

HOUSING IS A

CORE ISSUE

Chicago has recently seen dramatic increases in cost burdened renters and owners across every income group, reflecting a growing instability and housing insecurity in our city. **Housing is at the core of healthy, vibrant families and communities.** New and emerging research shows the value of decent, stable, affordable housing well beyond the provision of shelter: it improves school performance, decreases recidivism, and enhances the health and well-being for children and adults – among other benefits. Housing is key to driving positive outcomes in many aspects of people’s lives. As such, those working in housing, health care, education, economic development, and criminal justice reform need to better collaborate, coordinate and align programs, interventions and efforts. For more information on the latest evidence and best practices in integrated approaches to housing and other social and economic issues, please visit howhousingmatters.org.

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

Households receiving one-time, financial assistance through emergency fund programs are **65% LESS LIKELY** to enroll at a homeless shelter in the next six months than households that did not receive assistance.



EMPLOYMENT

The necessary wage to maintain housing in Chicago is **\$22.78** per hour, yet a minimum wage worker in Chicago currently earns an hourly wage of **\$10.00**. A minimum wage worker must work 90 hours per week to afford the Fair Market Rent for a two bedroom apartment of \$902.



HEALTH

Families living in quality affordable housing experience less health issues, are significantly less likely to require emergency room care for asthma or other respiratory illnesses, are able to dedicate more than **TWICE AS MUCH OF THEIR INCOME TO HEALTH**, and are significantly less likely to forgo needed doctor’s visits and medications.

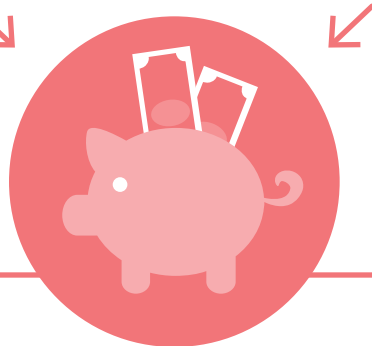


A THRIVING CHICAGO IS HOUSING-CENTERED



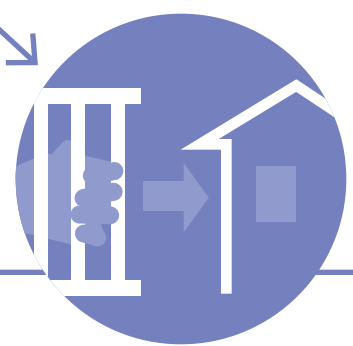
EDUCATION

Children who move three or more times for negative reasons, such as an eviction or a family’s need for lower rent, are **15% LESS LIKELY TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL** and **68% LESS LIKELY TO COMPLETE COLLEGE** than those who never moved. School funding is tied to enrollment numbers, so high neighborhood vacancy rates create a domino effect of destabilizing community institutions.



ASSET BUILDING

Families living in affordable homes financed by Low Income Housing Tax Credits were found to have **DOUBLE THE DISCRETIONARY INCOME** of their neighbors in high-cost housing, putting them in position to buy health insurance, pay down debt, save to pay for education, buy a home or start a business.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Approximately 1 in 5 formerly incarcerated people become homeless soon after release from prison. This number is sometimes as high as 50%. Homeless parolees are much more likely to return to prison. In New York City, it was calculated that one unit of housing for formerly incarcerated people upon re-entry **SAVES \$20,000-\$24,000** that would be spent on shelters and re-incarceration.