

AFFORDABLE HOUSING BENEFITS

EDUCATION

Safe, stable and affordable housing can provide educational benefits for children and support academic success. When housing is affordable, families are able to invest more time and resources into their children's education. Affordability can improve housing stability, which positively impacts children's mental health, social development, learning outcomes and economic opportunities. Affordable housing located in safe neighborhoods with access to resources can support educational achievement and economic mobility.



**Supports
educational success**



**Enhances economic
opportunity**



**Boosts academic
achievement**



**Creates healthy
learning
environments**



NORTH CAROLINA

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J. Adam Abram, Chair
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When a household spends no more than 30% of its income on housing, families can better meet their basic needs, experience less stress and have more time and money to devote to educational activities for children. Children in households that are not housing cost-burdened performed better on reading and math tests. Children in affordable rental households were [less likely to be held back](#) and had fewer behavioral problems compared to children in rent-burdened households.



Affordable housing reduces potential evictions and frequent moves, providing a stable environment to learn and grow. Residential instability can lead to increased absenteeism, interruptions in learning and disruptions in the development of peer groups. [One of the multiple studies related to the importance of stable housing for children](#) connected moves between schools to a decrease in reading scores. Children experiencing homelessness have higher rates of [absenteeism](#) and are more likely to have physical and mental health issues. Affordable housing can prevent homelessness and enhance stability for families with children.



Neighborhoods shape access to schools, after-school activities and economic opportunity. Low-income children who moved from high-poverty to low-poverty neighborhoods through affordable housing programs were significantly [more likely to attend college](#) and have higher earnings than their counterparts. [One study](#) found that for every year a teenager lived in either public housing or subsidized privately owned housing, they could expect to earn an additional \$24,000–\$47,000 (depending on gender), varying by housing program.



Living in high-quality homes with sufficient space is linked to better health and educational outcomes. Poor housing conditions and exposure to allergens or lead can cause [health problems and behavioral issues](#), which can impact school attendance and performance. Overcrowding has been associated with [lower test scores](#) and decreased graduation rates. Having a healthy home improves the well-being and cognitive performance of children.