# HOUSING OPTIONS AFTER PRUITT-IGOE

## DISPERSAL POLICY & SCATTERED-SITE HOUSING PROJECTS

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#### INTRODUCTION

In the United States, low-income households continue to suffer from severe housing problems, and the need for decent affordable housing is only growing more urgent as a result of the current subprime mortgage crisis and higher foreclosure rates.

### **OBJECTIVE**

The purpose of this research has been to examine how developments in the housing field have led to the current focus of American housing policy: the deconcentration of low-income households in urban areas through scatteredsite housing programs and other strategies that emphasize low-density, geographically-dispersed housing. By investigating dispersal policy and the work of the nonprofit housing developer, the Women's Development Corporation (WDC), it is also possible to gain a better understanding of the role which future generations of female architects might have in the development of housing for low-income families.

#### DISCUSSION

The housing field presents new opportunities for women seeking to expand their professional functions as architects. Organizations such as the WDC have demonstrated how architects may adopt managerial roles in the development of housing for low-income families. The success of scattered-site housing programs is also contingent on the continual upkeep of housing units.



with massproduced housing appear throughout the country. 1939-1945

1945

Suburban

communities

1949

The 1949 Construction on the Pruitt-Igoe Housing Act public housing project is enables the completed. distribution of federal funds

1960s

1960

Housing policy shifts its focus towards promoting low-density, geographicallydispersed housing.



1973 All 33 of Pruitt-Igoe's buildings have now been demolished.

High-rise, high-density public housing developments have become widely linked to poverty concentration, crime, and racial segregation.



1979 A small group of female architects, along with a community advocate, establish the Women's Development Corporation.



1930 1940

World War II

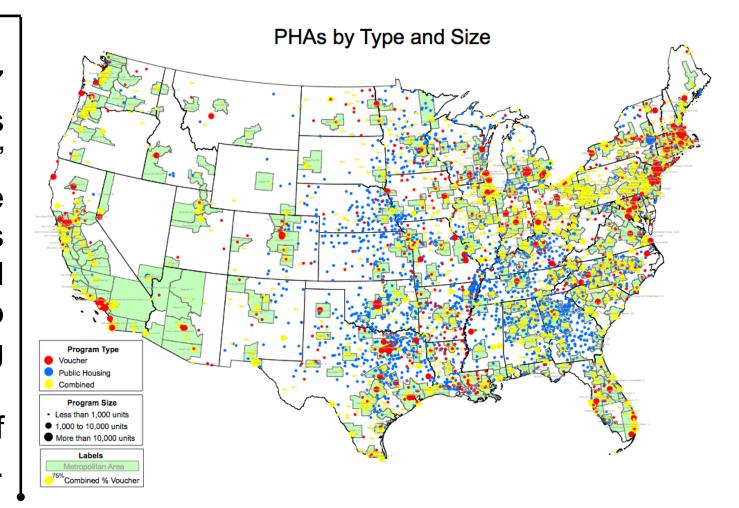
1950

1980

1990

2010

1937 The 1937 Housing Act marks the start of the United States' public housing program. The bill creates the United States Housing Authority and distributes federal subsidies to Local Public Housing Authorities (PHAs). This 2011 map shows the distribution of PHAs across the country.



for slum

programs.

clearance and

urban renewal

1975 The Women's School of Planning and Architecture holds its first twoweek session.



1970



1980s

1979-1980

The WDC

organizes

design

participatory

sessions for

female clients.

The federal government starts to transfer responsibility for developing and funding housing programs to state and local governments, as well as to nonprofit organizations.

2000

1983 The WDC creates the Housing Opportunities Corporation, a nonprofit property management corporation.

2007 The U.S. economy enters a subprime mortgage crisis. Mortgage delinquencies and foreclosures increase at alarming rates.