



# Afternoon Keynote

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Funders Together to End Homelessness

Housing as a Human Right: Exploring Partnerships, Innovation, and Equity

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# Reform, Reimagine, or Transform?

A path to Housing and Racial Justice





# Funders Together

## TO END HOMELESSNESS

*Mobilizing philanthropy to lead with racial and housing justice to prevent and end homelessness.*

270+

Members

Community Foundations  
Corporate Giving Programs  
Family Foundations  
Private Foundations  
United Ways

## Areas of Work

Grantmaking Strategy  
Connection to national and local experts  
Online and In-Person Programming & Resources  
Networking and relationship building with peers  
Regional and issue-based Funder Networks  
Communities of Practice  
Advocacy and Policy Efforts  
Issue-based Learnings  
Coaching and Technical Assistance

# Definition of Racial Equity

Racial equity means “closing the gaps” so that race does not predict one’s success, while also improving outcomes for all. Equity is distinct from equality in that it aspires to achieve fair outcomes and considers history and implicit bias, rather than simply providing “equal opportunity” for everyone. Racial equity is not just the absence of overt racial discrimination; it is also the presence of deliberate policies and practices that provide everyone with the support they need to improve the quality of their lives.

*(Maguire 2016)*

# Definition of Racial Justice

A racial equity lens separates symptoms from causes, but a racial justice lens brings into view the confrontation of power, the redistribution of resources, and the systemic transformation necessary for real change..

# Definition of Racial Justice

Justice requires urgent fundamental changes that reposition communities of color in relation to power and resources, which includes being able to challenge and shape the many institutions that determine a community's conditions



# Philanthropic Institute for Racial Equity: Grantmaking with a Racial Justice Lens

## Racial Equity

The original guide describes four important features of **a racial equity lens**:

Analyzes data and information about race and ethnicity

Understands disparities and the reasons they exist

Looks at structural root causes of problems

Names race explicitly when talking about problems and solutions

## Racial Justice

A **racial justice lens** adds four more critical elements:

Understands and acknowledges racial history

Creates a shared affirmative vision of a fair and inclusive society

Focuses explicitly on building civic, cultural, and political power by those most impacted

Emphasizes transformative solutions that impact multiple systems



# Strategic Framework

2022-2025



Funders Together  
TO END HOMELESSNESS

Photo: Tinú Roland/Nappy

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## Housing Justice is Racial Justice



# Housing Justice



**Funders Together**  
TO END HOMELESSNESS

Housing is a fundamental human right.

Housing justice is a building block for racial justice and liberation. A just housing society offers the assurance of safe, secure, affordable, and dignified living conditions where people have power and agency over how and where they live.

Housing justice recognizes that for generations equitable access to housing has been denied to Black and Indigenous people and other communities of color, which has fueled the disproportionate numbers of Black and other people of color experiencing homelessness.

By pursuing housing justice, Funders Together is unapologetically stating that homelessness is a racialized experience created and exacerbated by the forces of structural racism. Funders Together advocates for corrective action, such as reparations, to address the cumulative disparities and transform systems of accountability to ensure housing for all.

# Mission

Funders Together to End Homelessness mobilizes its members to use philanthropy's voice, influence, and financial capital to end homelessness by creating and advancing lasting solutions that are grounded in racial and housing justice, driven by love and disruption, and centering people with lived expertise.

# Vision

In collaboration with our members and partners, the housing and homelessness fields will understand the legacy of racism in its practices and policies and with that knowledge reimagine and transform systems to be Pro-Black and Pro-Indigenous using an intersectional lens to achieve housing and racial justice.

# Guiding Principles



**Funders Together**  
TO END HOMELESSNESS

Centering  
Housing  
Justice

Reframing  
Philanthropy's  
Point of View

Implementing  
with Intention

Organizational  
Wellness

# **The Proximity to Whiteness**

**“There is an idea that proximity to whiteness is needed in order for a community to be thriving - this is an idea that we have to disrupt.” – Peggy Bailey, Vice President for Housing, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities**

# **The Great Regression**

**We are all concerned about the great resignation and recession, but what about the lack of meaningful and measurable progress after the overdue awakening and rightful uprising to actually demonstrate that Black Lives Matter.**



# **What is Transformation?**

**Transformation is not just a transformed or different outcome; it means transforming the process in the way we make decisions and prioritize resources. It's the literal transformation of power. It forces you to ask - How are you giving up power to Black and Brown folks, especially people with lived expertise?**

# **Real Transformation Happens:**

- When we take power away from oppressive systems**
- Bring many people with lived expertise to question those systems**
- Push the edge of what is considered possible**
- Shift political debate to include more radical possibilities. - @JonathanLykes**



# National Coalition for Housing Justice

The National Coalition for Housing Justice is a group of national organizations that have aligned behind seeking housing justice in order to end homelessness.

COMMUNITY  
SOLUTIONS



MANY MINDS. STRONGER OUTCOMES.



# Remember This: There is No Low-Hanging Fruit



**“The tree is 400 years-old and the roots are deep. These trees are deeply rooted in racism and the fruit they bear is rotten. We have to plant new seeds and toil new soil.”**

**- Aisha Alexander-Young, Meyer  
Foundation**



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Thank you for joining us!

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