

21  
DAY

# RACIAL EQUITY CHALLENGE

OCTOBER 23 – NOVEMBER 20

## DAY 15: A TALE OF TWO CITIES

Over the past 15 days, we have explored how Rochester is “a tale of two cities.” On one side, our community boasts incredible innovation, some of the best academic institutions in America, comfortable living environments, relatively low unemployment rates, and plenty of recreational opportunities. Yet on the other side, the [2020 Act Rochester Hard Facts Update](#) highlights significant disparities across our region that disproportionately affect Black and Latino people.

For example, we have one of the highest rates of childhood poverty in the nation. For adults, African Americans are almost three times as likely to be unemployed, three times as likely to live in poverty, and earn incomes that are less than half of whites in the region.

It took decades to get to this point, and it will take a concentrated effort to address the inequities that exist today. Page 33 of the Hard Facts Update suggests goals for community-wide collective action that can begin to break down the disparities felt between our “two cities”. The resources below offer more explanation and information to help us move forward.

## LEARN

**Option 1:** Read [The Divide Within Us](#)

**Option 2:** Watch [The History of Segregation and Structural Racism in Rochester](#)

*The 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge does not support nor endorse any advertisements associated with the above content.*

## REFLECT AND TAKE ACTION

### Questions to Consider for Self-Reflection:

- How has decades of housing discrimination impacted your community?
- How has the history of land ownership affected your economic situation?

### Local Ways to Get Involved:

- Read [Teens from Rochester to Hilton Rally Against Injustice](#)
- Visit ACT Rochester regularly to learn more about this and other issues affecting our community. This link includes reports, surveys, and other significant information: <https://www.actrochester.org/>

### Share What You Learned:

Use the images below to share that you learned about race and equity today, and be sure to include #ROCequity.

