We must manifest a new reality.

We all want New Jersey to be a place where everyone has a fair and just opportunity to achieve the healthiest life possible — without roadblocks based on race, ethnicity, gender, ability, sexual orientation, or class.

This is not everyone’s reality today. A long history of racism in New Jersey’s societal structures and systems has built barriers that create unequal opportunity, threatening freedom and prosperity for millions in our state.

To be the healthiest, most equitable state in America, New Jersey must address the harms experienced by communities of color, resulting from generations of discriminatory policies and practices.

We can build a society where people can move up economically and socially.

A Policy Agenda for a Healthier, More Equitable New Jersey examines what a better New Jersey would look like, what obstacles block it, and what actions are needed. In addition to examining a history of discrimination and how it creates barriers to health, the report offers policy recommendations in the areas of affordable housing, birth and reproductive justice, public health infrastructure, and building community power to drive change.

We must be accountable.

There are policies and social practices that place more value on some lives than others, based on race and class. And that leads to fewer opportunities in jobs, education, lending, and housing, and unfair differences in the legal system. Our ZIP code shouldn’t dictate our health. Everyone should have the opportunity to live the healthiest life possible in the place they call home.

Since people created the policies and social practices that shape opportunities, we can reinvent them. We can work together so that everyone’s children and grandchildren can have the best possible future.

For more information on this issue and others affecting health and wellbeing in the Garden State, please visit www.rwjf.org/nj