

The Chicago Housing Justice League's Principles and Recommendations

Who We Are

The Chicago Housing Justice League is collaborative of 37 groups, organizing for just housing since its inception in January of 2018. The League's central mission is to inform and influence the City of Chicago's 5 Year Housing Plan, as League members recognize the Plan's potential to improve projects, programs, and policies to better the lives of Chicago residents. The Chicago Housing Justice League has developed a set of principles to guide the 5 Year Housing Plan and create more equitable housing opportunities across Chicago. The Chicago Housing Justice League is committed to assisting the City in integrating these shared Principles into the 5 Year Plan process and gathering input from Chicago's residents.

What We Stand For

We believe that housing is more than shelter, that it is the platform for meaningful aspects of life: friends, neighbors, school, and our sense of place and belonging. We also believe it is possible to create a just housing system in which every person in every community has healthy, affordable, and dignified housing in inclusive and well-resourced neighborhoods, and further, that it is the responsibility of the government to protect and promote this system. We believe in the prioritization of housing affordability and stability for all Chicagoans over the prioritization of profit from land, and housing, and other property. We urge the City of Chicago to protect homes, communities, and the people who live in them, and not defer to market-based solutions. Most importantly, we believe that housing is a human right, not a commodity to maximize profit.

The principles enumerated here shall be enforced with the understanding that they are interrelated and each one must be upheld to create and enforce a just housing system.

Chicago Housing Justice League Guiding Principles; Adopted March 27th, 2018

The City of Chicago Is Responsible for Implementing Housing Strategies, Policies, and Procedures to Ensure:

1. Everyone has access to safe, healthy, accessible, and affordable housing, regardless of where they live.
2. New investment does not lead to displacement.
3. Development is driven through democratic process, by and for the community .
4. Low-income households have increased access to affordable housing options near public transit, jobs, parks, healthy food options, health clinics, and good public schools.
5. No households after paying housing costs, including utilities, shall be cost-burdened.
6. Housing policies are viewed through a racial equity lens.
7. Housing is created and maintained in a way that is ecological sustainable.
8. Housing is preserved or created for families and traditionally marginalized communities, including but not limited to: people with disabilities, immigrants, indigenous peoples, homeless and low-income residents, seniors, veterans, people of color, reentering citizens, gender non-conforming individuals and LGBTQ persons.
9. Tenants and residents are guaranteed the right to organize.
10. Historical injustice is recognized and rectified
11. Culture, art, food, language and other components of communities are inclusively honored and valued.