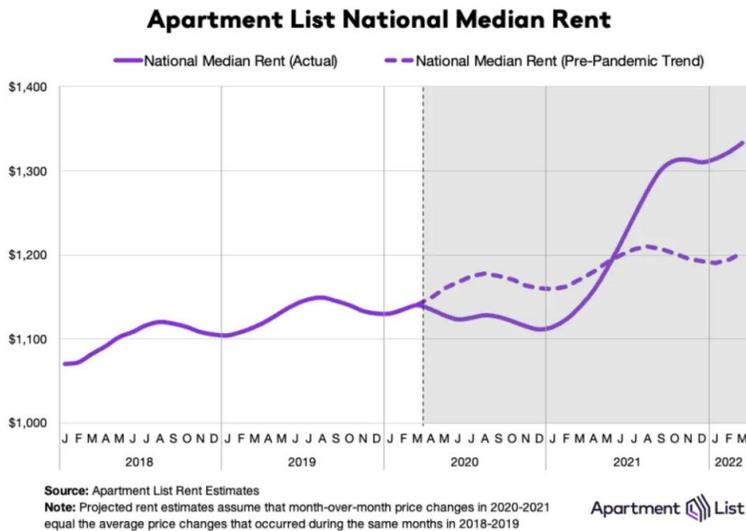# U.S. Poverty Policy Request
Congress Must Prioritize Renters in Any Recovery Package

We urge members to pass a strong economic package that includes rental assistance and other supports (e.g., the CTC) for low-income families with young children.

Apartment List National Median Rent
— National Median Rent (Actual)   - - National Median Rent (Pre-Pandemic Trend)

Source: Apartment List Rent Estimates
Note: Projected rent estimates assume that month-over-month price changes in 2020-2021 equal the average price changes that occurred during the same months in 2018-2019

Apartment List

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

Rents are skyrocketing, more than what they cost pre-pandemic. The surge in rents contributes to inflation, creating financial pressure on millions of families who are barely getting by. People can't keep up with rising costs, creating a lot of housing instability and displacing those unable to afford their homes. Families are forced to choose between keeping their homes or pay for other necessities.

- **Wages have not kept up with increase in rents.** If the minimum wage rose in step with rent price increases since 1968, it would be almost $21.50 an hour. As a result, a worker making the prevailing minimum wage cannot afford a two-bedroom apartment in *any* U.S. state.

- **Most low-income renters do not get federal housing assistance**. Nearly half of all renter households are "cost-burdened," i.e., spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent and utilities each month. Yet, due to chronic underinvestment, even those eligible for federal assistance endure long wait times and great harm due to prolonged housing instability. With no federal protections from evictions or rent increases, 1.3 million children, youth, and their families were homeless between 2019 and 2020.

- **Inadequate Congressional funding to address the affordable housing crisis perpetuates housing segregation and systemic inequities** that disadvantage struggling renters, particularly those from marginalized communities.

RESULTS urges members to pass an economic package this year that prioritizes rental assistance and other supports (e.g., the CTC) for low-income families with children to make housing affordable for them, reduce child poverty, and help correct housing inequities.