
Multiple Solutions for What Works¹

Over thirty years ago, after the riots in big cities like Detroit and Newark, the bipartisan President's National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders (the Kerner Riot Commission) concluded, "Our nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white — separate and unequal."

The following year, after the assassinations of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. and Senator Robert F. Kennedy, the bipartisan President's National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence (the National Violence Commission) concluded, "The greatness and durability of most civilizations has been finally determined by how they have responded to challenges from within. Ours will be no exception."

Founded in 1981 as the private sector continuation of the Kerner and Violence Commissions, the Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation is a nonprofit operating foundation and international intermediary organization.

The Foundation is devoted to knowledge-driven action. The Foundation makes grants, replicates successful inner city programs in America and other nations, builds the capacity of the inner city nonprofit organizations that are responsible for so much of what works, conducts research, undertakes evaluations, writes policy reports, advocates policy through print and electronic media, utilizes its web site as a knowledge base for change, develops alternatives to traditional media, facilitates grassroots movements, and sponsors international and domestic policy forums.

In its endeavors, the Foundation typically matches resources from large foundations with resources from public funders. Local matching grants are integral to the Foundation's financial leveraging, as well.

Just as the presidential commissions proposed a national policy based on public and private partnerships, so the Foundation comes together with other institutions to:

- Help repair the class, income, wealth and racial breaches in America.
- Refine and replicate positive youth development, through, for example, after school safe havens.
- Motivate disadvantaged youth to stay in high school and move on to college, via, for example, replication of the computer-driven Quantum Opportunities Program.

-
- Replicate full service community schools that embrace all of what we have learned to guarantee that inner city public education is at par with the best suburban public education.
 - Create the job “training first” (not “work first”) opportunities that must be linked to demand side job creation to develop inner cities and abolish poverty.
 - Keep ex-offenders from recidivating by replicating the world famous San Francisco Delancey Street model, based on educational and economic opportunity.
 - Replicate minority-sensitive, problem-oriented, community policing models that work better than “zero tolerance” policing.
 - Build the management capacities of inner city nonprofit organizations and neighborhoods in the forefront of urban renaissance.
 - Advocate forcefully for government and private sector replication of what works, through public policy reports, forums and media campaigns.
 - Impact policymakers through communicating what works in the electronic and print media, as well as through training grassroots organizations in communication skills.

