The Benefits of Investing in the
Housing Market in Pennsylvania

**Housing Alliance
of Pennsylvania**

Economy

We believe that businesses that invest in our communities should have the support of housing policies that help them recruit and retain a qualified workforce.

- Investing in the housing market creates JOBS. Each $1 million invested in the rehabilitation of older homes results in nearly 20 full-time jobs per year in areas such as construction, manufacturing, retail, financial, and various other professional services.[1]

- Providing better housing options will attract new businesses to communities.[2]

- A balanced housing market provides an economic stimulus to neighborhoods, bringing money, jobs and consumers into a community.[3]

- Each dollar the state invests in the housing market returns from $1.62 to $2.28 to the state's economy.[4]

Children

We believe that no child should be homeless.

- In Pennsylvania alone, almost 20,000 children are homeless.[5]

- Moving to a clean, stable home improves children's health and physical well-being.[6]

- Children in stable housing situations do significantly better in school than children who move three or more times during the school year.[7]

- A stable housing environment can help reduce adolescent violence and levels of drug use.[8]

Senior Citizens

We believe that seniors should be able to live with dignity as part of the community.

- The number of elderly people who are homeless is increasing.[9]

- Having safe and decent housing has a direct impact on levels of life expectancy.[10]

- Pennsylvania ranks fourth among all states in the number of elderly residents.[11]

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Victims of Domestic Violence

We believe that a home should provide security.

- Lack of housing options has a direct impact on victims of domestic violence. They often must choose between remaining trapped in an abusive relationship or becoming homeless.[12]

- Housing is essential for obtaining and sustaining employment and economic independence, and for maintaining custody of children.[13]

Individuals with Disabilities

We believe that people with disabilities should be able to live with dignity as part of the community.

- Pennsylvanians living on SSI are faced with the dual problem of the lack of affordable homes and the lack of accessible homes.

- The average rent for a one-bedroom apartment in Pennsylvania costs the entire monthly income of an individual receiving only SSI income.[14]

- Individuals with disabilities and low incomes sometimes enter or are unable to leave nursing homes because of the lack of affordable homes.

Cost Savings

We believe that if you work hard and play by the rules, you should be able to afford a decent place to live.

- A balanced housing market will save the Commonwealth money by decreasing shelter use, medical costs, and incarceration rates.[15]

- Rental assistance is four times less expensive than a nursing home, and two times less costly than a nursing home plus community based services.[16]

- Researchers have found a link between elevated blood lead levels in childhood - as is often found in substandard housing - with higher levels of violent criminal behavioral as a young adult.[17]

- Hundreds of people remain in prison past their release date because they have no place to go, costing taxpayers $116 per day per person.[18]

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