

TALKING POINTS – RACIAL JUSTICE AND HOUSING JUSTICE

TALKING POINTS FOR RACIAL EQUITY ADVOCATES

The coronavirus pandemic is exacerbating preexisting racial inequities entrenched in our nation's health and housing systems. Due to structural racism and discrimination, people of color are more likely to experience higher health risks from the pandemic as well as homelessness and housing instability. Unless Congress acts quickly to provide emergency housing resources and protections, our nation will see a spike in housing instability, evictions, and homelessness, harming Black, Latino, and Native American renters most severely.

Housing instability and homelessness stemming from the pandemic will disproportionately harm people of color.

- In addition to facing greater health disparities, including adverse social determinants of health, at-risk comorbidities, and the inability to social distance, people of color are also significantly more likely than white people to experience evictions and homelessness, the result of centuries of institutional racism and economic inequity.
- In the aftermath of the pandemic, people of color will likely experience greater economic risks of job insecurity, food insecurity, and housing instability and homelessness.
- While [31% of renters nationwide](#) have slight or no confidence in their ability to pay next month's rent, 44% of Black renters are worried about their next rent payment, according to the U.S. Census.

Congress should provide emergency rental assistance and other resources and protections for renters with low incomes and people experiencing homelessness. These investments can be deployed to address long-standing, structural racial inequities.

- Congress must take every step to prevent housing instability and homelessness as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and should center racial equity when making the investments and systemic reforms needed to address the short- and long-term impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.
- The housing and homelessness resources and protections included in the "HEROES Act" will help state and local governments meet the urgent housing needs of renters with the lowest incomes and people experiencing homelessness, who are disproportionately people of color.
- Access to healthcare, housing, food assistance, and other services provided in response to the coronavirus should be available to everyone, regardless of income, immigration status, involvement with the criminal justice system, or insurance.

*For more information, see the NLIHC [FAQ on COVID-19 and Racial Equity](#) and the *Opportunity Starts at Home* campaign [factsheet](#) on the intersection of housing and racial equity. For guidance on how communities can strategically use federal funds, see the [Framework for an Equitable COVID-19 Homelessness Response](#) published by NLIHC, the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council.*