



The National Housing Trust Fund Campaign
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A home is the
foundation.

A HOME IS THE FOUNDATION OF A CHILD'S EDUCATION

Many poor children move because of the lack of affordable housing. Nationwide, there are just 38 homes that are affordable and available for every 100 extremely low income renter households.¹ The lack of affordable housing results in tenuous living conditions and a high rate of residential mobility, particularly for poor families with children. As a result, at schools in areas with high rates of poverty as few as 30% of the students enrolled in September remain at the school at the end of the year, a mobility rate of 70%².

Children who move frequently often change school districts, jeopardizing their academic success.³ It is harder for transient children to form relationships with teachers and peers. Mobile children must change teachers, curricula and schoolmates and are also more likely to have to repeat a grade.⁴ Schools with high mobility rates perform poorly on No Child Left Behind student achievement indicators.⁵

Congress should create a **National Housing Trust Fund** to provide America's most vulnerable children with the opportunity for a stable address. A National Housing Trust Fund would create a dedicated source of revenue to produce, rehabilitate and preserve 1.5 million affordable rental units for the lowest income people, including families with school age children.

For more information, please visit www.nhtf.org or call 202-662-1530.

¹ Pelletiere, D. (2007). *American Community Survey estimate shows larger national, state affordable rental housing shortages. Research note #07-01.* Washington, D.C.: National Low Income Housing Coalition.

² Fowler-Finn, T. (2001, August). Student stability v. mobility. *School Administrator*, 36-40, quoted in Crowley, S. (2003). The affordable housing crisis: residential mobility of poor families and school mobility of poor children. *The Journal of Negro Education*, 23.

³ U.S. General Accounting Office. (1994). *Elementary school children: many change schools frequently harming their education.* Washington, DC: Author

⁴ For a discussion of the literature, see Scanlon, E. & Devine, K. (2001). Residential mobility and youth well-being: research, policy and practice issues. *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*, 28(1), 119-138.

⁵ Rhodes, V. (2005). The effects of student mobility on NCLB school accountability ratings. *Penn GSE Perspectives on Urban Education*, 3(3).