

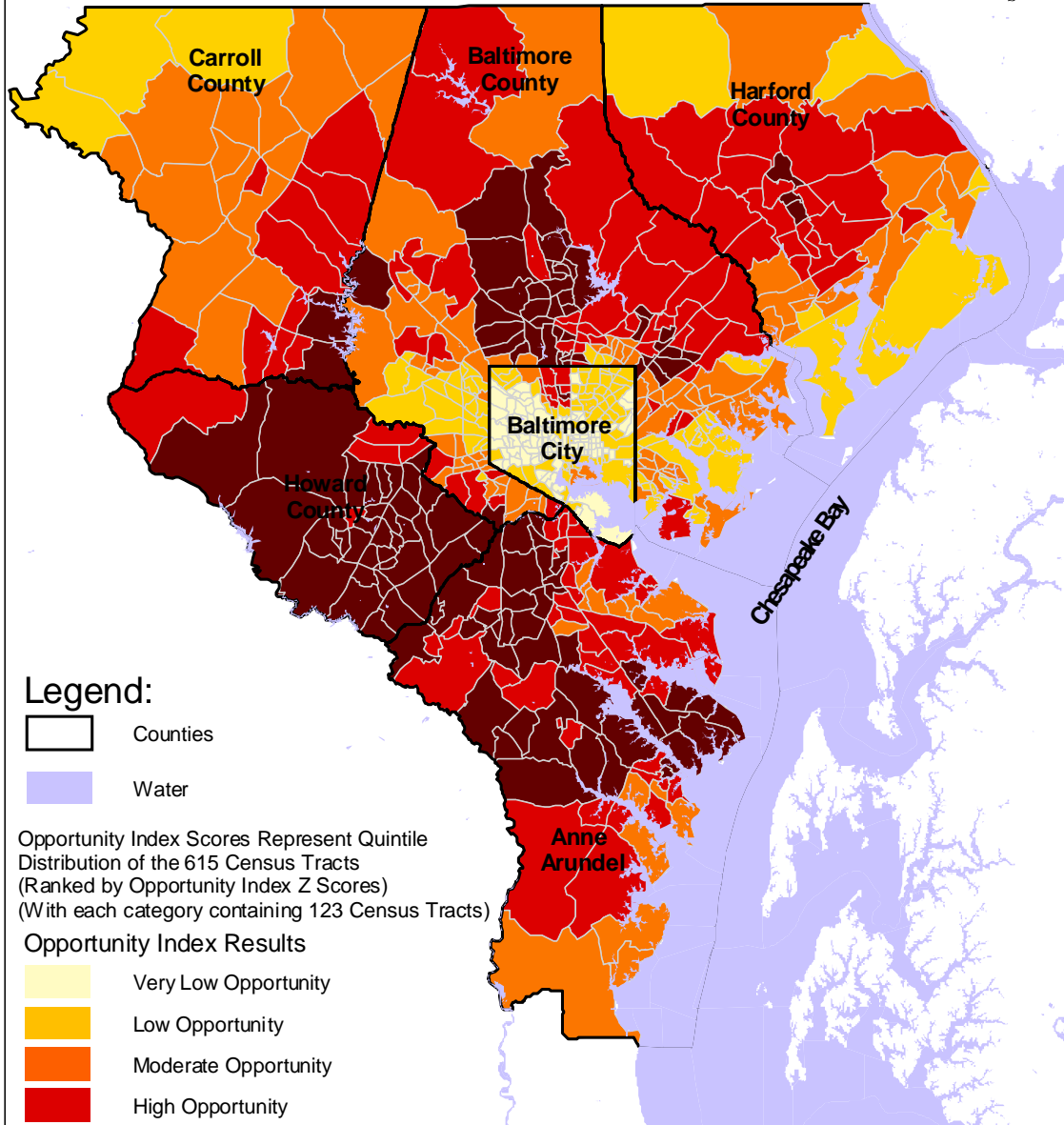
Executive Summary

The segregation of African American public housing residents isolates them from the opportunity structures that are critical to quality of life, stability, and social advancement. The safe and stable neighborhoods, successful schools and employment opportunities available to Whites in the greater Baltimore region have been denied to African American public housing residents. To effectively remedy the segregation inflicted upon African American public housing recipients two objectives must be met: 1) the remedy must give African American public housing residents the opportunity to live in racially integrated areas in the Baltimore region and 2) the remedy must affirmatively connect African American public housing residents to high performing neighborhoods of opportunity in the Baltimore region.



I propose a “communities of opportunity” approach to guide the remedy. With this approach, using mapping technology I identify communities of opportunity in the Baltimore region (*see map on page 3*). My analysis finds African Americans (and most subsidized housing) to be segregated from opportunity rich areas of the region (*see map on page 4*). I recommend utilizing opportunity mapping to rectify this segregation and to guide this remedy. As described in this report, opportunity mapping analysis provides a powerful analytical framework to guide the expansion of affordable housing opportunities in the Baltimore region.

I believe six principles should guide the remedy in this case. First, the remedy must be sensitive to opportunity and to the importance of location in determining access to opportunity. Second, the remedy must be metropolitan-wide to be successful. Third, a race-conscious approach is necessary to ensure an effective remedy in light of HUD’s housing duties and the realities of the housing market. Fourth, the remedy should not force the dispersal of public housing residents, but should be a structured choice model in which residents voluntarily participate in a program that creates housing opportunities specifically in integrated high opportunity communities. Fifth, while process based remedies are important, the remedy must also be goal driven and adaptive to the dynamic nature of the housing market. Finally, the remedy must require HUD to utilize the wide variety of tools available, including vouchers and new housing production, to ensure housing opportunities in high opportunity communities.

"Communities of Opportunity" Comprehensive Opportunity Index for the Baltimore Region







Legend:

-  Counties
-  Water

Opportunity Index Scores Represent Quintile Distribution of the 615 Census Tracts (Ranked by Opportunity Index Z Scores) (With each category containing 123 Census Tracts)

Opportunity Index Results

-  Very Low Opportunity
-  Low Opportunity
-  Moderate Opportunity
-  High Opportunity
-  Very High Opportunity

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Segregation from Opportunity: Comprehensive Opportunity Index for the Baltimore Region Overlaid with African American Population in 2000

