

About 29 percent of all Maine households – or 161,200 households – are renters. Federal rental assistance programs enable more than 31,900 low-income households in Maine to rent modest housing at an affordable cost. About 72 percent of these households are headed by people who are elderly or have disabilities; approximately 23 percent are families with children that are headed by people younger than 62 and do not have disabilities. In Maine, 31 percent of HUD-assisted units, and a large share of USDA-assisted units, are located outside of metropolitan areas.

Federal rental assistance programs reach only a small share of the low-income Maine households that pay unaffordable rental housing costs.

- In Maine, 40,600 low-income renter households pay *more than half* their monthly cash income for housing costs. The median income of these households is \$1,010 and the median housing costs are \$860, leaving only \$150 to pay for other necessities. About 47 percent of these severely cost-burdened renter households are headed by people who are elderly or have disabilities, while 22 percent are other families with children.
- When housing costs consume more than half of household income, low-income families are at greater risk of becoming homeless. Point-in-time surveys suggest that at least 2,400 people are homeless in Maine.

Federal Rental Assistance in Maine					
Program	Number of Units	Percent Extremely Low Income	Percent Elderly	Percent Disabled	Percent Families with Children
Housing Choice Vouchers	12,307	74	19	47	27
Public Housing	4,068	60	38	24	32
Section 8 Project-Based Rental Asst.	8,548	64	56	25	15
Supportive Housing for Elderly and People with Disabilities (202/811)	861	62	85	15	0
Other HUD programs	178	62	4	84	10
USDA Section 521 Rental Asst.	5,963	NA	80	NA	NA
Total	31,925	68	36	36	23

Characteristics Of Low-Income Renters With Unaffordable Housing Costs In Maine , 2011						
	Number of Households	Percent in non-metro areas	Percent Extremely Low Income	Percent Elderly	Percent Disabled	Percent Families with Children
Housing costs greater than 30% of income	78,216	34	48	22	22	21
Housing costs greater than 50% of income	40,674	32	72	23	24	22

See <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3464> for explanation of data sources used in this table.