

# Washington | Federal Rental Assistance Facts



About 36 percent of all Washington households – or 916,270 households – are renters. Federal rental assistance programs enable more than 85,378 low-income households in Washington to rent modest housing at an affordable cost. About 66 percent of these households are headed by people who are elderly or have disabilities; approximately 26 percent are families with children.

Yet federal programs reach only a small share of the low-income Washington households that pay unaffordable rental housing costs and are therefore at increased risk of homelessness and other types of housing instability:

- In Washington, 201,957 low-income renter households pay *more than half* their monthly cash income for housing costs. On average, these households have incomes of \$1,041 and pay housing costs of \$920, leaving only \$121 to pay for other necessities. About 38 percent of these cost-burdened renters are elderly or people with disabilities, while 27 percent are families with children.
- When housing costs consume more than half of household income, low-income families are at greater risk of becoming homeless. Point-in-time surveys suggest that at least 22,782 people are homeless in Washington.

## Federal Rental Assistance in Washington

Program	Number of Units	Percent Extremely Low Income	Percent Elderly	Percent Disabled	Percent Families with Children
Housing Choice Vouchers	46,594	80%	19%	43%	33%
Public Housing	12,982	77%	27%	34%	34%
Section 8 Project-Based Rental Asst.	16,071	81%	57%	21%	16%
Supportive Housing for Elderly and People with Disabilities (202/811)	2,649	NA	59%	40%	0%
RAP/Rent Supplement	305	NA	50%	16%	1%
Section 8 Moderate Rehab.	348	95%	13%	27%	44%
USDA Section 521 Rental Asst.	6,223	NA	64%	NA	NA
<b>Total</b>	<b>85,378</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>26%</b>

## Characteristics Of Low-Income Renters With Unaffordable Housing Costs In Washington, 2009

	Number of Households	Percent Extremely Low Income	Percent Elderly	Percent Disabled	Percent Families with Children
Housing costs greater than 30% of income	393,245	45%	17%	18%	29%
Housing costs greater than 50% of income	201,957	73%	18%	20%	27%

See <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3464> for explanation of data sources used in this table.