

The Housing Justice Promise

A simple promise: A home is not a privilege. It is a civil right — the foundation of safety, dignity, and opportunity. No American should live without shelter, or be forced into instability by unaffordable rents, predatory practices, or systemic neglect.

Why It Matters

- Over 500,000 Americans are homeless on any given night; millions more are rent-burdened or housing insecure.
- Zoning laws and market speculation have locked out working families and young people.
- Public housing has been underfunded and left to deteriorate for decades.
- Housing instability drives poverty, poor health, and generational inequality.

Our belief: When housing is just and secure, everything else — education, health, work, family life — has a stable foundation.

What We're Saying

This is not a policy footnote. It is a promise: that America will guarantee safe, affordable, and dignified homes as a civil right for all its people.

What It Guarantees

- **Tenant Protections:** National standards for fair leases, eviction prevention, and rent stabilization.
- **Community Land Trusts:** Expansion of nonprofit and community ownership to keep housing permanently affordable.
- **Zoning Reform:** End exclusionary zoning; promote mixed-income, multi-family, and accessible housing.
- **Public Housing Renewal:** Reinvest in and modernize public housing as thriving, dignified communities.
- **Pathways to Ownership:** Affordable mortgages, down-payment assistance, and anti-discrimination enforcement.

Programs You'll See

- **National Tenant Bill of Rights:** Clear protections against unjust eviction, rent gouging, and unsafe living conditions.
- **Land Trust Expansion Grants:** Federal support to scale community-owned housing across cities, suburbs, and rural areas.
- **Zoning for Equity:** Federal incentives for states and cities to adopt inclusive zoning and end “single-family only” restrictions.
- **Public Housing Revitalization Act:** Rebuild and modernize units with green design, broadband, and community amenities.
- **Home Access Fund:** Down-payment assistance, fair lending enforcement, and credit-building programs for first-time buyers.
- **Homelessness to Housing Pathways:** Permanent supportive housing and wraparound services for unhoused Americans.

How We'll Make It Real

0–100 Days

- Establish a National Housing Justice Council with tenants, advocates, and housing experts.
- Freeze unjust evictions during transition to new protections.

Year 1

- Pass the National Tenant Bill of Rights.
- Launch Land Trust Expansion Grants in 100 communities.

Years 2–3

- Begin major reinvestment in public housing renewal projects.
- Scale zoning reform incentives nationwide.

Years 4–5

- Achieve measurable reductions in homelessness.

- Ensure every region has access to land trusts, tenant protections, and renewed public housing.

Accountability & Measures

- **Affordability:** % of households spending less than 30% of income on housing.
- **Stability:** Reduction in eviction and homelessness rates.
- **Equity:** Homeownership rates by race, class, and region.
- **Quality:** % of public housing units meeting modern standards.
- **Access:** Expansion of affordable housing units through land trusts and zoning reform.

Guardrails & Values

- **Equity First:** Center communities historically excluded from housing markets.
- **Community Control:** Empower tenants, residents, and local nonprofits to lead solutions.
- **Sustainability:** Green, accessible, and future-ready housing standards.
- **Non-Displacement:** Anti-gentrification protections to keep families in their communities.
- **Transparency:** Public dashboards tracking housing affordability, stability, and access.

Who This Helps (Snapshots)

- *Nia (24):* Moves into her first affordable apartment through a community land trust.
- *Andre (41):* Protected from eviction while recovering from a medical crisis.
- *Mrs. Lopez (67):* Lives in newly renovated public housing with safe, modern amenities.

- *Caleb & Jordan (30)*: Purchase their first home with fair lending and down-payment assistance.
- *Darius (52)*: Transitions from homelessness into permanent supportive housing with services.

What Success Looks Like

In 24 Months

- National Tenant Bill of Rights enacted.
- Land Trust Expansion active in every region.

In 5 Years

- Public housing revitalized in hundreds of communities.
- Homelessness cut by half nationwide.

In 10 Years

- Safe, affordable, and dignified housing is a civil right realized: every American has a place to call home.

The Commitment

The Housing Justice Promise is a national vow: that no person in America will live without shelter, no family will be uprooted by injustice, and no community will be denied the dignity of a stable home. Housing is justice — and it will be guaranteed.

Historical Reference & Value

The struggle for housing justice has shaped American life across generations. The New Deal's public housing programs of the 1930s sought to replace slums with safe homes, though often segregated by race. The Fair Housing Act of 1968 outlawed discrimination but could not erase decades of redlining and exclusionary zoning. Grassroots movements like the tenant unions of the 1970s, and community land trusts pioneered in places like Georgia and Vermont, demonstrated that housing could be made permanent and affordable through collective ownership. Today's crisis of homelessness, speculation, and affordability echoes past injustices, reminding us that secure housing is not a market perk but a civil right. The Housing

Justice Promise draws from these lessons, committing to ensure that every American has access to safe, affordable, and dignified homes.

Referenced Acts & Initiatives (Guiding Frameworks)

- **National Tenant Bill of Rights Act:** Establishes national protections against unjust eviction, predatory leases, and unsafe living conditions.
- **Land Trust Expansion Grants Program:** Provides federal support for community land trusts to preserve permanent affordability.
- **Zoning for Equity Act:** Incentivizes inclusive zoning, ending exclusionary single-family-only restrictions.
- **Public Housing Revitalization Act:** Modernizes public housing with sustainable design, technology access, and community amenities.
- **Home Access Fund Act:** Offers down-payment assistance, enforces fair lending, and expands first-time homeownership pathways.
- **Homelessness to Housing Pathways Program:** Creates permanent supportive housing with wraparound services for unhoused Americans.

Sealing Line

So it is pledged: that America will stand as a nation where housing is recognized as a civil right — every person sheltered, every family secure, every community strengthened by the dignity of home.