

What is HIP?

The HIP coalition is a social innovation lab that brings county government and local leaders together to develop equity-driven policy solutions that keep Clayton County's children and families in stable, healthy housing. HIP Members include the Magistrate Court, Clayton County School System, Clayton County government, local non-profits focused on housing, law enforcement and other partners.

What does HIP do?

HIP members craft interventions and policy solutions (called, "experiments") that emanate from their experience with local families facing housing challenges. HIP's eviction diversion program, called RESET, is our most expansive experiment to date.

Have you had any impact?

Yes, big impact on families and schools. RESET changed the way the magistrate court handles eviction cases. Before RESET, the court treated eviction cases as mere civil cases and it prioritized efficiency when trying the cases. Now, the court prioritizes preserving tenancies (homes) when it's in the interest of the tenants and landlords. As a result, over 3,095 families received rental assistance over past 16 months through HIP. One of the measurable ripple effects of preventing these evictions is a historic drop in the student mobility rate down to 12.8 % last year. Historically, Clayton has the highest in Georgia. Similarly, many fewer children are homeless. This year only 2% of enrolled children are homeless, 1,076 kids. In years prior, the total trended above 2,000, or about 5%.

HIP's success has brought millions more in relief dollars to Clayton County. The Federal government initially allotted \$18.9 Million to Clayton County in Emergency Rental Assistance. HIP's RESET program was so successful that the feds have approved another \$9.6 million, with \$9.4 million more pending approval. The total will be **\$34.9 million for Clayton County's most needy families.**

Who are these families?

Ms. Reynolds and her children are a good example of the families that benefit from the RESET program. Ms. Reynolds is a 35 years old, Black single mom with young school-aged children. She has limited income from child support and is recently unemployed. She's looking for work, caring for her children, and looking for support wherever she can find it. RESET paid her landlord the past rent due to give her family more time as she finds employment. According to Georgia State University's analysis of RESET, the vast majority of RESET families are single Black moms with school aged children.

Ms. Reynold's story is part of a larger story of historic displacement of Black families over the last 30 years from historic Black Atlanta neighborhoods to Clayton County. Over the last three decades, the City of Atlanta gentrified, and rising rents pushed low-income Black residents out to the suburbs, particularly Clayton County. This massive population growth caused rapid demographic change in the county. 1990 to 2020, Black residents grew from 24% to 73% of the population. But support services did not grow to meet demand and poverty grew from 10% to 17% prior to COVID. In 2018, the eviction rate was 8.5% (2X state average and 3X national). Eviction filings the twelve months of July 2021-June 2022 exceeded 2018 filings by almost 50%, indicating a growing crisis.

What's next for HIP?

We're creating new experiments, like innovative tenant/landlord education and a task force that leverages cooperation among non-profits, county government, code enforcement, and the courts to find solutions to large apartment complexes with abusive and dangerous living conditions.

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