

Illinois | Federal Rental Assistance Facts



About 32 percent of all Illinois households – or 1,521,743 households – are renters. Federal rental assistance programs enable more than 214,468 low-income households in Illinois to rent modest housing at an affordable cost. About 54 percent of these households are headed by people who are elderly or have disabilities; approximately 35 percent are families with children.

Yet federal programs reach only a small share of the low-income Illinois households that pay unaffordable rental housing costs and are therefore at increased risk of homelessness and other types of housing instability:

- In Illinois, 377,992 low-income renter households pay *more than half* their monthly cash income for housing costs. On average, these households have incomes of \$966 and pay housing costs of \$864, leaving only \$102 to pay for other necessities. About 33 percent of these cost-burdened renters are elderly or people with disabilities, while 31 percent are 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 14,055 people are homeless in Illinois.

Federal Rental Assistance in Illinois

Program	Number of Units	Percent Extremely Low Income	Percent Elderly	Percent Disabled	Percent Families with Children
Housing Choice Vouchers	76,083	79%	14%	25%	51%
Public Housing	61,237	77%	29%	26%	29%
Section 8 Project-Based Rental Asst.	61,363	73%	49%	15%	26%
Supportive Housing for Elderly and People with Disabilities (202/811)	6,333	NA	75%	24%	0%
RAP/Rent Supplement	920	NA	62%	18%	10%
Section 8 Moderate Rehab.	1,371	89%	21%	23%	29%
USDA Section 521 Rental Asst.	7,161	NA	61%	NA	NA
Total	214,468	NA	32%	22%	35%

Characteristics Of Low-Income Renters With Unaffordable Housing Costs In Illinois, 2009

	Number of Households	Percent Extremely Low Income	Percent Elderly	Percent Disabled	Percent Families with Children
Housing costs greater than 30% of income	680,219	53%	18%	13%	32%
Housing costs greater than 50% of income	377,992	78%	19%	14%	31%

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