U.S. Poverty Policy Request
Congress Must Address Housing Crisis

We urge Congress to support large-scale recovery policies that ensure all eligible low-income renters get federal housing assistance by making Housing Choice Vouchers universal or enacting a refundable renters’ tax credit.

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

- According to Harvard researchers, since 1960 renters’ median earnings have gone up 5 percent while rents are up 61 percent.
- 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 received federal housing assistance.

In addition, because of the legacy of segregation, Black households (13% of total) make up 26% of all extremely low-income renters and 40% of people experiencing homelessness.

We can start to undo the legacy of racial discrimination in making the Housing Choice Voucher program universal, or by enacting a refundable “renters’ tax credit”, to ensure housing assistance is available for all low-income renters. Also, making housing assistance universal, combined with expansions of the Child Tax Credit, would reduce child poverty by more than 60 percent.

In upcoming recovery legislation, we have the unique opportunity to make significant gains in reducing poverty and addressing the disproportionate impact of systemic housing inequalities for Black renters and other communities of color. RESULTS urges Congress to ensure all eligible low-income renters get federal housing assistance in economic recovery legislation. In addition, we urge Congress to support increasing the supply of affordable housing through the Housing Trust Fund and reducing racial wealth inequality by promoting policies that increase homeownership for communities of color.