



IMPROVING CALIFORNIANS' HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Health starts at home. Studies show a stable home is key in supporting individuals and families as they address their physical, mental and behavioral health needs. Passing the Prop 1 \$4 billion **Veterans and Affordable Housing Act** in November will play a critical role in improving health outcomes among those who currently cannot afford a decent place to live, including veterans, children and families, people with disabilities and individuals experiencing homelessness.

WHY CALIFORNIANS NEED AFFORDABLE HOUSING TO BE HEALTHY

With a safe, stable, affordable home, struggling individuals and families are better able to:

- Receive appointment reminders, plan transportation, obtain medications, and maintain stable relationships with doctors and practitioners.
- Purchase and afford nutritious food and follow a healthy diet.
- Reverse health problems resulting from poorly built, low-quality housing.
- Reduce emergency room visits and hospital stays.
- Reduce alcohol and substance abuse.



WHAT PROP 1 DOES TO BUILD A HEALTHY CALIFORNIA

- Dedicates \$1.5 billion to the Multifamily Housing Program, \$150 million for the Transit-Oriented Development Program, and \$300 million for the Infill Infrastructure Grant Program, to build and preserve affordable housing for low-income individuals, children and families, including supportive housing.
- Placing individuals experiencing homelessness into supportive housing provides significant savings to the healthcare system – reducing emergency room visits by 57% and on average saving the Medicaid system almost \$9,000 per year, after the cost of supportive services. In Los Angeles County, a 2009 study found 69% of the savings were in reduced costs for hospitals, emergency rooms, clinics, mental health, and public health.
- Affordable housing helps medical assistants and nursing aides afford to live in the communities where they work and can support California's health care industry with the recruitment and retention challenges faced across the state. A study called Paycheck-to-Paycheck from the National Housing Conference shows a nursing aid in Oakland needs to earn more than double his/her current annual income of just over \$32,000 to afford a modest two-bedroom apartment.

JOIN OUR COALITION

- Join our broad coalition of affordable housing advocates, business leaders, labor, veterans and environmental groups. Help spread the word among family, friends, neighbors and colleagues that improving Californians' health starts with an affordable home – **Vote YES on Prop 1 the Veterans and Affordable Housing Act this November.**

CONTACT David Koenig at DavidJKoenig@gmail.com for more information.

VETSANDAFFORDABLEHOUSINGACT.ORG

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