About the Furman Center Data Search Tool

The Furman Center will soon be launching a Data Search Tool application that will provide direct access to New York City housing and neighborhood data. The Data Search Tool will allow users to select from a range of variables to create customized maps, download tables, and track trends over time.

The Data Search Tool will incorporate two major Furman Center databases: Neighborhood Info (formerly NYCHANIS), which offers a broad array of data on demographics, neighborhood conditions, transportation, housing stock and other aspects of the local real estate market; and the Subsidized Housing Information Project (SHIP), which contains never-before-available data on privately-owned, publically-subsidized affordable housing properties. The Data Search Tool will be available at www.furmancenter.org/data beginning spring 2011, along with user guides, tutorials and pre-made community profiles.

WHAT IS THE SUBSIDIZED HOUSING INFORMATION PROJECT?

The Subsidized Housing Information Project (SHIP) is a new initiative by the Furman Center that brings together multiple data sources to track subsidized housing units, flag threats to their affordability status, and identify new opportunities for preserving the units as affordable housing.

In New York City, the federal, city and state governments have sponsored several affordable housing programs which provide public subsidies to private developers for a fixed period. Many of these buildings are nearing the end of their subsidy term, when owners will have the choice of converting them to market rate housing. Other buildings are at risk of failing out of the programs because of poor physical or financial conditions. Efforts to identify these at-risk buildings and target preservation resources to most effectively and efficiently preserve the affordability of the units have been hampered by a lack of complete, accurate, or public data about the history, finances, or physical condition of this housing stock.

The SHIP will fill these critical gaps with a database of properties that have received U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Insurance, HUD project-based rental assistance, New York City or State Mitchell-Lama financing, or Federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC). The SHIP database will be directly accessible to the public using the Data Search Tool, enabling users to create maps of subsidized properties, download customized tables for analysis, and review detailed individual property information. In addition, NYU's Furman Center will publish an annual report on New York City's subsidized housing stock, beginning in the spring of 2011.

SHIP relies on data from, and the cooperation and expertise of, the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), the New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR), the New York City Housing Development Corporation (HDC), and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

WHAT IS THE NEIGHBORHOOD INFO DATABASE?

Every year, the Furman Center collects and analyzes key statistics about New York City, its boroughs and its community districts to produce the essential report, *The State of New York City's Housing and Neighborhoods*. Since 2004, the Furman Center has provided public access to the data used to create that report through the New York City Housing and Neighborhood Information System (NYCHANIS). These data will soon be housed in the Neighborhood Info database and can be analyzed, mapped and downloaded using the Data Search Tool. The Data Search Tool will provide an updated, streamlined user interface and improved mapping tools, and will allow users to simultaneously view SHIP property data and neighborhood indicators.

SUPPORTERS

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