



# OPPORTUNITY STARTS AT HOME

## EDUCATION ADVOCATES ARE HOUSING ADVOCATES

**Teachers know that children learn better and are more likely to graduate when they live in a stable, affordable home.**

### **Stable, affordable housing drives stronger student outcomes**

Low-income children in affordable housing score better on cognitive development tests than those in unaffordable housing (Newman & Holupka, 2015). Researchers suggest that is partly because parents with affordable housing can invest more in activities and materials that support their children’s development (Newman & Holupka, 2014). Parents also are able to save more money for their children’s college tuition when they are not rent burdened and are more likely to attend a parent teacher conference (Public and Affordable Housing Research Corporation, 2016).” *Quoted from NLIHC, A Place to Call Home*

Utah has 41 school districts, 130 charter schools, and one state agency (Utah Schools for Deaf & Blind) totaling 667,578 K-12 students in the 2019-2020 school year.

**Out of the total number of K-12 students, 216,927 (33%) are low income and 9,807 (1.5%) are considered homeless.**

The U.S. Department of Education is using the Title VII, Part B: McKinney-Vento Homeless definitions and not HUD’s. Therefore, most of the 9,807 K-12 homeless students are not counted in any HUD related materials, nor receive any federal assistance funded by the HUD programs.

“Students who attend schools with large populations of hypermobile children [due to unstable and unaffordable housing] also suffer academically since more time must be devoted to review and catching up on work (Cunningham & MacDonald, 2012).” *Quoted from NLIHC, A Place to Call Home*

Utah has 28 school districts that have more than 1,000 K-12 low-income students.

Below are the ones that have over 10,000 K-12 low-income students.

Utah has 14 school districts that have more than 100 K-12 homeless students.

Below are the ones that have over 500 K-12 homeless students in their district.

Local Education Agency	Total K-12 Students	Economically Disadvantaged Students	Local Education Agency	Total K-12 Students	Homeless Students
Washington District	33,884	11,026	Granite District	63,989	581
Salt Lake District	22,017	12,607	Washington District	33,884	778
Jordan District	56,339	12,807	Tooele District	17,608	801
Davis District	72,897	13,487	Salt Lake District	22,017	869
Alpine District	81,532	18,660	Nebo District	33,379	957
Granite District	63,989	33,772	Davis District	72,897	1,158
			Canyons District	34,178	1,277
			Jordan District	56,339	1,579

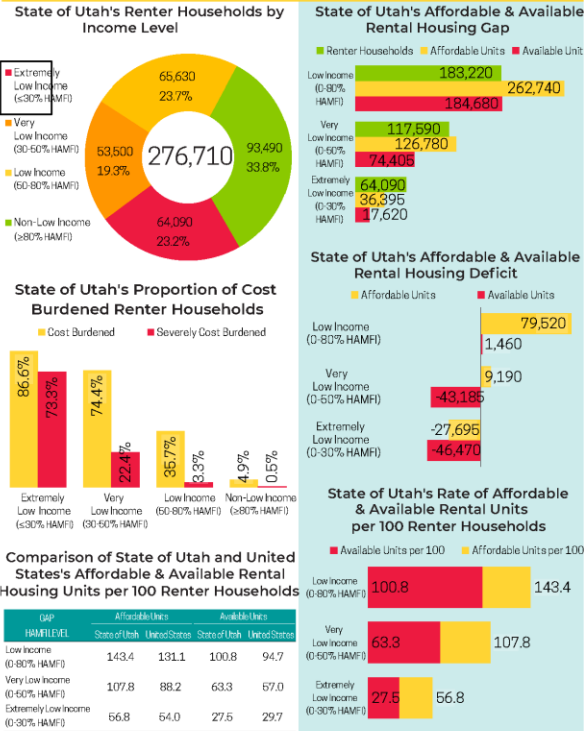
*School districts data provided by the Utah State Board of Education*



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### STATE OF UTAH AFFORDABLE HOUSING GAP ANALYSIS



Sources: U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development. (2018). Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy, 2011-2015 (Data). Available at: <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/cp.html>

Schools should not “go it alone.” Out-of-school factors greatly influence academic outcomes. After all, children spend more time in and around their home than they do in school.

“The preponderance of evidence shows that achievement differences between students are overwhelmingly attributable to factors outside of schools and classrooms (Hanushek et al. 1998; Rockoff 2003; Goldhaber et al. 1999; Rowan et al. 2002; Nye et al. 2004).” Quoted from DiCarlo, *The Shanker Institute*

Because school funding largely comes from local property taxes, housing plays a pivotal role in how much schools can spend on students’ education. The highest poverty school districts receive roughly \$1,000 less per pupil in state/local funding than the wealthiest districts (*The Education Trust, 2018*).

When a low-income child is able to access affordable housing located in a better neighborhood, it improves the likelihood of college attendance (*Chetty & Hendren, 2015*).

“School reform cannot succeed without housing reform.”  
– Richard Rothstein, Economic Policy Institute

For more information, please visit [www.opportunityhome.org](http://www.opportunityhome.org)

### UTAH STATE RANKING #27\*

In Utah, the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment is \$952. In order to afford this level of rent and utilities — without paying more than 30% of income on housing — a household must earn \$3,172 monthly or \$38,064 annually. Assuming a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year, this level of income translates into an hourly Housing Wage of:

**\$18.30**  
PER HOUR  
STATE HOUSING WAGE

#### FACTS ABOUT UTAH:

STATE FACTS	
Minimum Wage	\$7.25
Average Renter Wage	\$14.37
2-Bedroom Housing Wage	\$18.30
Number of Renter Households	284,936
Percent Renters	30%

<b>101</b> Work Hours Per Week At Minimum Wage To Afford a 2-Bedroom Rental Home (at FMR)	<b>82</b> Work Hours Per Week At Minimum Wage To Afford a 1-Bedroom Rental Home (at FMR)
<b>2.5</b> Number of Full-Time Jobs At Minimum Wage To Afford a 2-Bedroom Rental Home (at FMR)	<b>2.1</b> Number of Full-Time Jobs At Minimum Wage To Afford a 1-Bedroom Rental Home (at FMR)

MOST EXPENSIVE AREAS	HOUSING WAGE
Summit County	\$22.75
Salt Lake City, UT HUD Metro FMR Area	\$20.67
Wasatch County	\$19.87
Uintah County	\$17.62
St. George, UT MSA	\$17.62

MSA = Metropolitan Statistical Area; HMA = HUD Metro FMR Area  
\* Ranked from Highest to Lowest 2-Bedroom Housing Wage. Includes Districts of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

OUT OF REACH 2019 | NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION



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