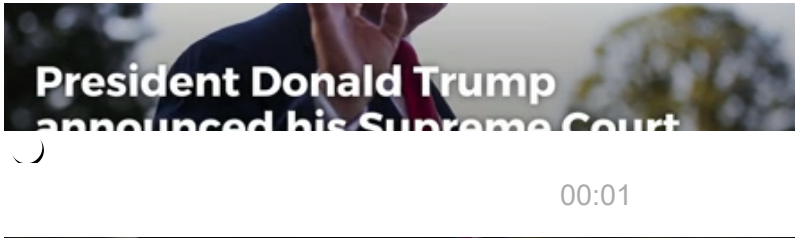


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## Black Residents Flee Chicago As Experts Say Chances For Success Diminish

Longtime Black residents are leaving Chicago in droves, according to experts. Here's why.



Written By **Nigel Roberts**  
*Posted June 21, 2018*

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**T**he Windy City isn't providing the opportunities longtime Black residents need to succeed, so they're leaving in droves, according to experts.

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New census data revealed that Cook County's Black population has declined for a seventh consecutive year, CLOSE

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"People associate with being successful and having a higher quality of life in areas that exist outside of Chicago. Whether that be in the suburbs or in other cities," said **Darnell Shields**, executive director of community organization Austin Coming Together.



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Cook County has the largest non-Hispanic black population in the country, but newly released census data shows the population is declining for the seventh straight year, [@\\_ManuelRamos\\_](#) reports. [bit.ly/2M949Ot](https://bit.ly/2M949Ot)

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### Cook County's black population continues to decline

Cook County's black population is declining for the seventh straight year according to U.S. Census Data

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Gentrification is one of the main forces behind the exodus. Cook County's Black population diminished by 1.15 percent last year, representing a decline of more than 14,000 Black residents. Meanwhile, more than 16,000 new residents of diverse backgrounds have replaced them since 2010.

Finding affordable housing is a major challenge, according to [a report](#) from DePaul University's Institute for Housing Studies. About 182,000 people who need low-cost housing are struggling to find a place to live in Cook County.

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employment experts blame the loss of job opportunities on the poor education system, which has [long plagued Chicago public schools](#).

"The population loss story is largely about lower income and younger African-American families and their challenges to find affordable housing and connections to the job market," **Alden Loury**, the director of



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