

February 25, 2011

### *Quality, Affordable Housing Helps Children Thrive*

#### **Research shows that children who live in:**

- **Good housing conditions** – in particular, housing free from pesticides, mold, and cockroach infestation – are less likely to develop asthma and, as a result, to miss school.
- **Stable housing** – where moves are planned and relatively infrequent – are likely to do better academically and are less likely to drop out of school or have excessive absenteeism.
- **Homes with lead-based paint hazards** – some 24 million homes in the United States – suffer from health problems ranging from developmental delays and impaired hearing to kidney and central nervous system damage. In general, poor African American and Hispanic children are most likely to be at risk of exposure.

#### **Housing subsidies have a proven ability to improve children's well-being:**

- **Children who live in subsidized housing** are significantly more likely to meet “well child” criteria – having no developmental concerns or hospitalizations, a healthy weight, and characterized as being in good or excellent health – than children in families on the waitlist to receive housing aid.
- **Families who receive federal housing vouchers** are less likely to be homeless, move frequently, experience crowding, or have a child miss school than unassisted families.