

Housing is a Racial & Gender Justice Issue

WOMEN'S WAY CONNECTS EMPOWERS INVESTS



1. Why?

Structural racism has created racial disparities in housing. Gender also heavily affects access to housing, with women disproportionately suffering from housing insecurity. At the intersection of these issues, Black and Hispanic women face the highest rates of housing insecurity in the U.S.

2. What does this look like?

- Black Americans represent more than 40% of homeless individuals
- 50% of families experiencing homelessness are Black
- Regardless of income, Black Americans are 1.5x more likely to be exposed to environmental hazards (like poor housing quality or lead exposure)
- Based on the above, housing insecurity and inequality is also a driver of health inequity
- The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated housing insecurity in Philadelphia
- Trans people, and trans youth in particular, experience homelessness at rates higher than any other group with 23% of all trans people between 18-25 having been unhoused at some point in their lives

3. How do we advance Housing Justice?

Per the 2020 PolicyLink report, 'The Case for Housing Justice in Philadelphia,' achieving housing justice is accomplished through addressing 5 key areas:

1. Increasing income security for low-income Philadelphians of color
2. Building assets and expanding wealth for communities of color
3. Stopping displacement of low-income Philadelphians of color through rent-control, eviction diversion programs, and eviction legislation
4. Expanding affordable housing resources
5. Disrupting speculative housing market to protect access to housing for low-income Philadelphians

Learn more here:

- [Hear our Change the Narrative Fellows from Cohort 2 speak about housing and economic security.](#)
- https://www.policylink.org/sites/default/files/pl_report_phila-housing_092520_a.pdf
- <https://www.opportunityhome.org/resources/racial-equity-housing/>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/28/realestate/people-of-color-rent-mortgage-pandemic.html>
- <https://www.nationalpartnership.org/our-work/resources/economic-justice/housing-justice.pdf>
- <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Trevor-Project-Homelessness-Report.pdf>