

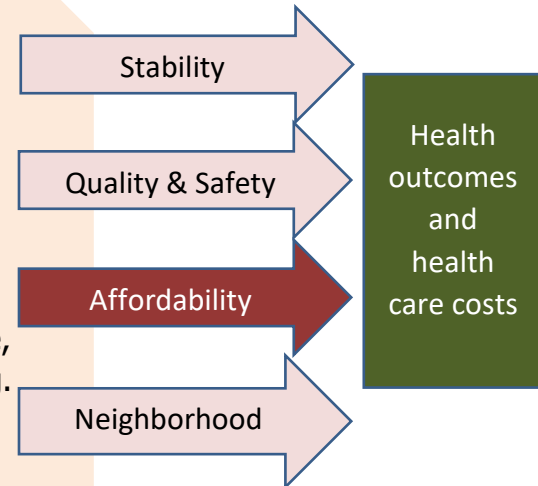
Housing as a Social Determinant of Health: Affordability

How is Housing Related to Health?

This resource guide focuses on how housing affordability is related to health outcomes, such as:

- Being able to or not being able to put money toward healthy or health-generating goods and services.
- Having or not having access to health-promoting features such as parks and schools often found in higher-cost neighborhoods.
- Opting for or not opting for medical treatment, health insurance, or healthy food purchases in order to be able to pay for housing.

Review more at: [HEART Learning Community – Housing](#) and [Housing And Health | Health Affairs](#)



Housing affordability toolkit from Changelab Solutions

This [toolkit](#) provides information on housing market trends, health outcomes, and strategies across different policies for housing options of all household incomes.

Designed for local health departments, this toolkit helps support efforts to address affordable housing shortages, including action steps to limit health inequities from rising housing costs:

1. Complete a local impact assessment.
2. Develop interagency partnerships.
3. Educate partners and the public.
4. Affordable housing policy development.

Additionally, there are [examples](#) of LTHDs addressing rising housing costs by:

- Assessing and disseminating information about affordable housing needs.
- Using health impact assessments (HIAs).
- Distribution of funds for affordable housing

Addressing foreclosure crisis

This [resource](#) discusses how local health departments (LHDs) play a role in addressing housing as a social determinant of health, using the foreclosure crisis as an example. Some ways LHDs do this is through:

- Leadership and convening.
- Access to data and decision-makers.
- Partnerships with residents and community organizations.
- Mandates and legal authority.
- Connecting social factors and health.

Additionally, read [examples](#) of how LHDs addresses a foreclosure crisis and using these 3 factors in their approach:

1. Health equity framework
2. Leadership
3. Partner capacity



**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES**

Division of Public Health

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Case study: Denver Denver Public Housing Authority

The Denver Housing Authority focuses on providing affordable housing to very low income and moderate-income families in Denver. This is done through authority-owned units and authority-managed housing vouchers to provide housing for 26,000 people. This example shows how a local agency uses public engagement and outreach to collaborate on community health needs and increase community support. Learn more about the Denver Public Housing Authority project by downloading the [health and housing starter kit](#).

Case study: Alameda County Tenant policies

Alameda County Public Health Department took a multifaceted approach to its housing work. In their efforts to improve affordability, they focused on analyzing tenant policies related to affordability and displacement. Next, they used that information to work with partner organizations to bolster existing efforts around resisting rising rents. [Read more](#) on their work for more equitable tenant policies.



State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)

One of the SHIP priorities is healthy housing. It contains strategies with sample activities related to improving accessibility of housing such as:

Strategies	Sample activities
Increase funding and resources for affordable housing development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Fund the development of new affordable single- and multi-family housing (for example, expand state housing tax credits, employer funded housing development).- Support the transition of single-family homes into multi-unit or multi-generational housing.- Fund housing repair and revitalization grant programs to increase stock of high quality, affordable housing.- Incentivize municipal changes to reduce barriers and the cost to develop affordable housing, including examination and amendment of existing policies.- Prioritize affordable housing development when planning use of any excess public funds.
Reduce systemic, policy, and procedural barriers to affordable housing development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Simplify approval procedures and processes for affordable housing construction and transition.- Reduce stigma against affordable housing construction (for example, opposition to equitable development).- Examine all housing-related policy for impact on affordability and equity and address negative impacts.

Find more at [Wisconsin State Health Plan](#).