Addressing segregation by income, race, and ethnicity overview

American cities continue to be characterized by segregated residential patterns, but local jurisdictions can take steps to undo the effects of historical, discriminatory policies.

The causes of segregation are multifaceted, but government policies at the federal, state, and local level have contributed to current patterns. Segregation continues to characterize U.S. cities, towns, and counties, and has resulted in large disparities in resources and services that affect children’s life chances.

Local housing policies, in partnership with other non-housing policies, can help to improve conditions in neighborhoods and mitigate disparities across them.