



# Pathways to Housing DC

## Commitment to Equitable Solutions

On this journey towards home, health, and hope, **Pathways to Housing DC is committed to dismantling structural racism and creating a race equity culture at our agency.** Our work must be grounded in and guided by **racial equity and social justice.** While poverty is a root cause of homelessness, **we cannot talk about poverty without talking about racism. We must recognize the ways in which a history of systemic racism exacerbates homelessness for our neighbors of color.**

The root causes of chronic homelessness are not personal failings. Rather, they are structural and include racism, the lack of affordable housing, and stagnant wages. In DC, **88.4% of adults experiencing homelessness are Black or African American,** compared to 47.7% percent of residents of the District overall. **We must recognize the ways in which a history of systemic racism exacerbates homelessness for DC residents of color.**

Pathways to Housing DC commits to:

- **Advocate** with and for the people we serve to ensure that public resources are invested in long-term solutions that dismantle systemic racism.
- **Build** a community committed to ending systemic racism, especially in areas related to housing and access to health care.
- **Create** opportunities with and for our neighbors to recover their lives through our housing first programs; supported employment efforts; our commitment to housing returning citizens; and our mental health work at the D.C. Superior Court.
- **Address** our own inherent bias and participate in anti-racism and equity training.
- **Bridge** the long-term racial divide across the City. With housing in all eight wards, every neighborhood is part of the Pathways to Housing DC community.
- **Listen.** A critical step in our healing and our moving forward will be to listen to those most impacted by racism.

**We will unite as a community to follow the path of love and hope and to channel this anguish into concrete, productive and powerful action.**