Housing Policy is Health Policy

Georgia Health Policy Center

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The state of Georgia allocates about $22 million in support of affordable housing each year.

Investments in affordable housing improve health and quality of life for many of Georgia’s most vulnerable residents.

This report identifies numerous opportunities to achieve positive outcomes from this relationship.

Policies that employ a holistic perspective on the role housing plays in promoting health can improve well-being, increase productivity, and reduce health care costs.

Find the summary brief and technical report on our website: ghpc.gsu.edu/?p=7125

A Health Impact Assessment of Georgia’s 2015 Qualified Allocation Plan for Low-Income Housing Tax Credits

200 people a year could be helped to live longer, healthier lives by implementing modifications to help policy steer affordable housing development toward areas with lower health risk.

36 recommendations for integrating healthy community design into housing tax policy are identified. These adjustments could improve health through active living, healthy eating, improved air quality, and reduced injury risk.
Changes to scoring could increase incentives for connections to healthy communities by using Demographic Cluster data developed by the Georgia Department of Public Health. This provides a more robust characterization of the communities in which Low-Income Housing Tax Credit developments are proposed.

Education is a critical health determinant.

Partnering with the Georgia Department of Education to use its new school quality metric, the College and Career Ready Performance Index, will incentivize development in locations that promote access to educational opportunity.

Within the policy, there are multiple opportunities to promote healthy design and operation of affordable housing based on existing best practices. The HIA provides a menu of options for implementing these best practices to improve health.