

It's about education



Stable and affordable housing improves the quality of children's education

Your home provides the environment to learn, feel safe and grow roots. Stable housing provides security that carries over into other aspects of life. Children without stable housing suffer in schools; they often fall behind academically and socially, lack social support systems, and disrupt the classroom experience for their educators and peers. When families move frequently, school records are often lost, creating delays for a child to enroll in the new school. Teachers must devote more time and resources into helping transient students adjust and are less able to direct attention toward other students.

Families moving frequently affects overall school success: studies show students score 20% lower on achievement tests, are half as likely as their peers to graduate and are twice as likely to repeat a grade. Any student who moves may take four to six months to fully adjust academically and socially to a new school environment. The result is that the basic foundation of knowledge is never gained. At a young age when stability is most important, multiple moves could compound the educational problem. If a child moves more than three times before eighth grade, they are four times as likely to drop out of school.

The stress of not knowing where one is going to sleep at night can only be reduced by stable housing. Once children enter permanent housing, they find it easier to focus on school and homework. Larimer County's Poudre Educational District homeless liaison noted, "Without affordable housing, many children will not have the stability they need to achieve their academic potential or the skills to function as contributing members of society."



Colorado Housing
Investment Fund Coalition

"Since we have been living in stable housing, we feel so settled and so secure with everything in our everyday lives. My girls feel the same way and it shows in their attitude and their schoolwork. They are doing so well in school and things are just getting better and better. A good life all begins when you have a solid stable home." – Janice, a transitional housing resident

Sources

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