

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 22, 2018

For more information, contact:
[Alexis Stephens](mailto:alexis@policylink.org), PolicyLink
alexis@policylink.org
267-872-3924

10 CITIES SELECTED FOR NEW ANTI-DISPLACEMENT POLICY NETWORK

OAKLAND, Calif. — Today, **PolicyLink** is announcing ten cities selected for the first cohort of the [All-In Cities Anti-Displacement Policy Network](#). With support from JPMorgan Chase & Co. and The Kresge Foundation, the Network will work together over the next year on strategies to fight displacement and build inclusive, prosperous cities. The cities are: **Austin**, TX; **Boston**, MA; **Buffalo**, NY; **Denver**, CO; **Nashville**, TN; **Philadelphia**, PA; **Portland**, OR; **San José**, CA; **Santa Fe**, NM; and the twin cities of Minnesota (**Minneapolis** and **Saint Paul**).

“As leaders in their communities, the participants in this network are advancing strategies to halt the forces that are pushing low-income people and people of color out of cities, while creating the conditions for our cities and communities to thrive,” said **Angela Glover Blackwell, CEO of PolicyLink**. “We hope this network will be an opportunity to sharpen these strategies, develop new and innovative ideas, and amplify what is working so that we can spread success across the nation.”

Each city has created teams of up to six local leaders, including local mayors and city councilmembers, senior city staff, and community leaders. The city teams will advance a range of strategies, including renter protections, community land trusts and community ownership models, commercial neighborhood stabilization, inclusionary zoning and other equitable development strategies. Participants will work to build the power, voice, and capacity of communities directly impacted by displacement in defining the challenges and advancing solutions.

Network activities will include virtual learning labs, individualized coaching sessions with national experts, and peer-to-peer learning opportunities. The network participants will first meet at the PolicyLink Equity Summit in Chicago, April 11-13, with one additional network gathering in Fall 2018.

Previous [research](#) conducted by PolicyLink and the USC Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE) shows that reducing rent burdens, one of the main causes of displacement, would put \$124 billion back in the pocketbooks of renters to spend in their local communities. Renters are the majority in the 100 largest cities in America, yet 51 percent are rent burdened (paying more than 30 percent of their income on rent). Over 60 percent of households led by women of color are rent burdened.

“Right to the City is pleased to join the All Cities Anti-Displacement Network because we know the issues of displacement and gentrification are a racial justice human rights issue,” said **Darnell Johnson, Boston Regional Coordinator for Right to the City**. “The ability to connect our elected officials and policy makers to those most impacted is the backbone of this network that will challenge the limited scope of housing solutions and allow us to re-imagine the relationship between land, housing, development and people.”

“San José has one of the most expensive housing markets in the country, and as Vice Mayor I have been working tirelessly to help families of all incomes afford to live here,” said **Vice Mayor Magdalena Carrasco of San José**. “Our small businesses and diverse families that have built our communities deserve to stay, not be priced out.”



This is an urgent challenge all of us in the Bay Area and around our nation need to confront together and I look forward to pursuing every policy and budget solution.”

“As housing and community development practitioners, we recognize that the challenges of growth and development are not unique to our city and region,” said **Andrea Brennan, Director of Housing Policy and Development for Minneapolis**. “The need to respond is urgent, and participation in this network will help us move farther and faster toward solutions through learning from one another.”

“At a time when many cities are experiencing an economic resurgence, it is critical that all residents have the opportunity to participate in and share in the prosperity,” said **Janis Bowdler, Head of Community Development for JPMorgan Chase & Co.** “We are proud to partner with PolicyLink to foster a peer network of cities dedicated to reducing resident displacement and advancing inclusive economic growth in their communities.”

“The PolicyLink All-In Cities Anti-Displacement Policy Network will support local leaders as they work with community residents to create stronger, inclusive and prosperous communities,” said **David Fukuzawa, managing director of The Kresge Foundation’s Health and Human Services programs**. “The work of this initiative at the intersection of housing, health and economic development to address the needs of families facing housing insecurity is essential. We look forward to learning from the city teams about the approaches that work best in their communities.”

The **All-In Cities initiative** provides policy research, data, and capacity-building and implementation support to city governments and community coalitions as they develop and implement tailored policy solutions to create stronger cities for all. All-In Cities includes: policy research and development through the [All-In Cities Policy Toolkit](#); data disaggregated by race/ethnicity, income, neighborhood, and other demographics through the [National Equity Atlas](#) (the partnership between PolicyLink and PERE); and place-based engagements and field building, including the All-In Cities Anti-Displacement Policy Network.

About PolicyLink

PolicyLink is a national research and action institute advancing economic and social equity by Lifting Up What Works®. For more information, visit PolicyLink.org