

# INVESTING IN HOUSING FOR HEALTH

## Addressing housing issues in the community

Lack of access to safe, affordable housing is pervasive across communities in the US. The impact of housing on health across conditions and populations spans chronic disease, injuries, nutrition and childhood development.

**Health systems along with their community partners can make meaningful investments to alleviate housing issues...**



### COVID-19 IMPACT

The pandemic has sharply increased housing instability, with 40 million people at risk of eviction. The result is greater avoidable acute care utilization by vulnerable populations.

Every day, hospitals see the clinical manifestations of unmet housing needs in their EDs. The **recurring patient population comprises 5% to 10%** of the overall patient population, yet **accounts for half of health care costs**. Approximately **30% of this group is homeless**.



### ASSESS COMMUNITY NEED

**Ask:** Who needs housing? Even when the housing needs between two communities appear similar, the root causes may be different.

**Ask:** What resources exist today? It could be that people are unaware of available resources.

### DEFINE PROGRAM GOALS AND RESOURCES

Goals may be focused on clinical outcomes for discrete populations or can be community-centric. A mix of process and outcomes goals, as well as short- and long-term goals, is recommended.

### GAIN INTERNAL BUY-IN

Internal champions of a program, especially physician champions, are key in the early stages of a program's development and implementation.

### DETERMINE THE RIGHT PARTNERS

Local partners are experts on the community's needs and can provide necessary insights and resources to a health system's program. Remember, the most important partner is the community itself; engaging community members is key.



Community development institutions

Housing authorities

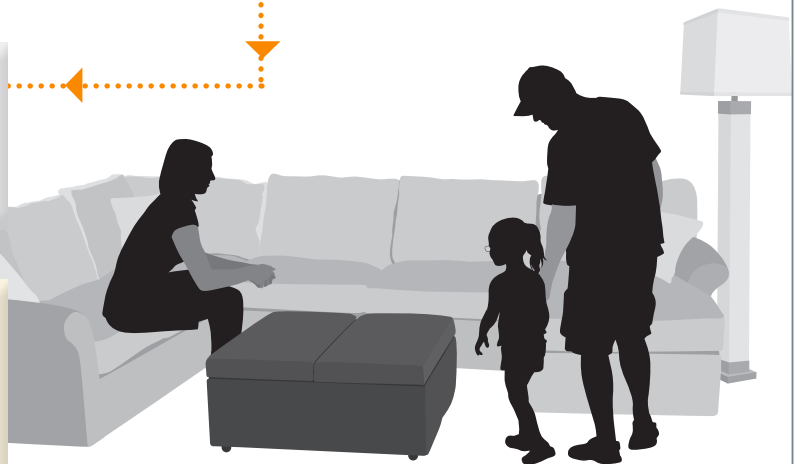
Housing advocacy groups

Shelters

Businesses

Other hospitals

Faith-based organizations



### TAKE A LONG-TERM VIEW OF IMPACT

Health systems alone cannot solve every housing issue. However, as long-term investments to increase housing access and affordability begin to take root, health systems may find success beyond treating clinical manifestations of housing insecurity and managing costs, improving the health and well-being of people in their communities.

Sources: Sg2 Analysis, 2020.

**LEARN MORE!** To view the complete source list and take a deep dive into how housing affects hospital systems, visit [Sg2.com](https://www.sg2.com) to read the full article, You Asked: Health Systems Address Housing Needs to Manage Costs and Improve Community Health.

