

# EQUITY WATCH



Policy, research, resources, and news related to minority and women's issues curated biweekly by the  
**Research, Policy & Impact Center** ..... **Mar 10, 2023**

## HOUSING

**Affordable housing complex approved for construction at 1657 N Western Avenue in Hollywood:** An affordable housing unit dedicated to senior citizens has been approved for constructing in Hollywood. [-Urbanize LA](#)

**By the numbers: Buncombe County-owned sites considered for 430 affordable units:** Buncombe County has produced a feasibility study of affordable housing that provides an opportunity to increase housing units. [-Asheville Citizen Times](#)

**Mandatory evictions for arrested tenants would be banned under new state bill:** Assembly Bill 148 has been generated to eliminate force evictions of residents whom has had previous criminal records. [-LA Times](#)

**New property tax incentive could remake Chicago neighborhoods into havens for affordable housing:** The Affordable Illinois incentive package is a new property tax incentive to sustain affordability for housing residents in Chicago's downtown neighborhoods. [-News & Observer](#)

**Milwaukee County invests nearly \$10 million in affordable housing:** As apart of the American Rescue Plan, South Milwaukee has been granted funds to develop affordable housing units in the county. [-Spectrum News 1](#)

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## HEALTH

**North Carolina Medicaid expansion consensus moves forward:** The Medicaid expansion bill is expected to move through the state House. Proposed legislation is expected to provide over 600,000 North Carolinians Medicaid coverage. -[WRAL](#)

**Governor Cooper Releases Roadmap for \$1 Billion in Behavioral Health and Resilience Investments:** Governor Roy Cooper releases a plan to invest in mental health services for North Carolina residents. -[NC.GOV](#)

**Twelve NC counties expand harm reduction services:** Montgomery County Commissioner, John Shaw, addresses opioid use in rural North Carolina and the proposal to expand harm reduction services for residents. -[North Carolina Health News](#)

**North Carolina Launches Caregiving Workforce Strategic Leadership Council:** The North Carolina Department of Human and Health Services addresses the gap of healthcare workforce shortages by establishing the Caregiving Workforce Strategic Leadership Council. -[NCDHHS](#)

**County aims to help increase access to health care:** The Hope Community Clinic provides primary care to residents who are uninsured or underinsured in Mecklenburg County. -[Spectrum News 1](#)

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## SMALL BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### **The Lowe's Foundation investing \$50M to meet growing demand for skilled trades workers:**

The Lowe's Foundation invests in North Carolina's workforce to train workers to meet the demands of infrastructure building. [- Charlotte Regional business Alliance](#)

**Investing in the Future of Rail in Lexington, North Carolina:** Siemens Mobility expands their manufacturing footprint by building a \$220 million dollar rail services plant in Lexington, NC. The new expansion and factory will bring over 500 new jobs to eastern coast of the state. [- Siemens Mobility](#)

### **Startup Spotlight: How North Carolina can be the best state for Black businesses**

**- again:** North Carolina is a major hub for minority small business and the growth has increased exponentially over the last 30 years . [- WRAL](#)

**UPS to bring 98 jobs, \$12 million investment to Holly Ridge:** UPS invests in Onslow County and brings 98 jobs to the Holly Ridge community. This is the largest economic project for the coastal town in forty years. [- Business NC](#)

### **Spartanburg launching new program to support small and minority-owned business:**

A new \$6.2 million grant funded by Spartanburg County has been granted to minority small businesses in an effort to advance entrepreneurial success. [- Fox Carolina](#)

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## EDUCATION

**NC education leaders finalize request to raise pay, stakes for teachers:** NC Board of Education proposes a new teacher licensure system in an effort to increase teacher salaries. [- WRAL](#)

**North Carolina Supreme Court to revisit school funding:** North Carolina legislators examines the state's school funding to cease the transfer of funds to agencies for education purposes without General Assembly approval. [- WFAE](#)

**5 Ways to Inspire a Love for Learning in Students:** Educational researchers and teachers examine strategies of encouraging a love for learning in students. [- Edweek](#)

**Why Student Data Privacy Is a Civil Rights Issue:** As schools and educational institutions advance with more digital tools, individuals become more concerned with data privacy protocols. A recent technology report concludes concerns of events such as data breaches of student data. [- Edweek](#)

**“What Language Do You Want to Complete This Application In?”:** A policy brief and report on the trials of enrolling early age children in school with different languages. The study concludes the imperative need for language supports during early childhood education enrollment in the District of Columbia. [- Urban Institute](#)