

# Lifting Voices of Resident Leaders in Public Housing: Exploring Lived Experiences with Leadership

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## Abstract

The research seeks to address how resident commissioners, resident advisory board members, and resident council members see their contributions to the stated goal of creating and maintaining a positive living environment. The research will also focus on their views of improving their effectiveness and the identification of training programs that help prepare them for leadership roles.

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## Research Questions

## Q1 How do resident leaders perceive their contribution to the goal of creating and maintaining a positive living environment?

## Q2 What resident leader characteristics best predict their perceived success in achieving the stated goal?

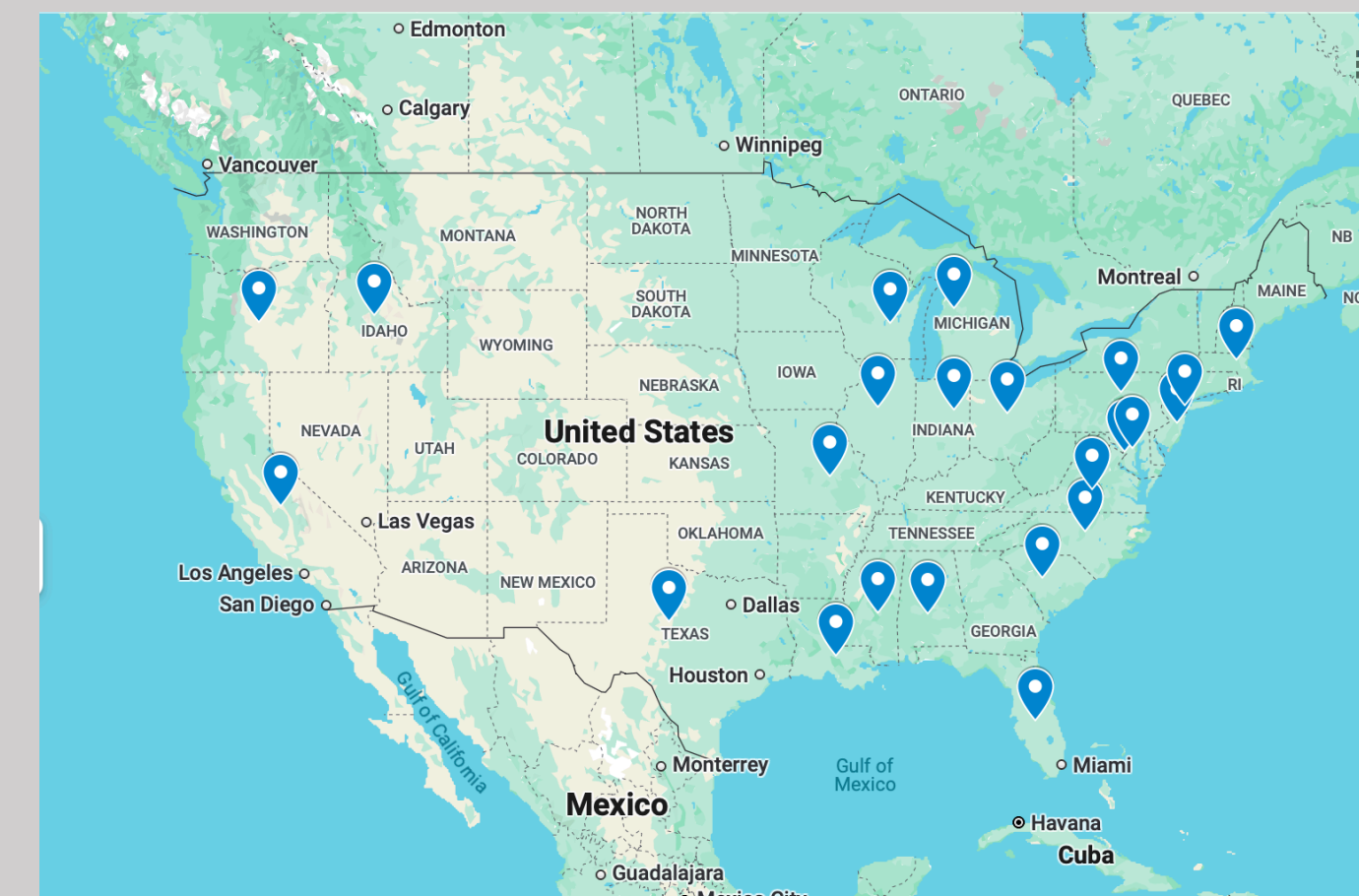
### Q3 What do resident board members feel will improve their contributions to governance?

#### Q4 What is their level of satisfaction with current leadership training programs?

### Q5 What are the factors contributing to resident leaders' decision to participate in leadership roles in their communities?

## Methods and Data Analysis

- Research is exploratory and used mixed methods
- It used grounded theory to interpret the voices of resident leaders.
- To assess the underlying factors associated with successful leadership, we used an ordinal regression model



**232 participants from 23 states**

## Demographic Profile

- Age: 78% age 46 and older
- Race: 72% identified as Black
- Gender: 76% identified as a woman
- 55% of participants have served 5 or more years

## Results

## "A Voice for the People"

- Resident leaders primarily perceive themselves as advocates

*“While there is always room for improvement. I have been most effective when given proper support in the battles I have chosen to address on behalf of the residents who elected me to make a difference as they deal with the many challenges facing those who live on public housing campuses.”*

## "I am a tenant first"

- Tension between representing residents and representing management

*“We have completely changed the power dynamic in favor of the residents by recognizing the cycle of power in the city and municipality it in our favor”*

## ***“Developing Working Partnerships”***

*“Try to ensure that their(residents) rights aren't violated according to the HUD regulations. Try to develop a working/partnership between the council and the housing staff.”*

## Meet the Presenters



**Jalissa R. Worthy, LMSW**

Jalissa is a 4<sup>th</sup> year PhD student at the Howard University School of Social Work. Her research interests include ACE's, trauma and adversity, racialized experiences, social capital, and Black college student mental health.



## Bezil L. Taylor, MSW

Bezil is a 4<sup>th</sup> year PhD student at the Howard University School of Social Work. His research interests are student homelessness in higher education, the role of student support professionals in addressing systemic inequities, and the use of qualitative methods to analyze social policies impacting marginalized communities.

## Contact Us

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