

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.



1939-1945
World War II

OBJECTIVE

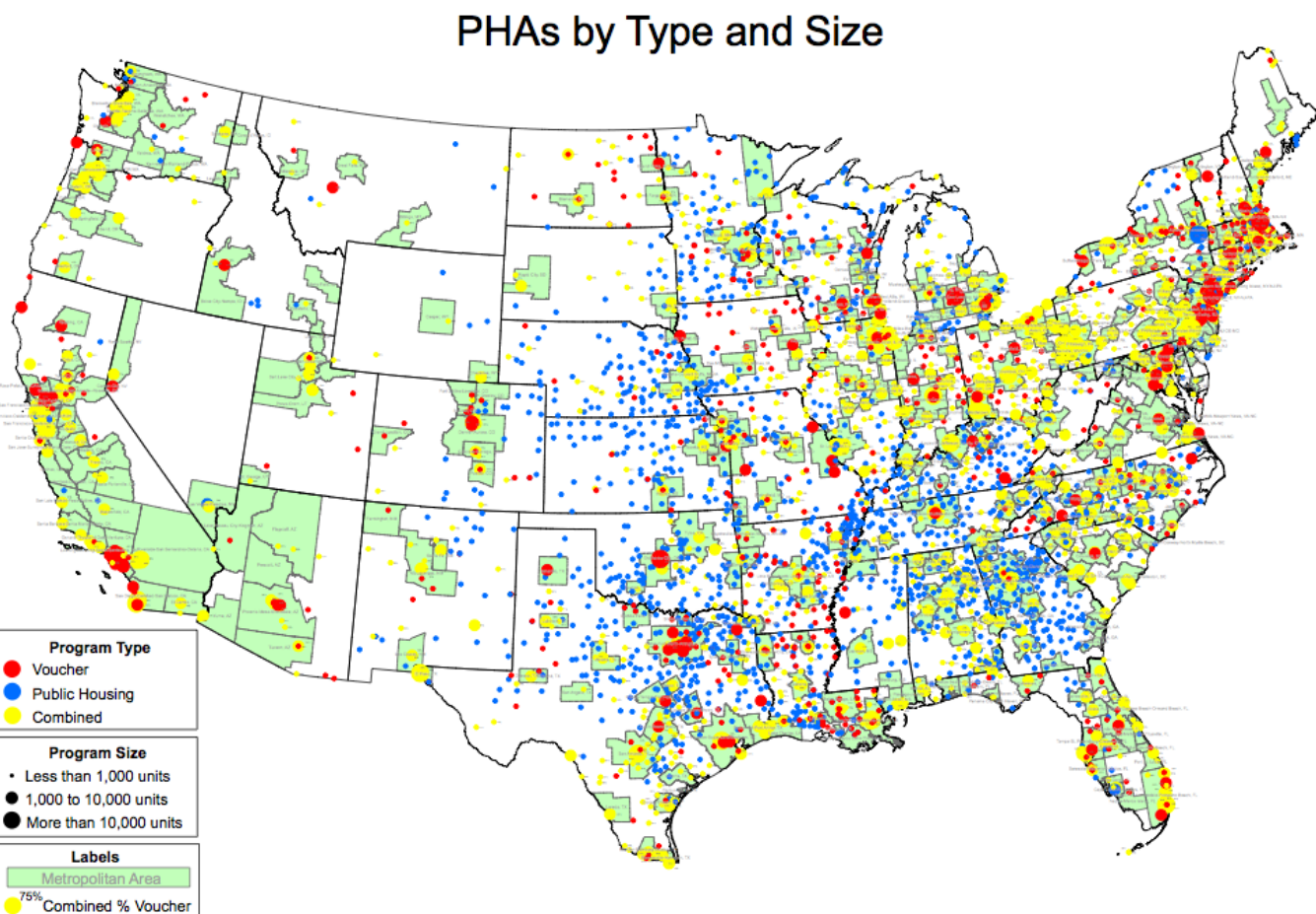
The purpose of this research has been to examine how developments in the housing field have led to the current focus of American housing policy: the deconcentration of low-income households in urban areas through scattered-site housing programs and other strategies that emphasize low-density, geographically-dispersed 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.



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.



1975
The Women's School of Planning and Architecture holds its first two-week session.



1979-1980
The WDC organizes participatory design sessions for female clients.

1980s
The federal government starts to transfer responsibility for developing and funding housing programs to state and local governments, as well as to nonprofit organizations.

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.

