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Data as a Tool for Housing Justice

Myrian Ayala

James Maciel-Andrews

Jack White

Anna Grant-Bolton

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Data for Housing Justice with the Center for Leadership & Justice

Anna Grant-Bolton '25, Jack White '25, James Maciel Andrews '25, and Myri Ayala '25
with community partner Juan Fonseca Tapia



The Center for Leadership & Justice is engaged in broad-based community and multi-faith organizing with the goal of building enough relational power to bring about systemic justice in Greater Hartford. CLJ organizers support leaders in identifying, researching, and taking action on issues that impact them. In 2017 the CLJ launched the #NoMoreSlumlords campaign where six residents in Clay Arsenal Renaissance apartments organized to drive out a millionaire absentee slumlord from Hartford. The same year, the CLJ successfully advocated for a new Hartford Housing Code.

As the CLJ follows the implementation of the new code, Juan Fonseca asked this CACT group to analyze and visualize the City of Hartford's public data set on Housing Code Cases, attend meetings with tenant leaders to learn more about their experiences, explore FOIA policy issues, and design communications products on how to file a housing code case and a summary of the rental licensing program.

This group collaborated with Professor Jack Dougherty and Ilya Ilyankou '18 to launch the Housing Code Complaints Heatmap and summarized their findings and presented their visualizations in a WordPress blog post "Data as a Tool for Housing Justice." They also created the following fliers.

**Community Action Gateway
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Center for Hartford
Engagement and Research**

WHY IS THE RENTAL LICENSING PROGRAM IMPORTANT?



The Rental Licensing Program (RLP) requires that Hartford landlords license their properties and have their buildings inspected. The RLP was one of the victories from the Center for Leadership & Justice's 2017 #NoMoreSlumLords campaign.

1

It requires landlords to share their contact information. This allows residents to communicate directly with their property owner, which has been a large challenge in the past.

2

Landlords are required to fix all of tenants' existing housing issues and resolve housing code cases before they are licensed.

3

Tenants will be able to build stronger relationships with the housing authority who will be visiting buildings for licensing.

How to report a Housing Code Violation Guide:



NOTIFY YOUR MANAGER!



CALL 211 AND WRITE DOWN YOUR CASE NUMBER

ALWAYS ASK FOR THE PERSON'S NAME WHEN REPORTING A VIOLATION



KEEP TRACK OF ALL THE INFORMATION RELATED TO YOUR CASE AND DOCUMENT EVERYTHING!

ASK FOR AN EMAIL ADDRESS WHEN TALKING TO YOUR BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR AND THE HARTFORD'S HOUSING AUTHORITY



TAKE PICTURES!



TALK TO YOUR NEIGHBORS



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