



RESEARCH BRIEF

Anti-displacement strategies for healthy and equitable community design

Overview

Healthy community design, such as connecting transportation systems and changing land use codes, may benefit those who live nearby. However, some reports suggest that these changes may also increase property values and encourage displacement of existing residents. To promote equity in these built environment changes it is vital to understand strategies to prevent or mitigate displacement.

Main Questions

1. What resources are available to help practitioners learn about available anti-displacement strategies?
2. What characteristics differentiate potential anti-displacement strategies?

Study

We conducted a systematic scoping review examining toolkits, resources, or best practices guides containing multiple strategies to prevent or mitigate displacement specific to a US context. Overall, 24 unique resources were identified as sources for anti-displacement strategies. From these resources, 141 potential anti-displacement strategies were discovered. These strategies were then characterized by adapting an existing typology into 9 domains (see right block).

The Bottom Line

Our review provides over one hundred potential anti-displacement strategies for practitioners, categorized into 9 domains. This inventory can be used to implement strategies to reduce displacement and perform future formal evaluation research on effectiveness of different tactics.

9 Domains of anti-displacement strategies

1. **Preservation**
To preserve existing affordable rental units
2. **Protection**
Help long time residents who wish to stay in the neighborhood
3. **Inclusion**
Ensure that a share of new development is affordable
4. **Revenue Generation**
Harness growth to expand financial resources for affordable housing
5. **Incentives/Disincentives**
Create incentives for developers of affordable housing, and/or discourage developer from increasing rents
6. **Property Acquisition**
Facilitate acquiring sites for affordable housing
7. **Stabilization**
Stabilizing long time/historical residents by securing long term home ownership
8. **Community Engagement / Education**
Educate and engage with community members on factors related to affordable housing and displacement
9. **Cross-Cutting**
Overarching thematic approaches related to affordable housing or displacement

Call to Action

The ability to design, create, and maintain amenities that encourage active living while preserving affordable, stable communities depends on creatively combining local knowledge with context-sensitive anti-displacement strategies. Ultimately, policy solutions to health disparities will require equity to be a central goal.

Source

Serrano N, Realmuto L, Graff KA, Hirsch JA, Andress L, Sami M, Rose K, Smith A, Irani K, McMahon J, Devlin HM. Healthy Community Design, Anti-displacement, and Equity Strategies in the USA: A Scoping Review. *J Urban Health* (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11524-022-00698-4>

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