

Open Communities Alliance (OCA) envisions a day when opportunity is available on an equal basis in Connecticut regardless of race, ethnicity, and income. Because Connecticut is one of the most segregated states in the country and there are vast differences between town resources, there is not equal access to opportunity. This has resulted in enormous differences by race, ethnicity and income across critical life outcomes such as education, health, employment and more. This is unjust and prevents Connecticut from reaching its full economic promise.

### How do we create access to opportunity?

OCA works with an urban-suburban interracial coalition to promote access to opportunity for all people through education, advocacy, research, and partnerships. While we support continued investments in areas that are struggling, we put a particular emphasis on promoting affordable housing options in high-resource areas in an equitable manner that does not generate new poverty concentration.

### What is Opportunity?

Where you live affects your access to resources like thriving schools, safe streets, and healthy food. Areas with an abundance of these and other resources are “high opportunity areas.” Areas that need more of these resources are “low opportunity areas.” Access to opportunity in Connecticut varies significantly depending on race and ethnicity. The Alliance is dedicated to bringing resources to lower opportunity areas and linking to higher opportunity areas people who historically have not had access to them.

**Interested in learning more? Find us at:**

- Open Communities Alliance, 75 Charter Oak Avenue, Suite 1-210, Hartford, CT 06106
- 860-610-6040
- <http://www.ctoca.org>

### How is OCA working to address these issues?

OCA supports:

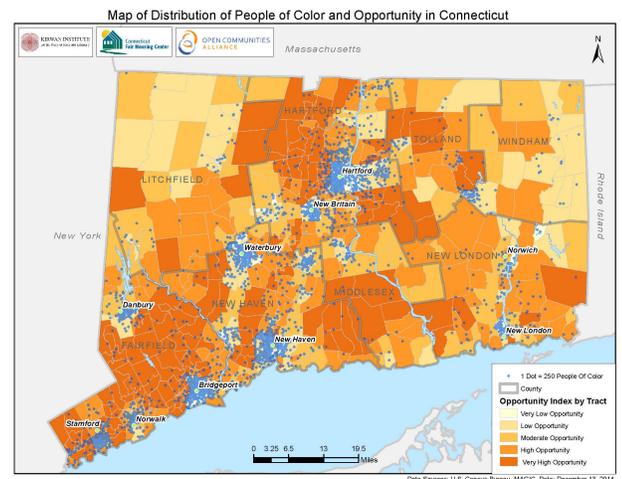
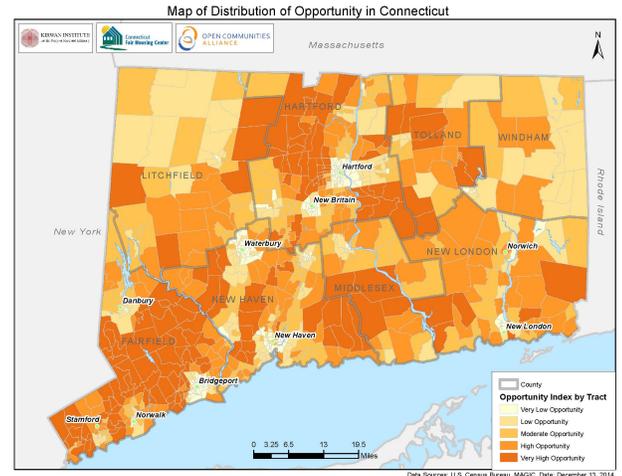
1. Creating a plan so all towns take on their fair share of affordable housing
2. Changing programs that are tenant-based so they provide real choices in housing
3. Bringing geographic balance to where government-funded housing is located
4. Investing resources wisely in struggling areas.

To make this happen OCA engages in:

- Coalition organizing
- Policy research and development
- Connecting people who believe they have experienced housing discrimination to agencies that can help
- Public education on our focus issues
- Advocacy on our focus issues.

### CT Opportunity Maps

Darker shading = higher-resourced communities.  
Blue dots = people of color



% of People by Race & Ethnicity Living in Lower Opportunity Areas	
Blacks:	73%
Latinos:	73%
Whites:	26%
Asians:	36%