

U.S. Poverty Policy Request

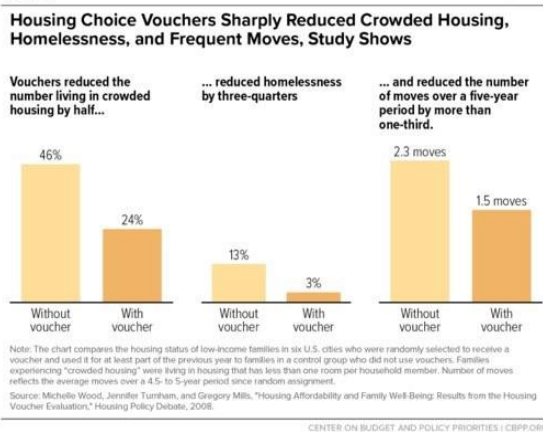
Congress Must Expand Long-Term Rental Assistance

We urge members of Congress to tell leadership & the House Financial Services and Senate Banking Committees to include at least \$90 billion in rental assistance funding, with the highest possible investment in Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs), in the budget reconciliation, towards the goal of ensuring all eligible low-income renters get federal housing assistance.

Each year, millions of low-income Americans struggle to afford housing.

- **Wages have not kept up with increase in rents.** According to [Harvard researchers](#), since 1960 renters' median earnings have gone up 5 percent while rents are up 61 percent (adjusted for inflation). A worker making the prevailing minimum wage [cannot afford a two-bedroom apartment](#) in any U.S. state.
- **Only one in four eligible low-income renters receive federal housing assistance.** Before the pandemic, an estimated 24 million low-income renters paid [over half](#) of their income on housing; and due to chronic underinvestment, even those eligible [endure long wait times and great harm due](#) to prolonged housing instability since *they cannot afford their housing long-term*. As a result, in 2020 [580,466](#) people were living on the streets and in shelters and about [1.3 million homeless students enrolled in school year 2018-19](#).
- Furthermore, because of **housing segregation and other policies that created wealth** for some Americans while blocking opportunity for Black families and other people of color, Black Americans experience higher rates of [extremely low-income renters](#) and [people experiencing homelessness](#) than white households. We can [lift children out of poverty](#) and start to [address racial inequities](#) in housing by expanding rental assistance.

FIGURE 2



RESULTS urges members to tell leadership & the House Financial Services and Senate Banking Committees to include at least \$90 billion in rental assistance funding, with the highest possible investment in HCVs in the budget reconciliation, prioritizing extremely low-income households, children, families, and people with disabilities. In addition, we urge members to support and co-sponsor House's [Ending Homelessness Act](#) & [Housing is Infrastructure Act](#) and Senate's bipartisan [Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act](#) -- and use the recovery legislation to move forward these priorities.

Looking ahead, RESULTS supports efforts to expand rental assistance for all who qualify via universal HCVs and/or a refundable "renters' tax credit", increase the supply of affordable housing via additional resources for the Housing Trust Fund, incentivize inclusive zoning, strengthen fair housing laws, enact source of income discrimination protection, and reduce racial wealth inequality by increasing homeownership for people of color.