

WHAT DOES EXPANDING HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES MEAN?

Several studies have shown that where a person lives is a more likely indicator of their success in life than anything else.¹ This means that your “zip code is more likely to predict [your] levels of educational achievement, financial success or failure, whether or not [you are] likely to develop diabetes or high blood pressure, and even how long [you] can expect to live.”²

Where you live matters! For example, life expectancy in the poorest zip code in New Orleans is 25.5 years lower than life expectancy in the city’s richest zip code.³

The Housing Choice Voucher Program is designed to be more than just rental assistance. The voucher is also a means to break out of the cycle of poverty by enabling families to live in neighborhoods of opportunity for gainful employment, quality education, reliable transportation, racial and ethnic integration, and higher quality housing with less crime.⁴

There are many combined factors that help ensure an individual’s success. It can be difficult to define the characteristics of a neighborhood of opportunity. One of these factors appears to be the low concentration of poverty.⁵ Go to opportunityatlas.org to find out how the neighborhood you select for your new unit can affect your family’s opportunities in life. Studies show that for **“every extra year a child spends growing up in an area with better outcomes on the Opportunity Atlas causes the child to have better outcomes in adulthood.”**⁶

“A child’s course in life should be determined not by the zip code she’s born in, but by the strength of her work ethic and the scope of her dreams.” – Barack Obama

The Appendix also provides a list and map of EBR Parish public and charter schools. HUD encourages families to research local schools through www.greatschools.org and information available through the local school district at www.ebrschools.org.

¹ (*Moving to Opportunity*, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development)

² (*Where Opportunity Knocks the Doors are Locked*, Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center, 2014)

³ (*Place Matters for Health in Orleans Parish: Ensuring Opportunities for Good Health for All*, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, 2012)

⁴ (*The Prospects for Guiding Housing Choice Voucher Households to High-Opportunity Neighborhoods*, Kirk McClure, 2010)

⁵ (*Deconcentration: What Do We Mean? What Do We Want?*, Jill Khadduri, 2001)

⁶ opportunityinsights.org/neighborhoods