



Spotlight: **Kansas City, MO.**



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Increasingly, the Kansas City municipal government is partnering with nonprofits, foundations, and other community groups to link housing policy to health outcomes for families and children, particularly families with low incomes. There is growing recognition that social determinants of health related to housing insecurity have far-reaching consequences for families, including the likelihood of child abuse and neglect.

Summary

The Housing Authority of Kansas City is working to reduce the housing-related health inequities experienced by low-income residents through several strategies:

- Providing **onsite support services** for residents in public housing and in newer housing developed as a result of tax credits (for example, health screenings and access to essential treatment and services, parental skills coaching, and extracurricular activities for children)
- Providing **onsite vocational and educational training**
- Partnering with developers to **create more mixed-income and affordable housing** with financing offered through low-income housing tax credits
- Issuing **project-based housing choice vouchers** to provide long-term (up to 20 years) subsidies for low-income residents and stabilize rental income for the project's developer
- Helping poor families access affordable housing and providing them with the opportunity to relocate to low-poverty and higher-opportunity neighborhoods through **flexible, non-project-based housing vouchers**

Kansas City: Impact Beyond Housing Through Strong Partnerships

In partnership with the United Way of Kansas City, the Housing Authority of Kansas City offers individual development accounts for youth living in public housing. Deposits to these accounts are matched 8:1, giving youth an incentive to save.

Recently, one of the participants worked to save \$500, making him eligible for \$4,000, which he used to enroll in a community college while working as a pharmacy technician. He is excited about the future and the opportunity this has given him to pursue his dream of graduating from college.

Linking housing with social services can provide opportunities for greater self-sufficiency for participating residents and families. It can also facilitate the transition from renting to home ownership for some residents. Moreover, by reducing the instability and stress associated with housing insecurity, housing authority programs may help reduce risk factors associated with the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. The support services that the housing authority provides are also likely to reinforce protective factors against the likelihood of child abuse and neglect in families, such as adequate housing and access to health and social services.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control