

ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HOMES IMPACTS EVERY ASPECT OF OUR LIVES



Idaho Asset Building Network

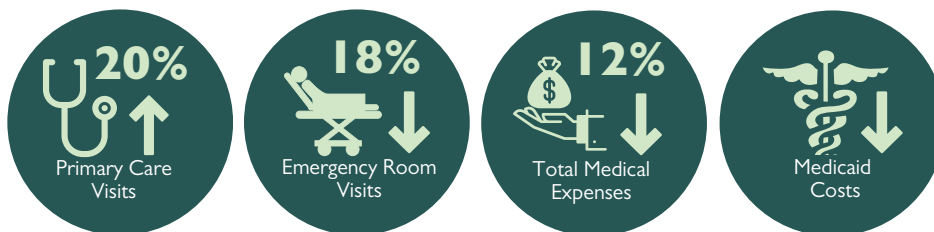
December 2022

Few things impact our lives and the lives of our families more than our homes. A home is considered affordable when a family pays no more than 30% of their income towards rent. Research shows that the homes people live in affect a family's access to a quality education, health services, and nutritious food.

Health

Quality affordable homes are linked to better health outcomes. When Idaho families lack access to affordable homes, they often struggle to afford necessities such as health insurance, medications, and medical visits.

Research shows that for communities that have access to affordable homes:



Children who live in unaffordable homes are **20%** more likely to be hospitalized than those who live in affordable homes.

Food Security

Deciding between shelter and food is a decision many Idahoans are faced with due to rapidly increasing rental prices outpacing our wage growth. High rent prices and low wages forces families to buy less food or purchase cheaper, less nutritious food.

Research shows that for children who have access to affordable homes:



Children lacking access to affordable housing are **two times** as likely to have a learning disability.

Education

The gap between rents and incomes combined with a shortage of affordable homes across Idaho forces families to move more frequently, increasing social and academic challenges. Rising rents also contribute to increased homelessness among K-12 students. The number of students experiencing homelessness increased from 4,758 students to 7,820 students in the last 10 years.

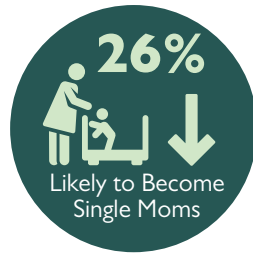
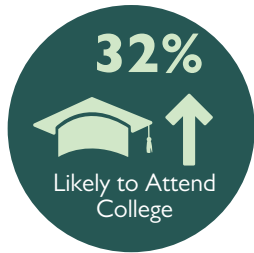
Affordable homes are linked to students having improved test scores and have an increased chance to graduate. Students who live in affordable homes are also less likely to drop out of school, be suspended, or be held back.



Economic Growth

Families with modest incomes are able to climb the income ladder when they have access to affordable homes in high opportunity neighborhoods.

Children who move to higher opportunity neighborhoods do much better as adults than those who didn't have access to affordable homes in higher opportunity neighborhoods.

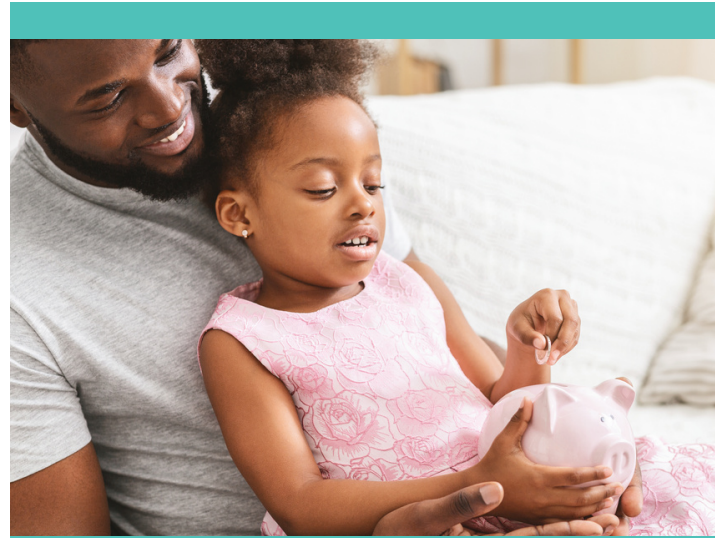


Domestic Violence

Survivors of domestic violence rely on access to homes and shelters to break free from their abusers without fear of experiencing homelessness. Domestic violence can show up as financial control, social isolation, and monitoring from a partner. In some cases, an abuser may take out loans or credit cards under the survivor's name, fail or refuse to repay the debt, and hurt the survivor's credit score and likelihood of securing a rental home. These forms of abuse and control make it nearly impossible for the survivors who experience this type of violence to have the funds, resources, or credit history needed to find safe and stable housing.

Fixed Incomes

Many Idahoans living with disabilities and are over the age of 65 are often unable to work and rely on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to cover their monthly expenses. The gap between rental costs and SSI is forcing individuals who rely on this SSI and other forms of fixed incomes into care centers, nursing homes, and homelessness.



On a single day in Idaho:



217 adult and child survivors of domestic violence found refuge in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or housing from local domestic violence programs.

90 requests for housing and emergency shelter were denied due to the shortage of programs and shelter vacancies.

1 in 3

- ▶ Idaho households receiving rental assistance in 2018 had a person living with a disability.
- ▶ Idahoans experiencing homelessness in 2019 lived with a disability.