Why housing matters overview

This brief reviews the evidence showing that an ample supply of housing affordable to a range of incomes is essential for localities: it’s key to attracting and sustaining economic activity, anchoring vital and inclusive neighborhoods, and providing a critical foundation for individual health, well-being, and economic mobility. Even small cities, towns, and counties can make significant strides in making housing more affordable without spending a lot of local taxpayer money. Local housing strategies are all the more crucial today as increases in housing costs outstrip income gains in many areas, and the federal government retreats.