

TITLE: Impacts of a long-term rent assistance program for low-income seniors- a longitudinal qualitative study

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: No

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Housing, Social Determinants of Health, Seniors

ABSTRACT: **BACKGROUND:** Unaffordable housing puts low-income seniors at risk of displacement, which can negatively impact a myriad of outcomes. **PURPOSE:** Our objective was to identify the impacts of a long-term rent assistance (LTRA) program for low-income seniors over time. **METHODS:** We used a prospective, longitudinal, qualitative approach to evaluate the impact of a LTRA program in Oregon. Program recipients were interviewed 6- and 12-months post LTRA-receipt using an interview guide with semi-structured and structured questions. Themes were identified using a framework approach, and change over time was analyzed using trajectory analysis. **RESULTS:** Those who completed both interviews were included in the analysis (N=18). Besides housing stability, the most common impact themes were increased financial stability ('I can afford basic needs and save for the future'), improved mental health ('I have peace of mind and space to tackle bigger challenges'), and improved social connections ('I can spend time with friends and help sick family out of state'). Despite this, many recipients still live with a scarcity mindset, making tough trade offs between resources. **CONCLUSION:** Programs that stabilize housing for low-income seniors may drastically improve recipients' quality of life but do not eliminate all challenges.

OBJECTIVE(S): Identify the impacts of a long-term rent assistance program for low-income seniors. Describe how the impacts of a long-term rent assistance program for low-income seniors change over time.