



Study Points to Skyrocketing Rents and Stagnant Wages in New Orleans Affordable Housing Crisis

NEW ORLEANS - According to a recent data analysis from the [National Equity Atlas](#), New Orleans renters, who represent the majority of the population, are facing higher rent costs and stagnant wages. Approximately 60 percent of renters in the city pay too much for housing, which hinders them from being able to contribute to the economic, social, and cultural vitality of their surrounding neighborhoods and cities.

The major takeaway from the National Equity Atlas study is that when renters thrive, cities thrive. If New Orleans renters were able to pay an amount they could afford on living, they would have an extra \$7,200 per household to spend in their communities each year. Statewide, Louisiana renters would have an extra \$1.5B to contribute each year. Not only would this have a tremendous impact on economic development, but it would also help diminish the racial and gender inequities that have plagued New Orleans and the entire State of Louisiana for decades.

Women in New Orleans continue to face the steepest burdens when it comes to renter costs, with 72 percent of women of color and 49 percent of white women spending more than 30 percent of their total income on housing. These numbers are continuing to rise with time, not just for women and minorities, but for the entire population. In the past seven years alone, renters throughout the state have experienced a 19 percent increase in rent payments, with renters in New Orleans experiencing an even greater increase at 23 percent.

"This study further proves what we already know to be true in New Orleans," said HousingNOLA Executive Director Andreanecia Morris. "We are at an important crossroads. We can choose to stabilize our citizens, allow them to contribute to the local economy and change the course of New Orleans' next 300 years, or we can allow this trend to continue, and undoubtedly force more of our people out the city they call home."

For more information on the New Orleans National Equity Atlas renter study, click [here](#).

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In 2014, the Foundation for Louisiana's TOGETHER Initiative convened an affordable housing group of residents and non-profits to develop strategies for improving housing policies and increasing equity in New Orleans. The result was [HousingNOLA](#): a community-led housing process that would seek to address the housing needs of New Orleans over ten years. HousingNOLA is now a 10-year partnership between community leaders, and dozens of public, private, and nonprofit organizations working to solve the city's affordable housing crisis. [The Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance](#) (GNOHA) was chosen by the group to manage the initial HousingNOLA process, assisted by fair housing advocates, developers and City officials - in partnership with civic, neighborhood, business, and philanthropic leaders. GNOHA is a collaborative of home builders and community development organization advocating for the production of affordable housing.

