

### Who We Are

**Equity in Place** is a diverse group of strategic partners from organizations led by people of color and housing advocacy organizations working to advance housing justice and equitable community development. We organize and advocate by **leading with a race equity lens** to understand and center how **power** inequities in our region and society **shape inequitable outcomes** for our communities.

### The Impact of COVID in our Communities

Households of color have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID pandemic. For instance, over the course of the pandemic, 50% of Black workers and 60% of Indigenous workers in Minnesota have filed for unemployment<sup>1</sup>. By mid-January 2021, this economic crisis had led to 30% of Black, Latinx and Asian households saying they were behind on rent, compared to just 6% of white households<sup>2</sup>. With the lifting of the federal or state moratorium, as many as 69,800 Minnesota households would be at immediate risk of eviction at the end of January 2021<sup>2</sup>.

1- Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

2- American Community Survey, Household Pulse Survey

### 2021 State Priorities

Given the increased severity of the housing crisis under COVID, EIP has recognized the critical role of state legislators and leaders in mitigating the harm in communities of color and shifting policy and resources to support renter and BIPOC households at a statewide level.



#### Maintain the statewide eviction moratorium through executive order

Even as vaccines roll out, the negative economic impacts of the virus will continue to disproportionately impact BIPOC communities and renters. Keep the moratorium in place throughout calendar year 2021.



#### Prioritize longer term support for renters

State, county, and local entities must establish programs that dedicate resources to renters for longer term stability rather than just shorter term “emergency rental assistance.”



#### Center community in distributing future housing assistance

EIP community-based partners must be included in the development of policy and programs that determine housing assistance distribution. This will not only create a more accessible process for our most vulnerable renters but also ensure that resources going to landlords come with accountability, such as anti-displacement requirements.

## HOME Line

### 2021 Minnesota Renters' Agenda

#### Eviction and Expungement Reforms

More than 13,000 residential evictions are filed in Minnesota by landlords each year – at great expense to families, the communities they call home, and ALL taxpayers. HOME Line calls for a 14-day pre-eviction notice before landlords can file evictions against tenants and reforms to when eviction actions become public record and when they're expunged.

#### Heat and Repairs:

Too often, renters in Minnesota have little recourse when their landlords don't provide timely and required maintenance or repairs that are included in their lease. HOME Line calls for policy changes to ensure that renter households have fair access to due process and the legal right to safe and healthy living conditions.

#### Lease Fairness:

HOME Line calls for policy changes to ensure renter households have transparency, privacy and flexibility to make informed decisions for their financial and physical health and safety.

Learn more: [homelinemn.org/public-policy](http://homelinemn.org/public-policy)

## Additional state policy recommendations

-  **Statewide Just Cause Eviction / Non-renewal** to protect renters from involuntary displacement caused by arbitrary, unreasonable or discriminatory evictions and non-renewals of lease once the moratorium is lifted. For example, many renters are being told by landlords that their leases won't be renewed or will be evicted once the moratorium is over because they have fallen behind on rent.
-  **Pass the eviction moratorium through legislation for the longer term** so renters can know that they won't be evicted. In addition, include a one-year recovery period after the end of the public health emergency.
-  **Source of Income Protections:** Housing assistance is a valuable tool for helping families remain stably housed and affordable places to call home. Today renters can be turned away from housing if they are using a voucher to pay the rent. This practice must end to ensure that low-income households have access to fair housing choice.
-  **Prohibition on late fees** during eviction moratorium.
-  **No reporting of nonpayment of rent** during peacetime emergency to credit bureaus.
-  **Automatic expungement** of illegally filed evictions during the pandemic.
-  **60-day notice period** between renters being notified and having to vacate once the eviction moratorium expires.
-  **Rent and mortgage payment cancellation** with debt forgiveness.
-  **No more resources for for-profit "affordable" housing developers.** Move state resources to prioritize deeper and longer term affordable housing, support models of tenant ownership and community ownership.

## Equity in Place member organizations

African Career, Education, and Resource (ACER) | The Alliance | Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, University of MN | Community Stabilization Project | Frogtown Neighborhood Association | Harrison Neighborhood Association | HOME Line | Hope Community | Housing Justice Center | Inquilinx Unidxs Por Justicia | Jewish Community Action | Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers | MN STEP (Standing Together to End Poverty) | Native American Community Development Institute | New American Development Center | Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association | Pueblos de Lucha y Esperanza MN | South East Community Organization | Urban Homeworks | West Side Community Organization