

# NYC'S A NEW LENS FOR HOUSING PLAN

A HOUSING PLAN FOR RACIAL EQUITY 

## A New Lens for NYC's Housing Plan:

The next housing plan is 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 NYC.

Decades after the Civil Rights movement, the Fair Housing Act, and the Mount Laurel rulings, racial inequality remains one of New York City's most pressing issues. New Yorkers of color are disadvantaged in the housing market by the racial wealth and income gaps; and deprived of equal mobility into neighborhoods more abundant in opportunity, services, and amenities. Many of the discriminatory housing policies and real estate practices that contributed to these disparities were outlawed decades ago. **Yet their legacy impacts persist today, and New York has yet to see a housing policy agenda directly aimed to combat racial inequality.**

New York City's current housing plan aims solely to create and preserve a target number of affordable units, with little regard for racial inequities in housing. **The plan focuses on reducing income inequality to advance access to housing and opportunity for low-income residents, yet barely mentions segregation in neighborhoods and schools and lacks strategies to increase access for New Yorkers of color.** The outcomes of the plan, meanwhile, have been perceived as reinforcing long-standing injustice by threatening the stability of low-income residents of color in neighborhoods slated for increased development. Preventing displacement and dismantling the legacy of segregation are only two of many critical, sometimes conflicting policy goals underlying the advancement of racial equity.

**Government housing policy needs to be harnessed to eliminate the racial inequality it once helped to create and the harmful impacts on residents of color it has allowed to continue for decades.** The City's recent *Where We Live* initiative drew on the lived experience of thousands of residents to create a framework of goals and strategies for advancing racial equity in housing. On the heels of this critical process, the challenge now arises to to put the pieces of that framework into action.

## NEW YORK CITY IS IN CRITICAL NEED OF A HOUSING PLAN THAT HARNESSSES THE POWER OF HOUSING POLICY TO ELIMINATE RACIAL INEQUALITY FROM ITS HOUSING STOCK AND NEIGHBORHOODS.

**1 in 4**

households of color are severely rent-burdened.

**+11%**

more households of color than White households are rent-burdened.

**1 in 6**

children of color live in overcrowded housing.

**IN NYC PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, 9 IN 10 BLACK STUDENTS & 7 IN 10 HISPANIC STUDENTS ATTEND SCHOOL WITH MOSTLY BLACK AND HISPANIC CLASSMATES.**

In NYC public schools, **4x** as many Black and Hispanic students as White students live in unstable housing.



The average commute time of Black workers is **48 mins,**

**24%** longer than that of White workers.



### NYC MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME



Asian & White households are **2x** as likely to own their homes as Hispanic households.