

Baltimore Regional Housing Campaign

NEW CHOICES

for all
families & children

Vision Statement

The Baltimore Regional Housing Campaign envisions a Baltimore region where public policies and private investments are aligned to overcome historic divisions by race and class, and where all families have the right and the means to live in high opportunity communities with excellent schools, economic prosperity, and low rates of poverty.

Guiding Principles

Our guiding principles include a commitment to the principle that families who work in a community should have the opportunity to live in that community, an opposition to separate and unequal schools in the Baltimore region, a recognition that school and housing policy are interconnected, and a commitment to housing choice. We believe that all housing and development efforts in the region need to be aligned with a single set of goals based on the principle of access to opportunity.

We recognize that in 2005, we can no longer solely rely on neighborhood based revitalization of inner-city communities and older suburbs as a means to providing access to opportunity for lower income families, and that the principle of housing choice and full access to high opportunity areas in both the suburbs and city must play at least a coequal role in regional housing and development planning.

Our vision is consistent with the recent ruling of the federal court in the housing desegregation case of *Thompson v. HUD*, which held that the federal government has failed to provide poor families with access to housing outside of segregated, high poverty communities. This case will be an important catalyst for change in the region and can help to break down legal barriers. We believe that housing opportunity reform efforts in the region should be consistent with the remedy in the *Thompson* case. At the same time, our vision is not limited to the *Thompson* remedy, and includes initiatives in a wide variety of government program areas and private investment strategies.

We also hope to learn from other regions that have gone before us, to develop the best and most promising approaches. In this way, we will try to move the bar higher, so that our efforts can provide examples for other cities and also influence the future national debate on a new urban policy.

Organizing members:

Citizens Planning & Housing Association
BRIDGE
Faith Fund
Greater Baltimore Urban League
Innovative Housing Institute
Poverty & Research Race Action Council
ACLU of Maryland