In response, community advocates are raising their voices in city councils across the state to demand housing that is affordable to low-wage workers and their families. Public Advocates stands with them, and leverages strategic advocacy and litigation to challenge wrongful policies and injustices in local planning.

- **Equitable Development**: Ensuring low-income communities a voice in and a fair share of the benefits of development decisions — not displacement by gentrification
- **Fair Housing Rights**: Protecting the right of families to live in communities with good jobs, schools and city services, regardless of ethnicity or income
- **Land Use and Affordable Housing**: Ensuring that cities meet their legal obligation to facilitate the construction of homes affordable to families of all incomes

When affordable housing is readily available near good jobs, services and schools, the quality of life of the entire metropolitan region improves.

In affluent suburbs with good schools, exclusionary housing policies block the development of affordable homes and keep out people of color and families with low incomes. And in the urban core, long-time residents with deep roots and rich social networks worry that their homes — and lives — will fall prey to private market pressures that have already displaced so many of their neighbors.

**PENINSULA INTERFAITH ACTION v. CITY OF MENLO PARK**

Public Advocates successfully negotiated a legal settlement with the Menlo Park city council to meet the city’s affordable housing obligations, extending the benefits that come from living in a healthy neighborhood with good jobs and schools to the city’s low-wage workforce. The agreement paves the way for more than 1,000 new affordable homes in this Silicon Valley community.

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