

2019 Social Innovation Summit: *What We Learned*

Pathways to Opportunity in Low-Income Neighborhoods

EVENT DETAILS

Date: March 29, 2019

Location: University of Southern California

Keynote Speaker: David Plouffe, Head of Policy and Advocacy, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

David Plouffe, Head of Policy and Advocacy for the [Chan Zuckerberg Initiative](#), joined Price Center Director Gary Painter for a fireside chat at the *2019 Social Innovation Summit: Pathways to Opportunity*. Plouffe discussed the need for social innovators to use a wide range of different approaches to combat persistent social issues like criminal justice reform and housing affordability. Plouffe also noted the importance of harnessing the energy of social movements to catalyze social change.



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Capitalize on moments of opportunity to drive social change.** Right now there is a unique policy window to take action to reform the criminal justice system, consisting of strong bipartisan support, more law enforcement officials amenable to reforms, and feasible policy options to change the system so that the best ideas and resources can be leveraged effectively.
- **Tools can help to accelerate social change.** Catalyzing social change requires sustained passion and intensity, as well as the ability to support legislative efforts through social movements, new technology, and pilots developed in partnership with community. As the winds change in a short period of time around social issues like housing stability, social innovators need to use all available tools to creating lasting social impact.
- **Social movements are driven by passion.** Movements cannot be created—the energy is either there or it's not. When that passion does exist—whether in criminal justice, housing, or immigration—we can nourish social movements by equipping individuals with the research, data, technology, and resources needed to push change forward.
- **No one intervention or approach is right for every situation.** Some social issues can be solved through the traditional policy process. Other problems require different approaches, including advocacy efforts, technology interventions, new organizational structures, or even new forms of grantmaking. No singular approach will solve the complex social issues confronting us today. Instead social innovators must use a Swiss Army knife approach to tackle social issues.
- **Technology can fill in the gaps of what's currently missing.** Technology is not a silver bullet and should not be relied on to solve every issue on its own. However, it can play a critical role in social innovation by disrupting the status quo.