

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing (PRO Housing) Grant offers a critical opportunity for the City of New Haven to address long-standing barriers to affordable housing development and preservation. With \$100 million available nationwide, the City is seeking \$7 million in funding to support initiatives that target outdated zoning, deteriorating infrastructure, and anti-displacement measures. These efforts are essential to ensuring the city's housing growth remains equitable, resilient, and inclusive.

The initiative is a key component of New Haven's broader strategy to tackle housing affordability while promoting economic development. As part of the "Together New Haven" framework, the City integrates housing policy, infrastructure upgrades, and community-based investments to support both current and future residents. By removing barriers to affordable housing, New Haven aims to address the critical housing shortage while promoting neighborhood connectivity and sustainability.

New Haven is one of Connecticut's most diverse cities, as reflected in the 2020 U.S. Census: the population is 36.6% Black or African American, 31.2% Hispanic or Latino, 29.5% White, and 5% Asian. However, despite this diversity, income inequality remains a pressing challenge. Approximately 26.5% of New Haven residents live below the poverty line, and many neighborhoods experience poor health outcomes and persistent economic hardship.

The City is committed to addressing housing disparities, particularly the affordability crisis, while promoting economic growth that uplifts all residents. This effort aligns with HUD's goals of removing barriers to housing production. The planning proposal centers on three key components: **1) Neighborhood planning and policy development**- community engagement and neighborhood planning to target updating land use policies, ensuring that zoning regulations support affordable housing development. **2) Support for priority residential and mixed-use projects** that promote affordability and inclusivity through increased housing density while maintaining neighborhood scale and character, enhancing climate resilience and walkability. **3) Anti-displacement strategies that provide direct support** - create housing support funds and programs to assist homeowners and developers in building and preserving affordable housing. Incentives will prioritize long-term community stability by protecting vulnerable residents from displacement and fostering inclusive, equitable development that benefits all.

This proposal aims to promote economic revitalization, workforce development, and climate resilience. It emphasizes New Haven's commitment to creating vibrant, thriving neighborhoods where all residents—regardless of socioeconomic background—can access affordable housing and essential services. The City looks forward to working with HUD to turn these objectives into reality for New Haven's diverse and dynamic population