



Press Kit 2022

About Fondation La Clé

Fondation La Clé, formerly known as Fondation de l'Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal, supports young people living in low-rent housing which is managed and administered by the Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal (OMHM). The Foundation encourages these young people to persevere at school and attain their full potential. Since its creation in 2011, Fondation La Clé has invested more than one million dollars in scholarships and in various non-profit organizations working with youth living in OMHM housing across the Island of Montréal. To learn more about its mission, please consult the web site fondationlacle.ca.

The mission

Help youth living in OMHM housing to persevere in their studies and reach their full potential.

To this end, Fondation La Clé mobilizes community partners and resources to provide the conditions which will have a positive and durable impact on the scholastic success of these students.

Information sheet

Growing up in OMHM housing

In 2021, **18,3% of Montréal students** dropped out of high school (Réseau Réussite Montréal). This rate is 2,5 times higher in disadvantaged neighbourhoods and, with the pandemic, this trend is on the rise (Centraide Greater Montréal). Placing an importance on education and parental support are determining factors in succeeding at school.

- The average annual income of families living in OMHM housing is less than **\$20 000***.
- Only **26%** of families in OMHM housing have a job as their main source of income*.
- **48%** of families in OMHM housing depend on government social welfare programs*.

Socio-economic portrait

Despite the help that subsidized housing may provide, the vast majority of families in low-rent housing communities live in extreme poverty and social exclusion. In certain neighbourhoods, more than 50% of students leave school before getting a diploma. Nearly **10,000 young people** under 25 live in OMHM housing of which more than two thirds are of school age, **32%** are in elementary school and **35%** are in high school.

26%

of families have
a job as their main
source of income

75%

of single-parent
families are headed
by women

Less than

\$20 000

average annual
income

68%

are single-parent
households

16

boroughs

4 328

families

Number of children by age and sex*

Age group	Girls	Boys	Total	%
0-5 years	602	611	1213	13 %
6-12 years	1485	1462	2947	32 %
13-18 years	1468	1690	3158	35 %
19-25	961	847	1808	20 %
Total	4516 / 50 %	4610 / 50 %	9126	100 %

The objectives of the scholarships and projects funded by Fondation La Clé.

The projects dedicated to school perseverance have the following objectives:

- Promote social inclusion.
- Mobilize community and social resources towards a common goal.
- Provide families with the necessary tools to support their children at school.
- Support local initiatives in disadvantaged neighbourhoods and ensure the sustainability of services provided to encourage school perseverance.
- Provide academic support for young people with learning difficulties.
- Make available, at no charge to families in precarious economic situations, help with homework, cultural and sports activities.

The school perseverance scholarships have the following objectives:

- Recognize the merit and efforts of these young people despite the precarity of their situation.
- Stimulate the motivation and self esteem of these students.
- Recognize and encourage perseverance.
- Reduce the socio-economic obstacles by supporting these students to obtain a first diploma.
- Reduce the financial pressure on families.
- Help these young people live their dreams.

Key Statistics

Fondation La Clé examined Quebecer's perceptions of the impact of the current sanitary crisis, which has exacerbated the inequalities regarding school perseverance, and the consequences of dropping out, through a poll carried out in 2021 by Léger.

- Nearly one in two Quebecers (48%) believe that young people living in low-rent OMHM housing do not have the same opportunities for academic success as other students.
- 71% of Quebecers believe that the pandemic has had a greater impact on young people living in low-rent OMHM housing than on other young people in terms of school perseverance and success.
- Survey respondents believe that having access to technological tools plays a major role in education, and 87% believe that these tools are important in helping students to learn.