



Housing Facts

HOUSING IS FOUNDATIONAL

Stable, quality, affordable housing is the base from which individuals and families can build skills and participate in their communities. Good social policy starts with a comprehensive housing policy that allows people to succeed in education and employment.

Housing & Education

- **Stable Housing Improves Reading Levels.** Average reading scores for elementary age students who moved three or more times were half those of students who did not move. (1)
- **Poor Children Move More Often.** Low-income elementary age students were much more likely to move during the school year than non-low income students (25% of low-income students moved compared to 10% of non-low income students). (1)
- **Stable Housing Improves Attendance.** Students who moved three or more times on average had attendance rates of 84% compared to students who did not move who had average attendance rates of 94%. (1)

Housing & Health

- **Affordable Housing Enhances Growth.** Children of families on a waiting list for housing assistance were much more likely to suffer from stunted growth than children of families that receive housing subsidies. (3)
- **Homelessness Can Cause Developmental Delays.** Homeless children under the age of five are more likely to have a major developmental delays, 44% have two or more major developmental delay or deviation (4)
- **Housing Quality Problems Cause Asthma.** Nationally almost 18,000 children age 4-9 years are projected to be hospitalized each year for asthma attributable to cockroach infestations. (5)

Housing & Jobs

- **Affordable Housing Increases Employment.** Families living in subsidized housing who participated in the Minnesota welfare to work program had double the employment rates of families who did not have housing assistance. (2)
- **Affordable Housing Increases Income.** Families in subsidized housing in the Minnesota welfare to work program had a 25% average increase in quarterly earnings compared to a 2% quarterly earnings increase for welfare to work families who did not have housing assistance. (2)

1. *Kids Mobility Project Report*, Family Housing Fund. 2000.
2. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. *Research Evidence Suggests that Housing Subsidies Can Help Long-term Welfare Recipients Find and Retain Jobs*. June 27, 2000.
3. Allan R. Meyers et al. "Housing Subsidies and Pediatric Undernutrition," *Archives of Pediatric Adolescent Medicine* (1995), 149:1079-1084.
4. Grant, R. "The special needs of homeless children: early intervention at a welfare hotel." *Topics in Early Childhood Special Education* 10(4):76-91, 1990.
5. *Not Safe At Home*, Boston Medical Center, 1998.

Chicago Rehab Network is a citywide coalition of neighborhood-based nonprofit housing groups advocating for policy change at local, state and national levels. For over twenty years CRN has been the leading technical assistance provider in the Chicago region, working to create affordable housing and promote community development without displacement. For more information, please contact Chicago Rehab Network at 312/663-3936.