

GREEN NEW DEAL FOR PUBLIC HOUSING ACT

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY)

The Nation is currently facing a climate emergency *and* an affordable housing crisis. We have an opportunity to address both of these issues at once by weatherizing, electrifying, and modernizing our public housing so that it may serve as a model of efficiency, sustainability, and resiliency for the rest of the Nation. The Green New Deal for Public Housing Act would transition the entire public housing stock of the United States, as swiftly and seamlessly as possible, into zero-carbon, highly energy-efficient developments that produce on-site renewable energy, expand workforce capacity and family self-sufficiency programs, and focus on community development. It addresses the substantial public housing capital backlog by ensuring all public housing is brought up to safe and sanitary condition. No matter the circumstances you were born into, this bill ensures that everyone has a shot at economic and social empowerment.

Specifically, the Green New Deal for Public Housing Act would expand federal programs to provide residents with meaningful work investing in their communities, to own and operate resident businesses, to move toward financial independence, and to participate in the management of public housing. The bill would expand resident councils so that public housing residents have a seat at the table for important decisions regarding their homes. And, the Green New Deal for Public Housing Act would repeal the Faircloth Amendment, which limits the construction of new public housing developments. This is an important step toward providing affordable housing for all. The bill would create two grant programs under one application process to modernize our public housing stock through:

- Deep energy retrofits to increase energy savings in all of the over 900,000 public housing units;
- Addressing community workforce development needs by prioritizing good-paying job opportunities for residents;
- Energy efficiency, building electrification, and water quality upgrades;
- Community renewable energy generation, the profits of which will be controlled by Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) to boost their coffers and increase self-sufficiency;
- Recycling;
- Community resiliency and sustainability;
- Climate adaptation and emergency disaster response.

In order to qualify for these grants, PHAs must guarantee resident engagement, and support strong labor standards (Buy American, prevailing wages, project labor agreements, no arbitration clauses, labor peace policies, and no worker misclassification) and American manufacturing. The bill fully funds tenant protection vouchers for all displaced residents and guarantees a right to return to their homes. HUD is encouraged to prioritize contracts in rural and tribal areas and with workers who are veterans or returning citizens.