High quality, affordable housing is an anchor to every aspect of a woman’s life, yet we rarely speak about housing policy as a way to address gender inequality or provide an economic safety net for women. Women earn less, have longer commutes, are increasingly likely to live in shelters, and are often raising children by themselves. For most households, housing is the single largest monthly expense, followed closely by childcare. Housing is a necessity that provides a safety net for women and children, impacting their health, well-being, education and access to jobs.

New York City’s current housing plan is solely focused on the creation or preservation of affordable units, with no regard to the unique needs of a household’s gender. The next housing plan provides an opportunity for communities and policymakers to widen the conversation beyond counting units, articulate new metrics and develop a shared vision of housing policy for New York City. Including a gender equity lens in the next housing plan could create a lasting, positive impact on how and where women and their families live.

**How would we measure our success if the next housing plan was feminist?**

- **Women earn 80% of what their male counterparts earn.**
- **High poverty rates and low earnings impact a woman’s ability to save for emergencies and pay for housing and childcare.**
- **In NYC, more women than men experience poverty. 20% of women live below the poverty line.**

- **3 out of 4 families in NYCHA are headed by women.**
- **41% of households in shelter are there as an immediate result of domestic violence.**
- **4 out of 5 homeless mothers with children have experienced domestic violence at some point.**

- **Paying for both childcare and housing makes it much harder for a single parent to afford health care, healthy food and transportation.**
- **86% of single parents in NYC are women.**

- **The average time in shelter for a family with children is 466 days.**
- **Survivors of domestic violence struggle to maintain stable housing because of eviction histories, economic abuse, and their unique safety & confidentiality needs.**