



PITTSBURGH TENANTS UNION

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The Northside Coalition for Fair Housing is a Pennsylvania nonprofit corporation; it is tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c) (3)



MISSION

The Pittsburgh Tenants Union (PTU) is to create housing justice through empowerment-based education, outreach, leadership development, organizing and advocacy.

WHAT

Established in 2016, the PTU will work as tenants to create concrete improvements in our living conditions and challenge our city transformation to a human rights city ending unjust housing policies and practices. As a membership organization, the PTU's work is grounded in the strong conviction that tenants must be leaders of efforts to transform our housing conditions and communities.

WHO

The PTU embraces the values of equality, hope, tenant leadership, respect, direct action, civic courage, racial and economic justice, and self-determination in our work. Pittsburgh's working class urban dwellers are in crises. Rising evictions, an aging housing stock that is unsafe and in many cases uninhabitable, rising housing costs and the dramatic displacement of poor and disadvantaged people are all symptoms of this crisis. The Pittsburgh Tenants Union is recruiting member to Challenge the "Status Quo." Join us to ensure "Housing is a Human Right" in the City of Pittsburgh.

GET INVOLVED

- Strengthen tenant protections and educate tenants and landlords
- Take steps to preserve existing affordable housing, and provide programs and resources to improve its quality
- Identify revenue streams to dedicate to affordable housing through an affordable housing trust
- Use publicly owned buildings and land to create affordable housing, especially near transit
- Pass a strong inclusionary zoning policy
- Strengthen and stabilize neighborhoods to prevent displacements

WWW.NORTHSIDETENANTS.ORG

HOUSING FACTS ABOUT

PITTSBURGH

- Hard working families, seniors, and people with disabilities are struggling to find and maintain homes they can afford.
- The City is experiencing a severe shortage of decent, safe and sanitary housing that is affordable to extremely low-income families. The local housing market is not meeting the demand for housing at this income level, and the City and its authorities cannot adequately address the need through the expenditure of existing resources.
- The failure of the local housing market to provide housing that is affordable to extremely low-income families forces them to pay more for housing than they can afford, which reduces the supply of housing that would otherwise be available for families at other income levels and creates a ripple effect of unaffordability.
- Over 25,000 Pittsburgh households are paying more than half of their household income on housing costs. The severe cost burden faced by these households makes them vulnerable to eviction, foreclosure, utility termination, and other hardships.
- Many very-low income and extremely low-income families in Pittsburgh lack access to opportunity resources – such as public transportation, jobs, safe neighborhoods, high-quality schools, child care and grocery stores – that they need to improve their and their children’s health, safety and economic self-sufficiency.
- At any given time there is an average of more than 2000 homeless households on a waiting list for housing and homeless services in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County.
- Pittsburgh’s current approach to affordable housing development tends to rely on for-profit developers to provide relatively short periods of affordability. This often causes the City to invest its limited resources into preserving its existing affordable housing stock instead of expanding the supply. Financing mission-driven developers and prioritizing permanent affordability will maximize the effectiveness of the City’s housing resources.

In Allegheny County there are 30-45 affordable and available rental units per 100 extremely low income households.
Pennsylvania has a deficit of 280,801 rental units

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