act, right? We're full steam ahead on that implementation for Treasury that is largely administered through the tax code. Right. We're talking about hundreds of millions of dollars in green tax credits, in community tax credits. I hope we get invited back to have a panel to talk about that because there's a lot to talk about there. But that that looks completely different, Right? Direct grant programs. And then if you're at a different agency and you have you're doing grants directly to nonprofits or intermediaries, that's different than going through state and local governments. So without trying to dodge the question, but in the interest of brevity, I would take a look at the structures in which we administer funds and think about how to achieve the most equitable outcomes based on each one of those structures. I do think there are some common themes and we've heard them on the panel. The more that we can bake in requirements around community participation, I think that is incredibly helpful. We are often going to need support from the philanthropic and private sector to make sure that our community institutions have the the time and resources to participate in that

and can bring full community intelligence to that. But making that inform go is really important. There is no there's no substitute. There's no federal government knocking on your door. Right. We need we need local navigators. We need local support. The second thing that we haven't talked as much about, but I'm very aware we're sitting in Brookings, and so I mentioned nerd out a little bit and say data. Data data. Right. The the numbers that I quoted earlier are because we baked in from the beginning demographic data collection and we're making that publicly available. That is how we hold ourselves accountable for our own aspirations. That's how we understand for these programs, some of which have ten year plus tails. How are we doing? What do we need to fix? How do we make sure that people that are closest to the community have the information to say, well, you didn't get it right because you know what? Chances are we're not going to get it right. Federal funding is a really blunt instrument, so that data is incredibly important and being able to collect is as much data as it's appropriate to disaggregate it and localize it consistent with privacy protections, I think is one of the most important things that we can do. It tells us if we're hitting the mark, it tells us where our gaps are and it keeps us honest where, when, when we're not hitting it like, then we can take a look at what we. Need to do. I think an important come baking in that iterative nature of this work is also really important for equity because things change. I think we need to be able to have be able to constantly look at the data and say circumstances on the ground have shifted and we need to be nimble and shift with it. We can't do that if we don't have the information and we're not being honest about the way that programs and resources are landing in communities.

TONANTZIN CARMONA: Thank you so much. So I do want to be conscious of time and I'm so sorry. Everyone's. No, that was fantastic. And we'll be around after this events. If everyone has like follow up questions. I would actually love before we all just leave and, you know, invite Hozier to come join us to close out our program, but also thank the panelists. First, I just didn't want you all to leave. It is a really important and powerful piece that is short, but it's a reminder for why this work matters.

JOSE GORDON: It's afternoon. Good afternoon, everybody. My name is also Gordon, which also this this poem is called Essential. And it was I wrote it at the request of the Latino Community Foundation that asked if I could put something together about our people being essential, how they were being called essential and things of that nature. And so I started exploring that topic through this poem. It's called Essential. Essential is defined as being absolutely necessary, extremely important, vital to a process. So after we put the pandemic behind us and its effects have been processed, I hope we don't put our hidden gym heroes back in America's utility closet. You see, America deemed some of its people essential, and all it took was a life threatening disease to remind them of the reasons they are special. Love them. Blessed too. As if before Corona, farm workers were producing less food like before that pesticides didn't fall on them too. I'm just saying pandemic. I'm just saying essential. Is it pandemic dependent? You are essential and is essential. Be grasped by interdependence, how we're connected and how we've affected the planet through all methods of living and ways of conducting our business. Hopefully, poverty will one day be an official preexisting condition because, listen, the pandemic was real. The pandemic is also systemic and the front lines have been filled with homeboys trying to end it. Homegirls, turning to medics, treating gunshots and injured diabetics. And there's teachers coaching athletics, working two jobs, just approaches jerseys and helmets and serious skid rolls on a thing in L.A., by the way, I'm just curious. We're on the front lines every day, homie. Like what? It really is. But I'm glad you're finally awake. Our hint there's a wedding deliverance. Grab your tail as well, or tell everybody, bring it in. This is bigger than Corona Kings and queens. Check your heritage. All this gluttony, materialism got to give the fight and then they conquer. We're battling a nemesis that's been around for centuries. Oppression is his epithet. Googly greatness is what it messes with. And through it, they were essential now and forever mohanty and will continue proving it. [Speaking Spanish].

TONANTZIN CARMONA: Thank you so much to everyone who joined us for our panelists, just another round of applause for them. We were so honored to host this event at Brookings together with the Latino Community Foundation. And please, if you want to do these types of events and

partnerships, reach out. This is we want to create a platform to highlight these important conversations and stories and communities. So thank you.