Our February focus: Join us on February 28, 2023, for an in-person event, "Reimagining Public Health for NYC: A Discussion on the Racial Wealth Gap and Health Equity." Learn more.

CLIMATE: The U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Deployment Office and six national laboratories recently released the first part of a two-year study on transitioning Puerto Rico to 100% renewable energy.

The report models and analyzes wind and solar datasets for Puerto Rico and maps scenarios that would get the island to 100% renewable energy by 2030.

Ideas: About 875,000 Americans hold jobs related to sustainability, renewable energy, and conservation. Over the next decade, that figure is expected to grow by 5%. Fast Company reported. Specialized jobs such as wind turbine service technicians and solar photovoltaic installers are projected to increase by more than 50%, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Actions: More than 80% of federal resilience funding in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law requires a local match. Next City reported. These requirements, intended to ensure local communities "are in the game," can be impossible to afford for many rural and low-income communities, according to the report. Two U.S. Government Accountability Office reports released last year—one on Disaster Recovery and one on Disaster Recovery—highlighted how local requirements prevent some communities from investing in climate-risk mitigation.

Organizations like the Community Infrastructure Center, created by the Milken Institute, are intended to help communities with the expenses of tasks, such as economic feasibility studies, site acquisition, permitting, and architectural and engineering work, that must be completed before construction projects begin. ImpactAlpha reports.

HEALTH: The 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act provided Indian Health Service with advance appropriations for the first time.

"The change will provide critically needed protection from budgetary uncertainty to the entire Indian health system," Indian Health Service Deputy Director Tom Vilsack said in a statement. It is also a direct result of years of advocacy from tribal and urban Indian organization leaders, who have long highlighted the need for a more stable and predictable funding stream.

Actions: Bank of America announced last year it would allocate $40 million in leveraged broadband capital to CDFIs across the country to finance developing and expanding primary healthcare facilities in medically underserved areas. One of the first community centers to get funding through this allocation is Premier Community Healthcare Group of Dale City, Va., which serves 28,787 patients, almost all of whom are low-income. Next City reported. Premier received loans totaling $18.5 million to fund the construction of a primary care community center in central Florida, which will allow it to provide all its services under one roof, including primary, dental, and pediatrics care. "Our mission is providing healthcare services to all," Premier CEO Joseph Reznick told NextCity. "We don't turn anyone away."

HOUSEHOLD FINANCIAL WELL BEING: The data-driven, metric-using view of philanthropy appears to be going out of style, according to a recent opinion piece from the American Enterprise Institute.

Now, "lived experience is what some new or younger philanthropists wish to recognize in the place of expert judgment," the authors write. "Indeed, that standard has become so ubiquitous that the head of one charity recently complained in the Chronicle of Philanthropy that he was regularly required to describe being shot in order to win support for his youth-serving organization." The current mindset represents a break from philanthropy's past, the authors write, when "donors tried to solve social or medical problems through experimentation, evaluation, and research, and allocated funds with precise goals in mind."

Ideas: The number of renters with cost burdens in 2021 was the highest seen in a data series going back to 2012, according to the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University. Nearly one-third of all U.S. households spent more than half their income on housing in 2021. Most of the increase in rent-burdened households in 2021 came from households spending more than half their income on housing; the Center reported.

Coming up: Join us on March 27, 2023, for an in-person event focused on private capital in multifamily rental. Learn more.