

## Urge Congress to Address the Housing Crisis

Millions of low-income working families struggle because of our affordable housing crisis. 71 percent of extremely low-income renters spend more than half their income on housing, but meanwhile only one in four eligible low-income households receives federal housing assistance. With a new Congress, we have the opportunity to set the agenda – and ensure that they make affordable housing a priority.

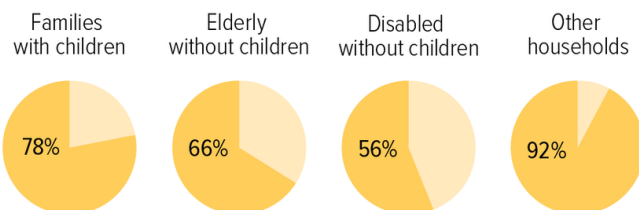
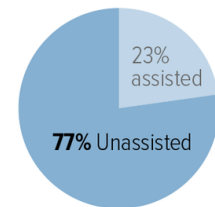
## Write Letters to Support Affordable Rental Housing

Here are some talking points you can tailor for letters, calls with Congressional aides, or face-to-face meetings.

1. **Introduce yourself** with your name and city. Also note that you are a RESULTS advocate who cares about access to affordable housing.
2. **Share why this issue is important to you**, enough for you to take time out of your busy schedule to write about it.
3. Explain that **access to affordable housing is a serious and growing problem in the U.S.** Studies show that nationwide, there are only 35 affordable rental homes available for every 100 extremely low-income renter households, and a worker earning the federal minimum wage cannot afford a two-bedroom apartment anywhere in America.
4. Note that **only one in four eligible low-income households receives federal housing assistance.**
5. Explain that a **\$4 billion increase** in Housing Choice Vouchers would fund 340,000 new “Section 8” vouchers over two years.
6. In addition, **two-thirds of families can be denied housing by landlords simply for getting assistance**, creating yet more barriers to economic security.
7. Ask him/her to tell congressional leaders **to lift the spending caps for FY20 during budget negotiations, and support a \$4 billion increase in Housing Choice Vouchers** over the next two years?
8. In addition, urge policymakers to **support bipartisan efforts to ban housing discrimination based on income source** to create more opportunities for families.

### Three Out of Four Low-Income At-Risk Renters Do Not Receive Federal Rental Assistance

All low-income renters with housing needs



Note: Low-income renters are considered “at-risk” if they pay more than 30 percent of their monthly income for housing and/or live in overcrowded or substandard housing. Households are considered low-income if they earn 80 percent or less of the local median income.

Source: Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) custom tabulations of the 2015 American Housing Survey; 2016 HUD administrative data; FY2016 McKinney-Vento Permanent Supportive Housing bed counts; 2015-2016 Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS grantee performance profiles; and the USDA FY2016 Multi-Family Fair Housing Occupancy Report.

CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES | CBPP.ORG