



Housing Alliance  
of Pennsylvania

# The Benefits of a Balanced Housing Market in Pennsylvania

## **Economy**

*We believe that businesses that invest in our communities should have the support of housing policies that help them recruit and retain a qualified workforce.*

- **Providing better housing options will attract new businesses to communities.**<sup>i</sup>
- **A balanced housing market provides an economic stimulus to neighborhoods, bringing money, jobs and consumers into a community.**<sup>ii</sup>
- **Each dollar the state invests in the housing market returns from \$1.62 to \$2.28 to the state's economy.**<sup>iii</sup>
- **Each \$1 million invested in the rehabilitation of older homes results in nearly 20 full-time jobs per year in areas such as construction, manufacturing, retail, financial, and various other professional services.**<sup>iv</sup>

## **Children**

*We believe that no child should be homeless.*

- **In Pennsylvania alone, more than 20,000 children are homeless.**<sup>v</sup>
- **Moving to a clean, stable home improves children's health and physical well-being.**<sup>vi</sup>
- **Children in stable housing situations do significantly better in school than children who move three or more times during the school year.**<sup>vii</sup>
- **A stable housing environment can help reduce adolescent violence and levels of drug use.**<sup>viii</sup>

## **Senior Citizens**

*We believe that seniors should be able to live with dignity as part of the community.*

- **The number of elderly people who are homeless is increasing.**<sup>ix</sup>
- **Having safe and decent housing has a direct impact on levels of life expectancy.**<sup>x</sup>
- **Pennsylvania ranks fourth among all states in the number of elderly residents.**<sup>xi</sup>

## **For Victims of Domestic Violence**

*We believe that a home should provide security.*

- **Lack of housing options has a direct impact on victims of domestic violence. They often must choose between remaining trapped in an abusive relationship or becoming homeless.**<sup>xii</sup>
- **Housing is essential for obtaining and sustaining employment and economic independence, and for maintaining custody of children.**<sup>xiii</sup>

## **For Individuals on SSI**

*We believe that people with disabilities should be able to live with dignity as part of the community.*

- **Pennsylvanians living on SSI are faced with the dual problem of the lack of affordable homes and the lack of accessible homes.**
- **The average rent for a one-bedroom apartment in Pennsylvania costs the entire monthly income of an individual receiving only SSI income.<sup>xiv</sup>**
- **Individuals with disabilities and low incomes sometimes enter or are unable to leave nursing homes because of the lack of affordable homes.**

## **Government**

*We believe that if you work hard and play by the rules, you should be able to afford a decent place to live.*

- **A balanced housing market will save the Commonwealth money by decreasing shelter use, medical costs, and incarceration rates.<sup>xv</sup>**
- **Rental assistance is four times less expensive than a nursing home, and two times less costly than a nursing home plus community based services.<sup>xvi</sup>**
- **Researchers have found a link between elevated blood lead levels in childhood - as is often found in substandard housing - with higher levels of violent criminal behavioral as a young adult.<sup>xvii</sup>**
- **Hundreds of people remain in prison past their release date because they have no place to go, costing taxpayers \$116 per day per person.<sup>xviii</sup>**

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<sup>i</sup> Kotval, Zenia. (2004) *Preservation and Housing as Catalysts for Economic Growth*. Economic Development Journal. Winter 2004.

<sup>ii</sup> Housing Policy Department. (2005). *The Local Impact of Home Building in a Typical Metropolitan Area: Income, Jobs, and Taxes Generated*. Retrieved on April 20, 2009 from

[http://www.nahb.org/fileUpload\\_details.aspx?contentTypeID=3&contentID=35601&subContentID=28002](http://www.nahb.org/fileUpload_details.aspx?contentTypeID=3&contentID=35601&subContentID=28002)

<sup>iii</sup> Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania. (2009). *Rebuilding Pennsylvania's Housing Market*.

<sup>iv</sup> Ibid.

<sup>v</sup> Pennsylvania Department of Education's *Pennsylvania's Homeless Children's Initiative Evaluation Report; 2010-11 Program Year (July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011)*.

<sup>vi</sup> The Docs4Kids Project at Boston Medical Center Children's Hospital. (1998). *Not Safe at Home: How American's Housing Crisis Threatens the Health of Its Children*.

<sup>vii</sup> *Kids Mobility Project*, Minneapolis, 1995

<sup>viii</sup> South, Scott J.. (2005). *Residential Mobility and Adolescent Violence*. Social Forces. University of North Carolina Press Sept 2005. Periodical Retrieved April 10, 2009 from: <http://socialissues.wiseto.com/Articles/137453797/?page=1>

<sup>ix</sup> National Alliance to End Homelessness: Homelessness Research Institute, (April 2010). *The Rising Elderly Population*.

<sup>x</sup> The National Coalition for the Homeless: Homelessness Among Elderly Persons, NCH Fact Sheet #15. Retrieved on April 10, 2009 from <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/facts/elderly.html>

<sup>xi</sup> 2010 US Census.

<sup>xii</sup> Family Violence Prevention Fund. *The facts on housing and domestic violence*. Retrieved on April 22, 2009 from [http://endabuse.org/userfiles/file/Children\\_and\\_Families/Housing.pdf](http://endabuse.org/userfiles/file/Children_and_Families/Housing.pdf)

<sup>xiii</sup> National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Domestic Violence Information Center: Housing Retrieved at <http://www.pcadv.org/Domestic-Violence-Information-Center/Housing/>

<sup>xiv</sup> Cooper et al. (2011) *Priced Out in 2010: The Housing Crisis for People with Disabilities*. Technical Assistance Collaborative, Inc. Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, Housing Task Force.

<sup>xv</sup> Cullhane D.P. , Metraux, S., & Hadley, T. (2002). *Public service reductions associated with placement of homeless persons with severe mental illness in supportive housing*. Housing Policy Debate, 13 (1). Retrieved from [http://repository.upenn.edu/spp\\_papers/65/](http://repository.upenn.edu/spp_papers/65/).

<sup>xvi</sup> PA Housing Finance Agency

<sup>xvii</sup> Wright et al. (2008) *Association of prenatal and childhood blood lead concentrations with criminal arrests in early adulthood*. PLOS Medicine.

<sup>xviii</sup> Lalwani, N. (2012, July 3). Pa. Senate sends corrections bill to Corbett. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* Retrieved from <http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/local/state/pa-senate-sends-corrections-bill-to-corbett-642099/>