

# AFFORDABLE HOUSING BENEFITS COMMUNITIES

Housing is the central component of every community. Affordable housing in a neighborhood improves community engagement and stability, strengthens social connections, increases property values and reduces crime. The NC Housing Finance Agency leverages public funds with private investments to create affordable housing opportunities in more than 500 communities across the state each year.



NORTH CAROLINA

**HOUSING  
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*A self-supporting public agency.*

J. Adam Abram, Chair  
Scott Farmer, Executive Director





One study found the development of a Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) properties increased the property values of adjacent homes the by [19.2%](#). [Research](#) also finds the presence of LIHTC developments reduces both property and violent crime in low-income neighborhoods and slightly reduces property crime in high-income neighborhoods. The NC Housing Finance Agency has helped finance more than 2,400 LIHTC developments across North Carolina.

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Paying an affordable rent or mortgage increases residential stability, which in turn [strengthens social ties among neighbors](#). Affordable housing can also help promote socioeconomic diversity within a wide range of communities, bringing together people from [different racial and income backgrounds](#). Homeowners in particular tend to be more politically, civically and socially involved in their communities, all of which strengthens the neighborhood as a whole. The NC Housing Finance Agency's first-time home buyer and community home ownership programs have helped more than 123,716 North Carolinians achieve their goal of home ownership.

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Affordable housing is an essential tool allowing all children the opportunity to grow up in economically diverse neighborhoods. A [study of the Moving-to-Work Program](#) found the neighborhood in which children are raised can significantly impact their overall quality of life. Extremely low-income children who moved to low-poverty neighborhoods experienced a wide range of benefits including higher-quality housing and improved physical and mental health. They also were more likely to attend college, earn higher wages as adults and avoid the criminal justice system.

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