



*Paul Ryan*

SPEAKER PAUL D. RYAN

*President,  
American Idea Foundation*

*Measuring Results  
Expanding Opportunity  
Improving Lives*

[www.AmericanIdeaFoundation.com](http://www.AmericanIdeaFoundation.com)









# *Our Mission*

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In America, the circumstances of your birth should not determine the outcome of your life.

The American Idea Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the policies and people who every day give meaning to this conviction.

The Foundation works at the intersection of grassroots, community-driven efforts to expand opportunity and national policymakers who can implement change.

Our team takes an evidence-based approach to identifying real-world initiatives that achieve results. By arming policymakers with the information they need to improve the efforts of the federal government and linking practitioners with elected officials, we can replicate those success stories in other communities.

We are focused on expanding opportunity, measuring results, and improving people's lives through the advancement of free-market principles and pro-growth public policies. We work with organizations making an impact in communities around the country, study their approach and solutions, validate their efforts through metrics and quantifiable data, and bring those ideas to policymakers so they can be more widely adopted.

Speaker Ryan has long believed that the best solutions do not come from Washington, D.C., but from the leaders on the ground in neighborhoods across America. With his leadership, the American Idea Foundation will be uniquely positioned between grassroots leaders on the ground, academics, and legislators and will work to promote effective public policies, supported by evidence, that give more Americans the chance to realize their version of the American dream.

We hope you will join us in this important work!





## *Our Leadership*

Founded by former Speaker of the House Paul D. Ryan, the American Idea Foundation builds on his 20 years of public service.

Speaker Ryan brings his unique relationships with grassroots organizations, academia, think tanks, and national policymakers to develop new strategies and put those insights to work in improving public policy and communities.



*“Government can’t replace our local communities. And it shouldn’t even try. Instead, it should reinforce our communities.”*

*– Paul Ryan*



# *Our Approach*

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## ◆ *Develop evidence about what works.*

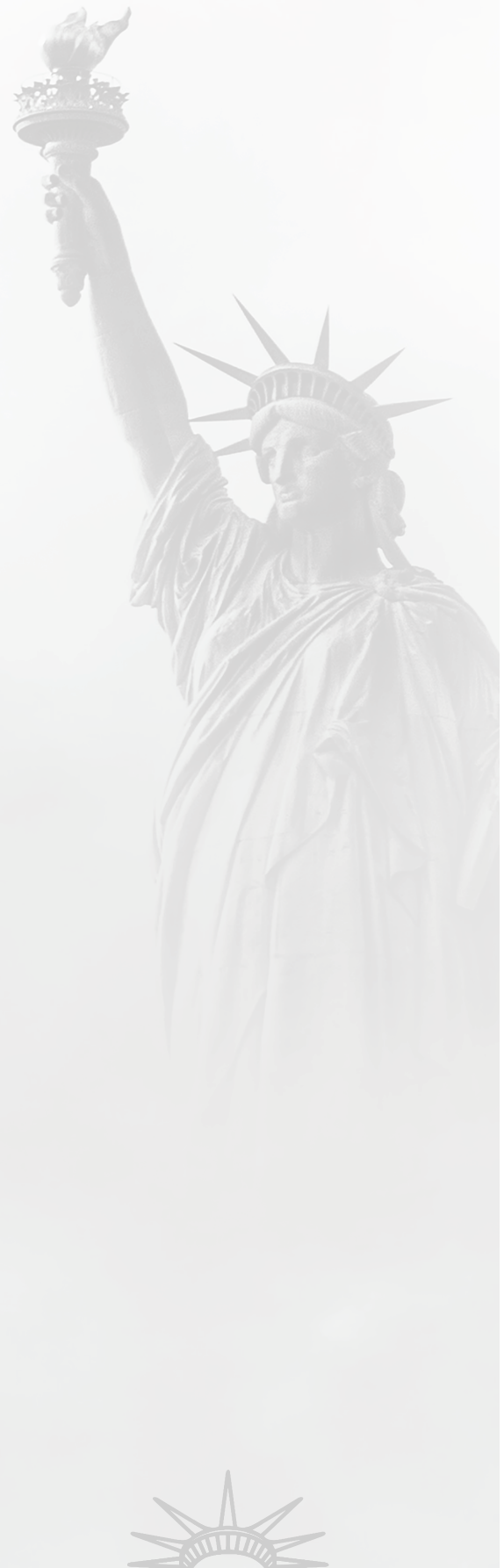
Across the country, there are thousands of organizations fighting the root causes of poverty and expanding opportunity in their communities. The Foundation will identify successful organizations utilizing innovative approaches and then partner with academic institutions to develop serious, objective evaluations to measure these groups' efforts to identify what's working and why it's making a difference.

## ◆ *Educate policymakers on what works.*

The single most successful domestic policy reform of the last 30 years was welfare reform in 1997. This singular success in getting millions of Americans back into lives of self-sufficiency began with the lessons learned through years of experimentation at the state level. The Foundation will use the evidence base it is developing to prepare policymakers to craft the next generation of policies that promote upward mobility.

## ◆ *Develop broad-based support for a vibrant market-based economy.*

Too many people are not seeing the benefits of a free, vibrant, market-based system. Because of this, individuals are gravitating towards extreme ideologies with false promises of material benefits and individual meaning. By focusing on the intersection of scaled-up community-based solutions and government policies, the Foundation will work to strengthen communities while improving the material lives of individuals.





*“The American Idea  
belongs to all of us—*

*inherited from our nation’s Founders,  
preserved by the countless sacrifices  
of our veterans, and advanced by  
visionary leaders, past and present.  
What makes America exceptional is  
our dedication to the self-evident truth  
that we are all created equal, giving  
us equal rights to life, liberty, and the  
pursuit of happiness. And that means  
opportunity.”*

*– Paul Ryan*



# Our Process

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The Foundation will collaborate with practitioners in the field, partners in academia and policymakers in government to attain the following benchmarks:

- 1** In cooperation with scholars and researchers, the Foundation will identify organizations focused on addressing a pressing public policy issue that will advance the American Idea.
- 2** By coordinating efforts with experts in the study of upward mobility, the Foundation will develop testing measures to determine replicable models of success within the aforementioned organizations.
- 3** Utilizing these standardized performance measures, the Foundation and our partners will assess strategies and outcomes, and publish a report detailing best practices and findings.
- 4** Following the publishing of the evaluations and methods, the Foundation and its partners will disseminate the evidence and organize in-person site visits that shine a light for elected officials on effective examples improving communities across the country.

# Our Hope

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The Foundation will focus narrowly on organizations that are making an impact in communities around the country, study their approach and solutions, validate their efforts through metrics and quantifiable data, and bring those ideas to policymakers so they can be more widely adopted.

Because of his two decades of service, Speaker Ryan knows what is needed to expand and strengthen the American Idea and has a clear understanding of how the Foundation can bridge the gap between on-the-ground practitioners and policymakers in Washington, D.C.

Speaker Ryan is excited to promote opportunity and give more Americans the chance to realize their version of the American Dream. We hope you will join us in this noble endeavor.



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