

Early Investment in Kids Can Pay Off

Inflation-adjusted rates of return estimated to reach 10 percent or higher*

BENEFITS FOUND IN LONG-TERM EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDIES



**Better prenatal
health**



**Higher high school
graduation rates**



**Reduced abuse
and neglect**



**Reduced special
education**



**Increased
tax revenue**



**Reduced
crime**



**Increased
adult earnings**

Brains Are Built Through Experiences

700 to 1,000 new neural connections are formed each second in the infant brain

Caregivers who are responsive to a child's signals through **“serve and return”** interactions facilitate healthy brain architecture

CHILD SIGNALS:

- Cries
- Gestures
- Babbles

CAREGIVER RESPONSES:

- Hugs
- Words
- Eye contact



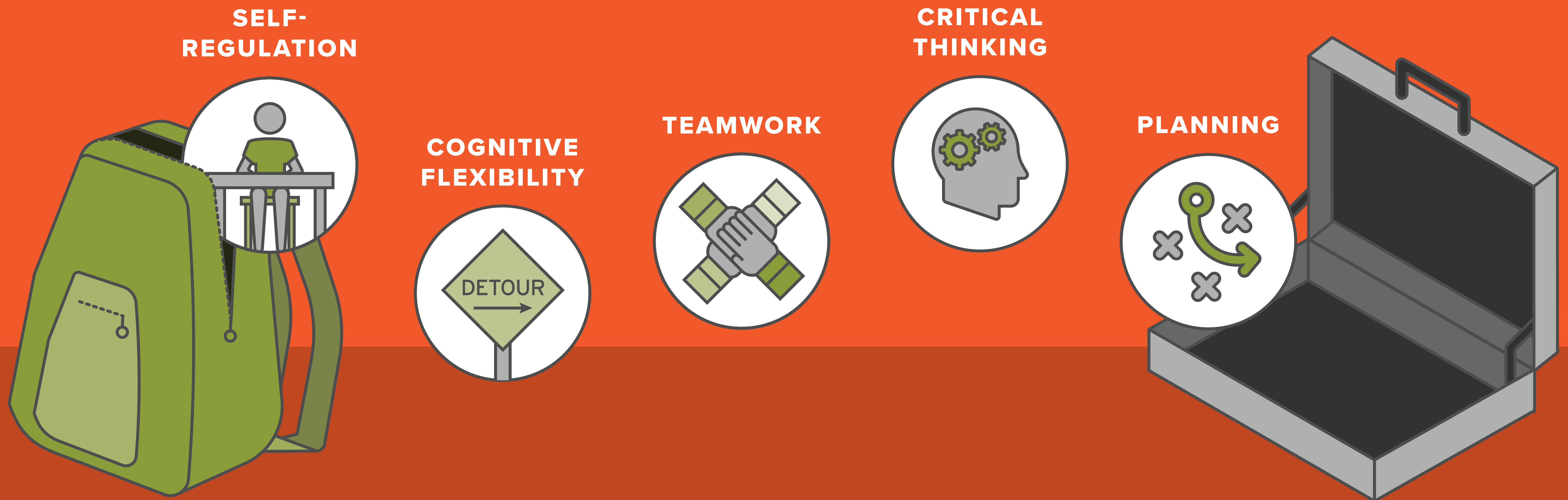
A child without supportive adults who experiences **“toxic stress”** can develop weakened brain architecture

TOXIC STRESSORS INCLUDE:

- Chronic neglect
- Exposure to violence
- Physical or verbal abuse
- Caregiver mental illness or drug abuse

Valuable Skills Are Developed in Childhood

Early childhood and adolescence are critical times for forming capabilities employers need



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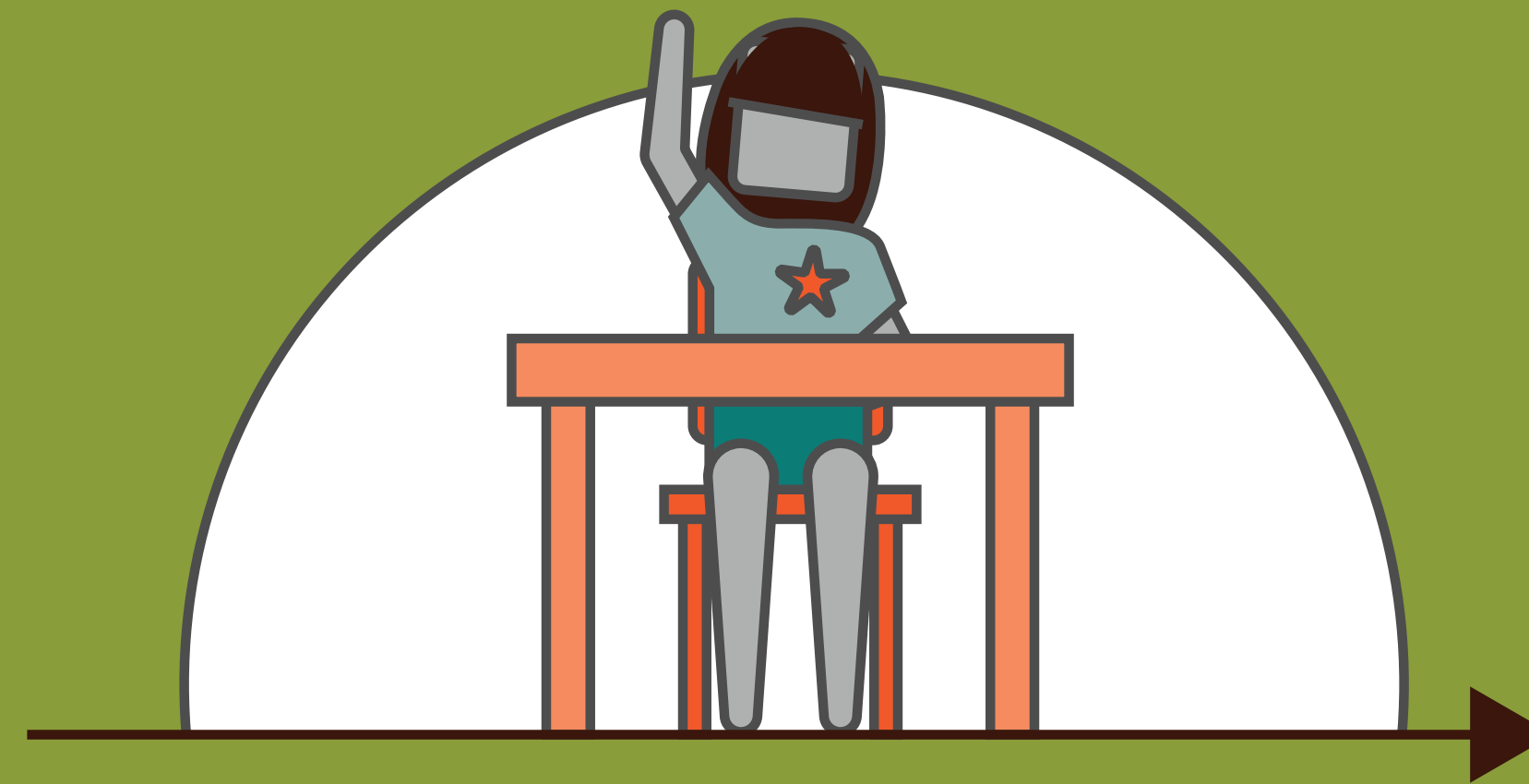
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Housing and School Success Are Linked

Safe and affordable housing can improve educational outcomes



Improved housing quality
Increased housing stability



Improved physical and mental health
Decreased school absences



Higher achievement test scores
Reduced grade repetition

Children who live in poor housing conditions are more likely to experience:

Asthma

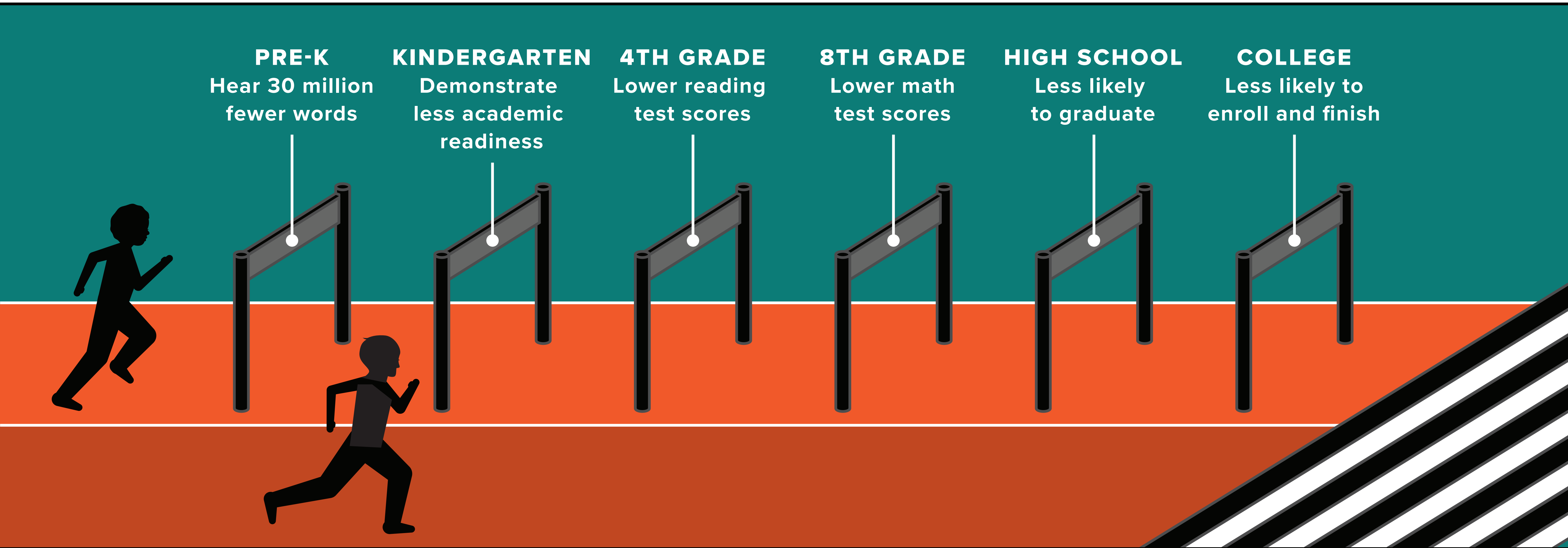
Lead poisoning

Overcrowding

Frequent moves

Achievement Gaps Start Early and Persist

Children of color or low-income status are more likely to lag behind

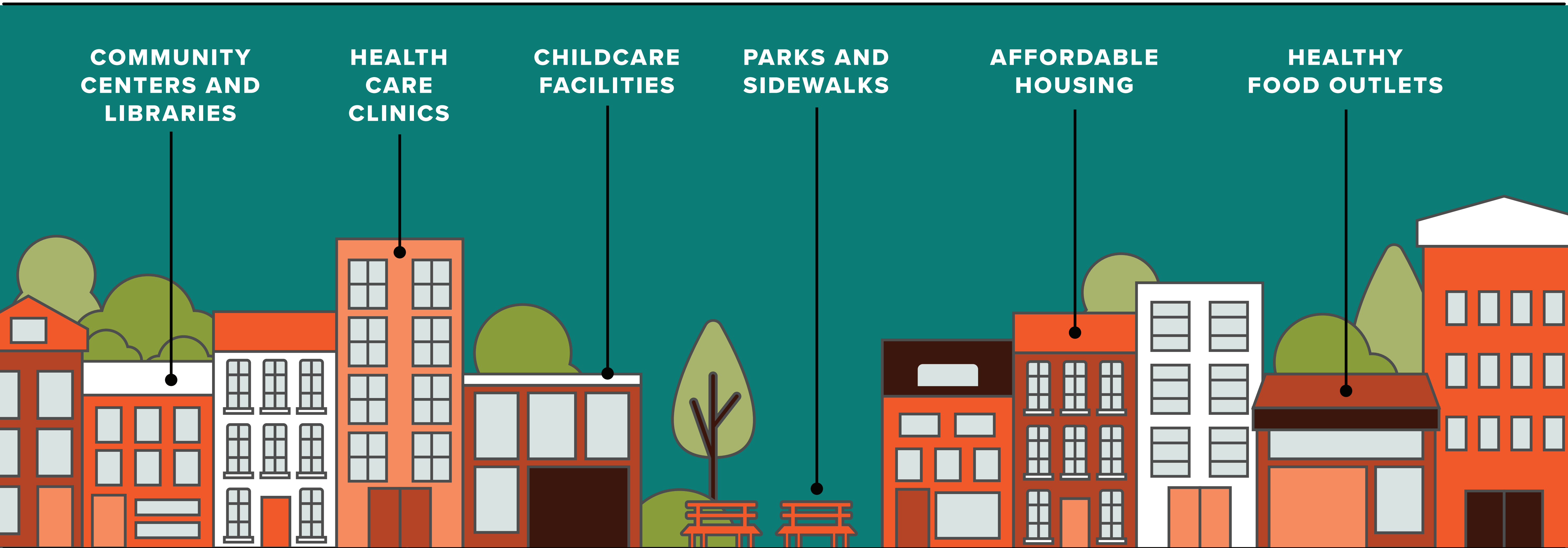


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Community Development Investments Matter

Neighborhood assets can improve the futures of children and families



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