

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.

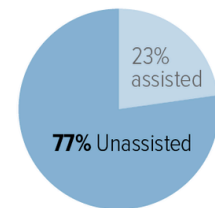
Write Letters to Support Affordable Rental Housing

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

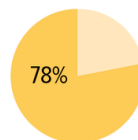
1. **Introduce yourself** with your name and city. Also note that you are a RESULTS advocate who cares about access to affordable housing.
2. **Share why this issue is important to you**, enough for you to take time out of your busy schedule to write about it.
3. Explain that **access to affordable housing 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 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** and that you would like Congress to invest in increasing access to affordable housing.
5. In addition, remind them that **families can face discrimination for simply receiving housing assistance** -- two-thirds of families can be denied by landlords simply for getting assistance, creating yet more barriers to economic security.
6. As House and Senate leaders negotiate budget bills this year, urge your members of Congress to **tell congressional leaders that they support a large boost in federal rental assistance.**

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

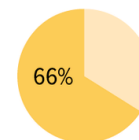
All low-income renters with housing needs



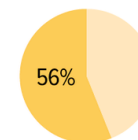
Families with children



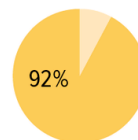
Elderly without children



Disabled without children



Other households



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.

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ACTION SHEET

7. In addition, urge policymakers to **support bipartisan efforts to ban housing discrimination based on income source** to create more opportunities for families.