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FACT SHEET

**Affordable Homes Matter:
Summary of Health and Education Comprehensive Research Analyses**

Housing and Health:

- Affordable housing may improve health outcomes by freeing up family resources for nutritious food and health care expenditures.
- By providing families with greater residential stability, affordable housing can reduce stress and related adverse health outcomes.
- Homeownership may contribute to health improvements by fostering greater self-esteem, increased residential stability, and an increased sense of security and control over one's physical environment.
- Well-constructed and managed affordable housing developments can reduce health problems associated with poor quality housing by limiting exposure to allergens, neurotoxins, and other dangers.
- Stable, affordable housing may improve health outcomes for individuals with chronic illnesses and disabilities, and the elderly, by providing a stable and efficient platform for the ongoing delivery of health care and other necessary services.
- By providing families with access to neighborhoods of opportunity, certain affordable housing strategies can reduce stress, increase access to amenities, and generate important health benefits.
- By alleviating crowding, affordable housing can reduce exposure to stressors and infectious disease, leading to improvements in physical and mental health.
- By allowing victims of domestic violence to escape abusive homes, affordable housing can lead to improvements in mental health and physical safety.
- Use of "green building" and "transit-oriented development" strategies can lower exposure to pollutants by improving the energy efficiency of homes and reducing reliance on personal vehicles.

Housing and Education:

- Stable, affordable housing may contribute to children's educational achievement by reducing the frequency of unwanted moves that lead children to change schools.
- Certain types of housing subsidies may improve individual educational outcomes by allowing families to move to communities with stronger school systems (or to neighborhoods whose conditions offer stronger support for education).
- By enabling families to afford decent-quality homes of their own, affordable housing can reduce overcrowding (and other sources of housing-related stress) that lead to negative developmental and educational outcomes for children.
- Well-constructed, maintained, and managed affordable housing can help families address or escape housing-related health hazards (e.g., lead poisoning and asthma) that adversely impact learning.
- Affordable housing developments may function as a platform for educational improvements by providing a forum for residential-based afterschool programs or, more broadly, by anchoring a holistic community development process that includes new or improved schools.
- Homeownership may provide a platform for helping children do better in schools.
- Affordable housing may support children's educational achievement by reducing homelessness among families with children.

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Enterprise is a leading provider of the development capital and expertise it takes to create decent, affordable homes and rebuild communities. For 25 years, Enterprise has pioneered neighborhood solutions through public-private partnerships with financial institutions, governments, community organizations and others that share our vision. Enterprise has raised and invested \$7 billion in equity, grants and loans and is currently investing in communities at a rate of \$1 billion a year. Visit www.enterprisecommunity.org or www.enterprisecommunity.com to learn more about Enterprise's efforts to build communities and opportunity, and to meet some of the half a million people we have helped.

The Center for Housing Policy is the research affiliate of the National Housing Conference (NHC), the nation's premier public policy and housing advocacy organization. The Center works to broaden understanding of the housing challenges facing American households and to examine the impact of policies and programs developed to address these needs. Combining research and practical, real-world expertise, the Center helps to develop effective policy solutions at the national, state and local levels that increase the availability of affordable homes. For more information, please go to www.nhc.org.