



## Housing influences outcomes across many sectors and the research shows it.

Students do better. Patients are healthier. People can more readily escape poverty and homelessness. The economy is healthier. And our region is more just and equal, when all residents have access to safe, stable, affordable homes. A strategic partnership between Fairfield County's Community Foundation, Partnership for Strong Communities, Regional Plan Association and Supportive Housing Works, FCCHO utilizes a collaborative, data-driven framework, aligning regional resources to deliver impactful systems change and equitable housing solutions.

## Economic Mobility Advocates are Housing Advocates

Safe, affordable housing enables low-income people to climb up the income ladder and achieve the American Dream. Affordable housing frees up more family income for other necessities, such as nutritious food, transportation, health care, and savings. Affordable housing enables moving to opportunity which improves long-term life outcomes.

A landmark study by Harvard economist Raj Chetty demonstrates the enormous positive impact that affordable housing can have on upward economic mobility for low-income children. Chetty analyzed the long-term adult outcomes for low-income children whose families used a housing voucher to move to lower poverty neighborhoods through HUD's Moving to Opportunity experiment. He found that children who moved before age 13 were more likely to attend college, more likely to get married and have children with a father present, earned 31% more in annual income (which increased expected lifetime earnings by \$302,000), lived in better neighborhoods, and paid more in federal income tax because of this, future children and grandchildren were more likely to be raised in a better neighborhood by two parents who have more education and more income, which helps break the cycle of generational poverty.

## What the Research Shows

- ▶ The need for access to good jobs in central locations that **is driving** the lack of affordable housing shows that access to housing and access to opportunity are inextricably linked, which affects future intergenerational mobility.
- ▶ Places with higher job accessibility by public transit are **more likely** to attract low-income households that do not own cars but have at least one employed worker, demonstrating that job accessibility by transit affects housing location choice.
- ▶ Black per capita income **is lower** in regions with higher levels of economic and black-white segregation.
- ▶ There is a **positive relationship** between high levels of automobile ownership and estimated rates of foreclosure and mortgage default, suggesting that transportation costs affect housing affordability.
- ▶ Economically healthy cities **tend to** have higher rankings on economic, racial, and overall inclusion than distressed cities.