MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

PRESENTED TO

THE ECONOMIC POLICY INSTITUTE

NAACP Washington Bureau Office
Economic Programs Department
1156 15th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Between
NAACP Empowerment Programs, Inc. (NAACP)
And
Economic Policy Institute (EPI)

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made and entered into this 9th day of October 2019 (the “Effective Date”) by and between the NAACP Empowerment Programs, Inc. (“NAACP”), with offices at 1156 15th Street, NW, Suite 915, Washington DC 20005, and the Economic Policy Institute (“EPI”) 1225 Eye Street NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20005 (collectively, “Parties”).

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets forth the terms and understanding between the NAACP and the EPI to provide a framework for the relationship of the Parties, and sets forth the general business terms, conditions, and provisions between the Parties.

I. Purpose

A. The NAACP and EPI share the goal of economic equality for all Americans ensuring that families, especially low and middle income ones, have access to the economic/financial resources for sustainability.

B. Both Parties recognize that race plays a factor in uncovering and identifying economic inequality.

C. Economic data is the key toward supporting and strengthening the narrative for advocating policy change and direction.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will outline a formal and fluid partnership between the NAACP and EPI. The NAACP, the oldest and largest civil rights organization, and EPI, a leading economic research and policy analysis organization (think tank) are both focused on solutions that improve the socioeconomic status and economic conditions of African Americans. The goal
of this MOU is that it will be a longstanding partnership that will be fluid in regards to the political and economic topics that evolve and impact African American communities.

The core of the work in the NAACP’s Economic Programs Department is to enhance the economic capacity of African Americans. We recognize the importance of the economy and economic issues in advancing an equal opportunity society and aim to address the challenging economic realities facing our country. We are currently focused on housing and homeownership, jobs and unemployment, workforce and diversity, business development and entrepreneurship, financial education and growing wealth disparities.

We understand that research informs policy and having access to current data and analysis is essential to developing positions and actions necessary to affect change. Given our current political climate this type of access is ever so important. The NAACP’s strength is rooted in mobilization and advocacy with 2,200 active branches/units across the Country. The need for current, relevant data and analysis empowers our community and arms them with the necessary information to advocate for change.

II. Background Information

A. NAACP

1. Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation’s foremost, largest, and most widely recognized civil rights organization. The mission is to secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons.

2. The NAACP continues to be at the forefront of political, social and economic issues launching new initiatives and programs aimed at economic development, health, educational excellence, civic engagement, and youth development in communities across America. The NAACP has more than 500,000 members and supporters throughout the United States, and the world, who are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities, leading grassroots campaigns for equal opportunity and economic parity.
B. **EPI**

1. The Economic Policy Institute (EPI) was founded in 1986 to focus solid academic research and policy analysis on the needs of workers and their families. EPI believes all workers and their families deserve a better future, a good job, quality healthcare, and fair pay. EPI’s trenchant policy impact analysis has helped build its reputation as a highly credible and authoritative source on a wide range of economic issues, including wages, tax and budget, immigration, retirement security, and trade and globalization.

2. EPI is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank that researches the impact of economic trends and policies on typical families in the United States. Its mission focuses on ensuring that the economic interests of low and middle-income households are given their proper due by policymakers. EPI is a key institution in the movement for economic justice in the United States and is widely recognized as a source of authoritative analysis on economic trends, with a particular focus on economic inequality.

Since its founding, identifying and maintaining partnerships has been extremely valuable to the NAACP and their constituency. The NAACP has admired the research and policy analysis produced by EPI, and its Program on Race, Ethnicity, and the Economy, which will be extremely helpful as we seek to continue and expand our work to assist the communities we serve.

III. **The NAACP Proposes the Following Areas of Partnership:**

- EPI will serve as an information resource by sharing – economic data, research reports, fact sheets and policy briefs

- NAACP will assist with the distribution of the Economic Policy Institute’s work
• Quarterly meetings with EPI and Economic Programs staff can be held to provide updates on proposed and ongoing work – to connect ideas

• EPI will be alerted to NAACP convenings – annual convention, state conference meetings and trainings

• NAACP will be alerted to EPI’s convenings – webinars, trainings, workshops, conferences

• EPI may be called upon to serve as a resource for economic program development

IV. **Statements of Work (SOW)**

This MOU shall function as a Master Services Agreement that governs the fundamental relationship between the Parties. As needed, the Parties may enter into Statements of Work to establish the terms and conditions for specific events, grant-related work and/or partnerships. This Agreement sets forth the general business terms, conditions, and provisions between the Parties. Multiple Statements of Work may be undertaken under this Agreement from time to time, as agreed upon.

V. **Duration**

Based on Parties’ successful fulfillment of the conditions of this Agreement, the Agreement will continue in full force and effect for five (5) years from the Effective Date of this Agreement. The Effective Date of this Agreement shall be the date when both Parties have executed the document. If either Party wishes to terminate the Agreement before its agreed ending date, they may do so by providing 30 days’ written notice. Similarly, if both Parties consent, the Agreement may be extended beyond the initial five years’ term.
VI. **Entire Agreement**

The MOU between the parties is reflected in its entirety.

Derrick Johnson, NAACP President & CEO

Thea Lee, EPI President