



About the NYC Research and Organizing Initiative

The NYC Research and Organizing Initiative (NYCROI) is a collaborative project that was formed by numerous local organizations in NYC. These groups identified the need for training and skill development in order to strategically generate research that will support and advance grassroots organizing in New York City and beyond.

NYCROI is currently housed and facilitated by the Community Development Project of the Urban Justice Center (UJC). While NYCROI has been dormant for the past year, several participants have recently restarted the initiative. We hope that you will join us for this exciting initiative!

The past achievements and ongoing projects of the Initiative include:

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

➤ **Series of Trainings and Forums:**

- *Becoming a Data Activist: Using government data to support your organizing campaigns* took place in the winter of 2005. It was organized and facilitated by a working group that included the Community Service Society of New York, Community Development Project/UJC, the Community Learning Initiative of the Gallatin School at NYU, Good Jobs New York and Urban Agenda. Convened by a working group made up of the Association of Neighborhood and Housing Development, the Community Development Project/Urban Justice Center and the Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy at NYU, a follow-up workshop called *Using Online Housing Data to Support Organizing and Advocacy* was held in late February 2006.
- The *Research for Social Justice Organizing Forum* held on May 10th, 2006 was organized by a working group made up of Picture the Homeless, Mothers on the Move, Pratt Center for Community Development, the Community Development Project of the Urban Justice Center, RFR Researchers, the Center for the Study of Asian American Health/NYU, Queens College, and the Research Center for Leadership in Action/NYU. This forum brought together 63 individuals from 43 organizing, research, policy and funding agencies that are engaged in participatory action research to: exchange experiences and lessons learned in using research as an organizing tool; discuss strategies, address challenges, and promote effective practices; and share concrete tools to support and strengthen local and city-wide research for social justice work.
- *Issue-based forums*: Starting in July 2006, NYCROI held a series of meetings with community and membership-based organizations working to address gentrification in their community. We produced a summary document of the

issues and needs coming out of these discussions, and continued to meet to develop collective analysis related to the issue, share strategies and best practices, and identify ways in which to support research and policy efforts that will strengthen these efforts on both the local and city-wide levels.

ONGOING PROJECTS

- A fully designed copy of the **Research and Organizing for Social Justice Resource Directory** is currently being updated. The directory centralizes information regarding ongoing social justice-related research projects and resources in the city so that grassroots groups and policy researchers can share approaches, strategies, and experiences, as well as data and useful research tools. This will be available shortly.
- Developing a **funding base** for research for organizing efforts.
- Development of **A research for organizing curriculum and toolkit** that community groups can use as a resource. Additionally, the collective is planning a **training and workshop sessions** that group leaders could attend to share experiences from their organizations and gain new research skills to then pass onto their membership.

Organizations/individuals involved in convening both now and in the past:

- Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development (ANHD)*
- Center for the Study of Asian American Health/NYU*
- Community Development Project/Urban Justice Center*
- Community Voices Heard*
- Homelessness Outreach and Prevention Project/Urban Justice Center*
- Laura Braslow-Research Consultant*
- Restaurant Opportunity Center-NY*
- CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities
- Chris Chaput-Designer
- Community Service Society of New York
- Fabulous Independent Education Radicals for Community Empowerment! (FIERCE!)
- Families United for Racial and Economic Justice (FUREE)
- Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy/NYU
- Good Jobs New York
- Jonathan Goldberg-Website Designer
- Mothers on the Move (MOM)
- Nathalis Wamba-Queens College
- Picture the Homeless
- Pratt Center for Community Development
- Remy Kharbanda and Andrea Ritchie- RFR community researchers and activists
- Rene Francisco Poitevin- Community Learning Initiative of NYU Gallatin School
- Research Center for Leadership in Action/ NYU
- Urban Agenda

***For more information or to become involved, please contact
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*These groups have been involved with the efforts to reconvene NYCROI