



Housing injustice is deeply intertwined with racial injustice. For too long, many of us in the affordable housing community have assumed our work toward lifting low-income Kentuckians on a class basis into housing opportunity was sufficient to address deep, longstanding racial inequities. As the past few days, months, years, and generations have shown us - it is not.

Like many of us, I have struggled with what to say on behalf of HHCK in the face of the killing of our fellow Kentuckians, Breonna Taylor, David McAtee, and so many others whose names we do not know. What could I, as a 40-year-old white woman, possibly add to the conversation that would be remotely helpful and not harmful? Is it even our place to comment?

Having spent time listening and seeking the counsel of our board chair, Christie McCravy, I realized HHCK cannot be silent. Not when [black Americans make up 40% of people experiencing homelessness](#). Not when the [homeownership rate among black Americans fell to 43%](#) in 2017, reversing a decades-long trend upwards. To do so out of respect, or a misguided sense of “staying in our lane,” no matter how well intended, would be complicity - and we cannot continue to be complicit in white supremacy.

As a measure of accountability, I want to share with you the anti-racist activities we commit to accomplishing moving forward:

- HHCK will continue to seek out opportunities to fund and partner with Communities of Color and true grassroots organizations. This year we have deliberately funded grassroots lobby efforts and direct service provision among black-led organizations in West Louisville using our limited private dollars. We will expand our financial support over the coming years.
- We will seek to place Homes for All national service members at black-led organizations.
- We will thoughtfully identify, support, and pursue housing policies that are truly anti-racist. In the words of Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, in [How to Be an Anti-Racist](#), “racial inequity is a problem of bad policy, not bad people.”
- We will reexamine and remove any of our direct service policies to rid them of any racist assumptions or consequences.
- We will recruit from Communities of Color for future staff openings. Year after year, our Homes for All national service members are more racially diverse than Kentucky’s general population. But each of our 10 permanent staff members is white. That is not a coincidence, as the [nonprofit sector writ large is overwhelmingly white](#). We have to diversify. Period. Our lives and the lives of those we serve depend on it.
- We commit to being held accountable. When we make mistakes, call us out. I will not be defensive, and I will listen and learn and do better. I’m at 502-223-1834, or [email me](#).

From our perspective, there is no housing justice without racial justice. We stand by the words #BlackLivesMatter and in solidarity with anti-racism work across the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Adrienne S. Bush
Executive Director

