How Housing Matters

Opening Reflections: Progress and Potential

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I. Inception of How Housing Matters

<u>Two reinforcing goals:</u>

- <u>To gain traction</u> on the concept of how housing matters as a platform for positive outcomes on a key number of non-housing outcomes, and

- <u>To develop related evidence</u> used to reform policy to better promote positive outcomes (in housing, and at the housing/non housing nexus).

II. Progress: Where we are now

On the concept:

- Housing is more widely-recognized as a necessary component for supporting positive outcomes on a collection of non-housing outcomes.

  - Key non-housing outcomes are increasingly recognized as *housing related,* or *housing-dependent.*

  - Stable, affordable housing broadly seen as a core component of anti-poverty strategy.

  - Nate Silver's 538 blog on HUD's importance as a Federal agency (November 30, 2016).

- The dual meaning of housing as a platform:

  - Housing is also recognized as a platform for delivering services, as a means for non-housing sectors to connect with the populations they are trying to reach.

II. Progress: Where we are now

<u>On evidence, and evidence informing policy</u>:

- Utilization of Chetty work

    - The link between neighborhood conditions and upward mobility influencing housing policy (such as Qualified Allocation Plans for LIHTC and SAFMRs).

- Family Options Study: 3 Year Outcomes

    - Shows <u>radiating benefits of the housing assistance:</u>
        - Reduced health, hunger, and domestic violence problems.
        - Lowered child school mobility, behavior problems; increased pro-social behavior.
    - Fueled request for $11 billion over next 10 years to address family homelessness.

- NBER paper on "Childhood Housing and Adult Earnings"

    - "The Remarkable Thing that happens to poor kids when you help their parents with Rent" The Washington Post.
    - Children not only earn more as adults, they are less likely to be incarcerated.

III. What Interconnections Mean for Policy: Collaboration and Relationships

- **The Challenge**

    - Cross domain work is hard: separate funding, expertise, delivery systems.

- **The Upside**

    - Getting it right: policy catching up on domain connectedness.

    - Much as communities being multifaceted drove comprehensive, cross-sector strategies of community development.

    - Cross-domain nature of human development requires cross-domain policy work.

III. What Interconnections Mean for Policy: Collaboration and Relationships

Recent cross-domain collaborations at HUD

- Health – via HHS:

  - Supportive Services Demonstration for Elderly Households
    - Goal: Rigorous evidence on potential health care savings from appropriate linked services, and its implications for aging in place.
    - Frame: decreased public costs.
    - State role – key stakeholders, waivers.
      - National Governors Association: *Housing as Health Care, Roadmap for States.*

- Education – via Department of ED / PHAs / local school systems

  - Local partnerships between PHAs and their school systems
    - Data sharing to identify issues, assess progress (Data Sharing Roadmap)
    - Relationship building needed for collaboration
    - "Cross-sector transplants" – hiring, details, IPAs.