

# Benefits of Affordable Housing



## 01 SOCIAL

### Stabilizes an area's population

- Affordable housing works to keep communities together by ensuring members can stay within a given area no matter their income bracket. This allows for stronger sense of community, social networks and connections.
- Affordable housing is a significant measure to assure housing is available at all stages of the life cycle. [3]

### Impacts homelessness

- “When housing costs are more affordable and housing opportunities are more readily available, there is a lower likelihood of households becoming homeless, and households who do become homeless can exit homelessness more quickly and with greater likelihood of sustaining that housing long-term.”[2]

### Impacts local crime rates

- Affordable housing can have a neutral to negative correlation with local crime rates, meaning the introduction of new affordable housing either has no impact on an area's crime rates or it can slightly lower crime rates, contrary to popular belief.

## 02 HEALTH

### Supports healthy living

- Greater access to better quality housing can have a positive impact on health through factors such as indoor air quality, insulation, heating, indoor environment quality and reduced overcrowding.[6]
- Reducing household fiscal strain correlates to increase in quantity and quality of diet, healthcare and sleep.[4]

### Bolsters mental health

- By providing access to high quality homes in safe neighbourhoods, affordable housing can reduce stress and exposure to violent or traumatic events, generating important psychological and mental health benefits.[4]
- With access to sustained stable housing, young people are less vulnerable to mental health problems and developmental delays.[2]

## 03 ENVIRONMENTAL

### Halts urban sprawl

- Urban sprawl -with its broad environmental ramifications- is propelled by housing unaffordability as households are forced to seek cheaper homes further from the urban core.[6] Increasing supply and affordability in city centers can slow sprawl.

### Reduces automotive use

- Building more affordable housing near services, transit hubs and amenities - where people want to be- could drastically reduce greenhouse emissions as people rely less on everyday use of cars to get around.[6]

### Supports sustainable building

- Buildings contribute 18% to Canada's GHG emissions – building more energy-efficient homes addresses the housing crisis and the climate crisis at the same time.[5]

## 04 ECONOMIC

### Supports local economy

- Greater housing affordability results in smaller populations that are rent burdened\*, leaving funds available in household budgets for other areas of life which promotes spending into the local economy.

### Value-added

- Introducing affordable housing into disadvantaged communities can attract capital and community investment, stimulating rejuvenation of the area.[1]
- In a Canadian study, in no community where affordable housing projects were introduced, did property values decrease; in fact, in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, property values increased.[1]

### Employment

- For businesses, affordable housing could be a means to improve employee retention and prevent their flight for cheaper residence outside their regions of operation.[3]
- For individuals, every year spent in public housing as a minor between ten and sixteen years of age increases their chances of working between age twenty-five and twenty-seven by 7 percentage points and raises annual earnings by \$1,860 on average.[3]

#### Sources

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