

FORESIGHT Scenarios

Stories of Different Possible Futures

Developed by a diverse group of people from across the United States



FORESIGHT is a first-of-its-kind initiative—activated by today’s urgent challenges—to design a bold and equitable future for health and well-being together. To begin this effort, FORESIGHT created a [report](#) on 70+ trends, opportunities, and challenges that have the potential to impact health and well-being. The report explored things that could drastically change the future of health care as well as areas important to health such as jobs, housing, and social connections.

FORESIGHT shared the report with a diverse group of people from across the United States* and asked them to identify the forces they thought might most impact the future. Their responses were woven into the four brief video stories that follow. The stories, also called scenarios of possible futures, are not meant to predict the future or describe a preferred one. Like real life, each story has good and bad elements. Instead, they are meant to help us imagine extraordinary possibilities.

Scenario 1: Crowd Control

In 2020, few people would have imagined that cold northern and mid-western regions of the U.S. would one day become the most desirable spots to live in the nation. But with few changes made after the pandemics in the 2020s, the federal government was consumed by economic, health, and social challenges and the environment was largely ignored. This resulted in greater climate breakdown and destructive weather patterns. The U.S. southern and coastal regions were hit hardest and became unlivable. Since then, masses of people have migrated to the center and north of the nation, seeking safety and resettlement.

In my northern city, “long-timers” and the “climate-migrants” work together to help improve the environment. We are reducing methane gases, planting trees using soil that can absorb carbon, and turning to renewable and alternative energy, like wind and nuclear fusion. Heat resistant seeds help grow food in rising temperatures. But we can only do so much without federal guidance and legislation.

We must also address the incredible increase in our population. We are farming vertically; mass-producing food; and developing inexpensive, mass-produced, 3-D printed housing communities. Our crowded city is producing extreme haves and have-nots. Landowners are the haves, enjoying access to healthy food, on-demand health care, and income by employing people on or renting their land. The have nots only have access to cheap food and housing, one-size-fits-all emergency care, and low-wage jobs.

In response, the have nots are creating their own communities. They are raising their voices, together, asking for a fair share of the resources they help produce. Although we originally invited them into our community, as we enter the 2050s, we have exceeded our limit! Tensions are ramping up as temperatures rise and tempers flare in my crowded hometown.

Scenario 2: Trust in US

Today, the U.S. is celebrating a great achievement: 90% of our food is coming from plant-based sources or meat grown using our own human cells! My state has again made its required annual contribution to human and land well-being!



The pandemics in the 2020s led us to a great societal reset. Fed up with failed government systems and broken promises, corporate secrecy, wealth inequality, discrimination, and disease, Americans began to pursue only what truly contributes to societal well-being. We switched our national progress measure from how much stuff we produce to the U.S. Well-Being Score, measuring how well we are doing with what we have. This shined a light on our actions and shifted our values.

The passage of TrUSt Act in 2030 extended the federal government's emergency powers, initially given during the pandemics, and required states to boost the Well-Being Score by lowering carbon levels, protecting health, and ensuring that business practices are transparent and truly improving well-being.

The TrUSt Act also brought about transparency within communities, business, and government, revealing the true profits, costs, and impacts of our actions. The upside is we now see and remove most racist, ableist, sexist, and ageist policies, increasing access to opportunity. Land and food practices actually stabilize the climate. Revealing the true costs and benefits in health care led us to fund stronger public health, housing, and education systems, local communities, family caregivers, and self-care healing resources.

The price we pay for progress is that our hyper-connected and monitored lives submit us to constant surveillance by government in the interest of well-being. This has us on edge. A group called "Freedom Fighters" is resisting the constant tracking by helping people and markets go "off the grid."

It seems even well-being stirs unrest, yet for now, we celebrate our growing well-being at any cost.

Scenario 3: In It Together

For the past 30 years, I and many other Americans have been frustrated by the government's inability to protect everyone equally during the 2020s pandemics and have demanded representation in the issues impacting us. Today, we have it! Election results from across the country produced incredibly diverse representation across income, race, differing-abilities, sexual orientation, and more.

Change started when many corporations, led by shareholders focused mainly on profits, responded to demands from the American public to become cooperatives. This allowed more people—including employees without much money, like me—to share ownership and make company decisions together. This was critical in the 30s when automation eliminated many full-time jobs. Today, most of us work "gig"—or short-term—jobs for our base incomes, but we're able to add to it with earnings from the companies we partly own!

An increase in gig work led to other important changes like Gig Boards for people to bid on jobs and a Gig Union to protect workers. National health care and universal basic income support us as we move from one gig to another.

Health care now includes "on demand" services that respond to data from personal sensors in watches. Drones deliver everything from medications to fitness plans, right to our doors. And health extends to food and land through the Food-Land-Health Partnership involving large food companies and family farmers.

Those who gained wealth in the 20s and traditional corporations are resisting change by secretly joining cooperatives and blocking progress. They are creating "gated societies" to preserve power and enjoy exclusive access to health innovations such as life-extending technologies and designer babies.

We are defending against this backlash through our national equity effort. Many businesses and organizations have regular Equity Reviews to uncover and stop discriminatory practices. This has permitted even greater diversity in leaders and a sense that we are in it together!



Scenario 4: The Off Ramp

What started as a fringe movement to leave crowded cities after the pandemics of the 2020s, has resulted in over 60% of the U.S. population living in sustainable Eco-Hubs. Looking to escape the intense focus on constant economic growth and corporate innovation found in cities, eco-hubs are designed communities offering high quality of life, shared and local ownership, slow growth, and environmental sustainability.

Eco-Hubs are self-selected kinship groups, which are mostly self-sufficient, depending largely on trading and sharing what we need. We have become the nation's earth caretakers, adding nutrients to land stripped by over-production. Lab-grown nutrition pills sustain us until the land is renewed. The national government provides essential services, such as sick care, and oversees innovation and manufacturing. Hub residents deliver all services and try to prevent sickness by living holistic, healthy lives with support from Elder Councils and Healers. We respect death, which helps us honor life and the end of life.

Hubs have access to government and corporate innovations and advanced technologies, including education robots, that—along with our Elders—serve our Hub youth, and well-being robots that assess our health needs and support our wellness activities. Eco-Hub robots—and all artificial intelligence—are analyzed for bias and certified prejudice-free. We also provide exo-wombs that allow for babies to develop outside a human body and redefine traditional male and female roles.

To succeed, it is important to remember we are part a nation. City culture, big corporations, big agriculture, and manufacturing can feel threatening to Hub life and vice-versa, but all are necessary. Likewise, Eco-Hubs must ensure not to over-enforce Hub norms and rules or exclude certain people. But to succeed, the nation must stay connected and strong, with no part greater than the whole. We are still learning whether Eco-Hubs are a temporary detour or a permanent highway to long-lasting well-being.

*Who developed these scenarios?

Scenarios are stories of possible futures, used in futuring processes like FORESIGHT's. Scenario creation involves extrapolating where trends and issues (in this case, from FORESIGHT's [Futures Scan](#)) might lead us if they continue into the future. Those trends and emerging issues are then woven into stories.

To create the best possible scenarios, our futurists advised us that one of the best things we could do was to bring people together who thought about health and well-being very differently. So we did just that! One workshop consisted of a multiracial, multicultural, largely urban group of people with strong ties to community organizing, nonprofit missions, and marginalized voices. The second workshop was a group of midwestern and rural farmers (largely from southern states), small business owners, professionals from health policy think tanks, technology gurus, and other professional stakeholders in the area of health and well-being. We looked for people with open minds, creativity, and a willingness to consider how these scenarios might impact the work and lives of diverse groups of people. FORESIGHT is deeply appreciative of the contributions of these two groups! They gave so willingly of themselves and showed generous enthusiasm, creativity and curiosity.

**Want to further explore the scenarios or learn more about FORESIGHT?
Go to www.ForesightForHealth.org**

©2020 THE RIPPEL FOUNDATION. This work **may be** used, photocopied, and distributed for educational purposes only and as long as the copyright notice remains intact. For use on a website or social media platform, link directly to the work on our website. Unless prior written permission is given by The Rippel Foundation, this material may not be (i) used or distributed for monetary purposes (i.e., do not sell our work), and (ii) edited or changed in any way. Please email requests or questions to: info@rippelfoundation.org Version 4132020