



## Sign on letter

We, the undersigned New Jersey organizations, call on the New Jersey Congressional delegation to take bold action to advance anti-racist housing policies and provide the large-scale, sustained investments and reforms necessary to ensure that the lowest income and most marginalized renters have an affordable place to call home. We urge you to use every opportunity – whether through an infrastructure/stimulus package, the appropriations process, or stand-alone legislation – to advance proven solutions at the scale necessary to ensure that affordable and stable homes are universal to everyone in need. To achieve this ambitious goal, Congress must:

- 1. Expand rental assistance with \$180 billion phased in over ten years.**
- 2. Support at least \$70 billion to repair and preserve public housing.**
- 3. Support at least \$45 billion in the national Housing Trust Fund.**

We ask you to support these goals both as part of the \$3.5 Trillion infrastructure bill before Congress and to cosponsor Chair Maxine Waters's "[Housing is Infrastructure Act](#)" (H.R. 4497) and "[Ending Homelessness Act](#)" (H.R. 4496). Thank you to Congressman Sires and Payne for being early cosponsors on the bills

Even before the pandemic, New Jersey was in the grips of an affordable housing crisis, most severely impacting the most marginalized and lowest-income people, including seniors, people with disabilities, families with children, and other individuals. In NJ, there is a shortage of 205,285 homes affordable and available to renters with extremely low incomes. For every 10 of these households, there are 3.2 affordable and available homes. Without affordable options, over 71% of extremely low-income households in NJ pay at least half of their limited incomes on rent, leaving them without the resources they need to put food on the table, purchase needed medications, or make ends meet.

In NJ, renters need an annual income of over \$66,000 or \$31.96 an hour on average to afford a modest, two-bedroom apartment. This is far above the incomes of many working families, seniors, and people with disabilities. Despite the clear need, 3 in 4 households eligible for housing assistance receive none because Congress continues to underfund proven solutions. Families wait for years – even decades – on waiting lists. Millions of households are one financial shock away from economic hardship that could quickly spiral out of control into evictions and, in worst cases, homelessness.

Housing justice is central to racial equity because disparities in education, income, wealth, employment, and health are driven in large part by racial segregation and discrimination in housing. Housing can help close the education gap because children learn better and are more likely to graduate when they live in a stable, affordable home. A quality affordable home is a prescription for good health and has been linked to prevention of long-term health problems and promotes healthy, productive lives. Housing supports economic mobility, allowing low-income people to climb up the income ladder and achieve financial stability. By providing housing assistance, we can reduce poverty, increase stability for vulnerable households, and help avert homelessness, institutionalization, and incarceration. More than ever, we need your leadership to advance bold policies to ensure that people with the lowest incomes and the most marginalized people have a stable, affordable home.

Sincerely,

Arnold Cohen  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey

Housing & Community Development Network of NJ, Staci Berger	Jewish Renaissance Foundation, Sherri Goldberg
AC Devco, Chris Paladino	La Casa de Don Pedro, Ray Ocasio
Affordable Housing Alliance, Donna Blaze	Lincoln Park Coast Cultural District, Anthony Smith
Bergen County's United Way, Tom Toronto	Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness, Frank Cirillo
Better Community Housing of Trenton, Inc., Pearleen Waters	Mission First Housing Group, Alfredo de la Pena
Bricks Faith and Mortar, Horace Baldwin	Moorestown Ecumenical Neighborhood Development Inc., Eileen Wirth
Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers, Matthew Kalamar	Morris Canal Community Development Corporation, June Jones
Camden Community Development Association, Jack O'Byrne	Morris Habitat For Humanity, Inc., Blair Schleicher Wilson
Camden County Habitat for Humanity, Jeff Mihalek	New Brunswick Tomorrow, Jaymie Santiago
Camden Lutheran Housing, Jessica Franzini	New Community Corporation, Richard Rohrman
Central Jersey Housing Resource Center, Sharon Clark	New Jersey Community Development Corporation, Robert Guarasci
Clinton Hill Community Action, Khaatim Sherrer El	New Jersey HIV Housing Collaborative, Luis Ulerio
Coastal Habitat for Humanity, Heather Schulze	NewBridge Services, Inc., Michelle Borden
Collaborative Support Programs of NJ, Victor Luna	NJ Advocates for Aging Well, Cathy Rowe
Community Access Unlimited, Inc., Bernadette Griswold	Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity, Kristine Novakowski
Community Affairs and Resource Center, Beatriz Oesterheld	Northwest New Jersey Community Action Program, Inc., Mark Valli
Community Hope, Inc., Carmine Deo	Parkside Business And Community In Partnership, Bridget Phifer
Consumer Credit and Budget Counseling, Inc. d/b/a National Foundation for Debt Management, Russell Graves	Passaic Affordable Housing Coalition, Victor Cirilo
Corporation for Supportive Housing, Deborah De Santis	Paterson Habitat For Humanity, Scott Millard

Cumberland County Habitat for Humanity, William Gonzalez	Paterson Task Force, Lana Stokes
East Brunswick Community Housing Corporation, Keith Kipp	PennReach, Krystal Odell
Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless, Linda Flores Tober	Premier Community Development Corporation, Lewis Hurd
Elizabeth Development Company, Bill O'Dea	Princeton Community Housing, Ed Truscelli
Epic Community Development Corporation, Rev. Clarence Bulluck	Project Freedom Inc., Timothy Doherty
Essex Community Land Trust, Brittnee Timberlake	Project Live, Inc., Ross Croessmann
Family Promise of Monmouth County, Robin Donohue	Puerto Rican Association for Human Development, Inc., Kim Ruiz
Family Promise Union County, Geleen Donovan	Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity, Inc., Melissa Flynn
Financial Wellness Institute, Wanda Hardy	Reformed Church of Highland Park Affordable Housing Corporation, Seth Kaper-Dale
Garden State Episcopal Community Development Corporation, John Restrepo	Region Nine Housing Corporation, Dan Antonellis
Gateway Community Action Partnership, Edward Bethea	Rescue Mission of Trenton, Barrett Young
Gloucester County Habitat for Humanity, Anthony Isabella	Saint Joseph's Carpenter Society, Pilar Hogan Closkey
Habitat For Humanity Cape May County, Sarah Matthews	Sierra House, Keely Freeman
Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County, Maureen Cameron	Solutions To End Poverty Soon, Michael McNeil
Habitat for Humanity of Burlington and Mercer Counties, Lori Leonard	Stand Up for Salem, Chris Davenport
Habitat for Humanity of Salem County, SueAnn Leighty	The Community Preservation Corporation, Rafael E. Cestero
HANDS, Inc., Elliot Lee	The Heart Of Camden, Inc., Carlos Morales
Holly City Development Corporation, Heather Santoro	The Supportive Housing Association of NJ, Diane Riley
HomeFront, Connie Mercer	The Waterfront Project, Inc., Rebecca Symes
Homeless Solutions, Dan McGuire	Town Clock Community Development Corporation,

	Susan Kramer-Mills
Homes For All, Glen McDonald	Triple C Housing, Leslie Stivale
Ironbound Community Corporation, Victoria Hernandez	Unified Vailsburg Services Organization, San Donna Jones
Isles, Inc., Sean Jackson	Urban League of Essex County, Vivian Fraser
Jewish Community Housing Corporation Of Metropolitan New Jersey, Harold Colton-Max	Visions and Pathways, David Walker
Jewish Family Service of Atlantic & Cape May Counties, Laura Rodgers	Women Rising, Inc., Roseann Mazzeo