



## Preparing for HUD's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) Implementation

### **What is AFFH?**

AFFH is an administrative rule promulgated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in 2015 that requires jurisdictions that receive federal housing funding (for example Community Development Block Grants) to not only document barriers to integration and opportunity, but to detail—and prioritize—policies to eradicate them. HUD provides each program participant with data and an Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) tool to determine fair housing issues in its community. Using the HUD data, local data and local knowledge, the required community participation process, and the assessment tool, each jurisdiction prepares and submits an AFH to HUD, which includes fair housing goals.

### **How can AFFH directly impact communities?**

The AFFH process has the potential to transform community engagement with local planning processes, as it entreats jurisdictions to undertake inclusive community participation activities (such as town halls, focus groups and multi-stakeholder sessions) while developing its goals. The AFH is a written document each jurisdiction must create with community participation, and a draft version of the document should be available for review and public comment for at least 60 days prior to submission to HUD. In 2016, three major cities—Philadelphia, New Orleans and Kansas City—completed Assessments of Fair Housing. In Philadelphia, the process led to the creation of a new multiethnic fair housing coalition; a commitment by the City Council to tackle the eviction crisis in the city, and a pledge to provide funding to Limited English Proficient immigrant populations with legal services and increased outreach about public housing programs—all initiatives that are formally part of the City of Philadelphia's AFFH goals.

### **How can my organization participate in the AFFH process?**

- Determine when your Assessment of Fair Housing is due, and who is responsible for creating the AFH document in your region. This may involve calling the Housing Authority or agency responsible for administering HUD programs in your city; or contacting [HUD's AFFH field](#) representatives directly.
- Understand what [HUD's Data and Mapping](#) Tool is "saying" about your community and their neighborhoods (you can refer to *National CAPACD's Data and Mapping Guide*). Understand the gaps in HUD's data—it is unlikely that the data will capture more recent gentrification dynamics, demographic changes such as the arrival of newer immigrant groups: and it may also underestimate the "housing cost burden" on AAPI communities.
- Survey community members on housing cost burdens, access to transit options, school quality, proximity to jobs; and consider proactively preparing written community or neighborhood "needs-assessment profiles" for potential submission as written testimony during the AFH public comment period.
- Mobilize community members to attend town halls, stakeholder sessions or public hearings organized as part of the AFH process. Advocacy for your community's inclusion early in the process could lead to stronger relationships with local governments and housing policymakers in your region.