Back to School: Making the Link between Housing and Education

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The Research: The Links Between Affordable Housing and Education

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Affordable Housing May Disrupt the Frequency of Disruptive Moves

Moves resulting from unstable housing situations, rising housing costs, or other difficulties can adversely impact children’s educational outcomes.

- Poorer test scores
- Behavior and attentions problems
- Broader impacts on classrooms and schools

Affordable housing, rent subsidies, housing counseling, and other stabilization programs can help.
Housing Programs May Help Families Move to Areas with Better Schools

Well-designed housing mobility programs with a strong counseling component can result in positive school outcomes.

- Regional housing mobility programs

Other housing programs, including mixed-income housing development and inclusionary zoning, can also help families access strong schools.
Affordable Housing Can Reduce Overcrowding and Other Stresses

Living in crowded conditions can adversely impact children’s education.

- **Reduce parental responsiveness** by creating social overload and withdrawal
- **Increase noise and chaos** that interfere with children’s studies
- **Lack of space** to sit down and do homework

Homeownership programs, zoning for family-sized affordable units can help alleviate overcrowding.
Well-Constructed and Maintained Housing Can Reduce Health Hazards

Poor housing quality has been associated with **poor developmental outcomes** for children. Substandard housing can cause or exacerbate health problems that lead to **absenteeism**.

**Housing rehab, lead abatement, code enforcement, and improving building maintenance** can help create healthy homes.
Affordable Housing Can Effect Change Through Holistic Community Development

Affordable housing developments that include on-site resident services, such as **after school programs**, can lead to better educational outcomes for children.

Housing revitalization programs can serve as an anchor for **new and improved schools**.
Affordable Housing May Reduce Homelessness

Children who experience homelessness face difficulties accessing preschool, experience adverse living conditions, and can have trouble obtaining personal records.

McKinney-Vento provides federal funding to states support programs that serve homeless students.

Programs that prevent homelessness among infants and toddlers are particularly important.
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Report available at: