

The Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act of 2019

The United States faces a critical shortage of affordable rental housing, with harmful effects on millions of families.

- Not a single U.S. county has enough affordable rental housing to meet demand and 3 in 4 families eligible for federal rental assistance don't receive it due to funding limitations.
- 6 million families with children lack stable housing, are at risk of losing their homes, or live in unsafe or overcrowded conditions.

Housing vouchers have played a key role in reducing homelessness, but there are not enough vouchers to meet demand.

- A [Johns Hopkins University study](#) found that children from voucher households saw lower hospitalization rates compared with children from non-voucher households.

Housing instability has been shown to lead to learning, behavioral, and mental health problems in children.

- [The stress of not having stable housing affects children's brain development, leading to learning, behavioral, and mental health problems.](#)
- For school-age children, lack of stable housing undermines learning, including for other children in "high-turnover" classrooms.
- [Research has found that families who have difficulty paying rent or utility bills were more likely to delay medical treatment and use the emergency room for treatment.](#)

Housing vouchers that allow families to move to areas of higher opportunities increase outcomes for children.

- [Neighborhoods determine what schools children attend, how much violence they are exposed to, and what environmental toxins they are exposed to.](#)
- [Research shows that every year that low-income children spend in neighborhoods with quality schools and other advantages improves their chances of succeeding in school and later as adults.](#)
- [Children who used vouchers to live in areas with lower concentrations of poverty are much likelier to attend college and much less likely to become single parents; they also earn more as adults.](#)

The Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act of 2019 would help families who are facing unstable living circumstances by:

- **Creating an additional 500,000 housing vouchers** over five years for low-income, high-need families with young children. Pregnant women and families with a child under age 6 would qualify for these new vouchers if they have a history of homelessness or housing instability, live in an area of concentrated poverty, or are at risk of being pushed out of an opportunity area.
- **Providing families receiving the new vouchers with access to counseling and case management services** that have a proven track record of helping families move out of poverty.
- Enabling housing agencies to engage new landlords in the voucher program and connect families with information about housing in high-opportunity neighborhoods, and community-based supports for families as they move.