

Oregon Federal Rental Assistance Fact Sheet

Federal rental assistance helps struggling seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, and working families keep a roof over their heads, often by helping them afford rental units they find in the private market. Ten million people in over 5 million low-income households receive federal rental assistance.

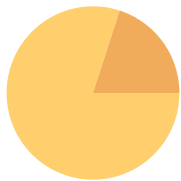
115,700

people in **61,000 Oregon** households use federal rental assistance to afford modest housing.

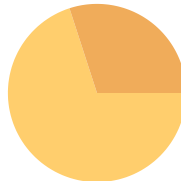
71% are seniors, children, or people with disabilities.



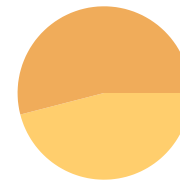
...**but 5 in 10 low-income*** people in Oregon are homeless or pay over half their income for rent. Most don't receive federal rental assistance due to limited funding.



20%
of assisted people are seniors



30%
of assisted people have a disability



54%
of assisted people are in families with children

Rental assistance helps **23,000** of Oregon's seniors age in place.

Rental assistance helps **34,600** people with disabilities to live independently in Oregon.

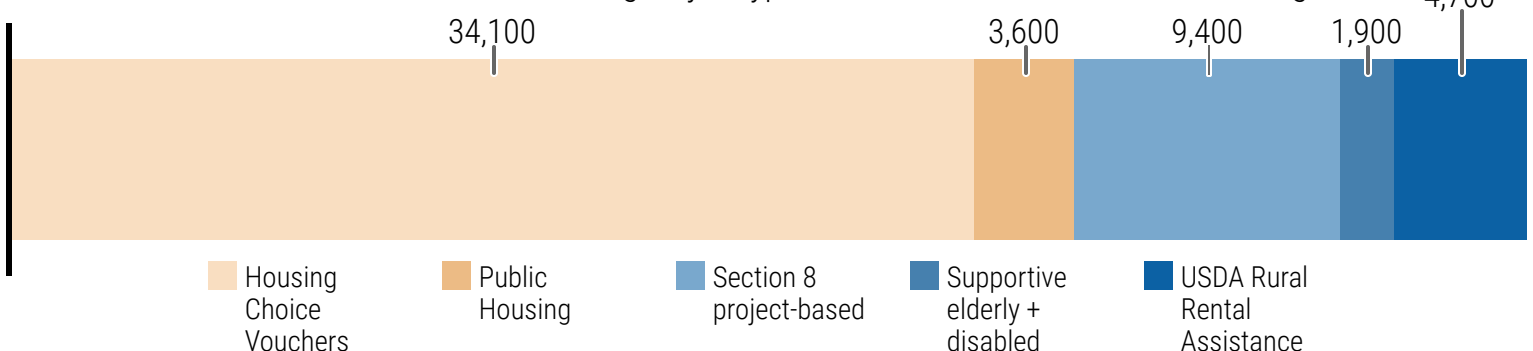
Rental assistance helps **62,500** people in families with children in Oregon avoid homelessness.

Rental assistance supports working families: **59%** of non-disabled, working-age Oregon households receiving Department of Housing and Urban Development rental assistance include at least one worker.

Rental Assistance Supports All Types of Oregon Communities

Rental assistance helps 87,800 people in cities and suburbs, as well as 27,900 people in rural areas and small towns.

Number of Households Receiving Major Types of Federal Rental Assistance in Oregon



Federal rental assistance programs provided Oregon with **\$427 million** in 2018.

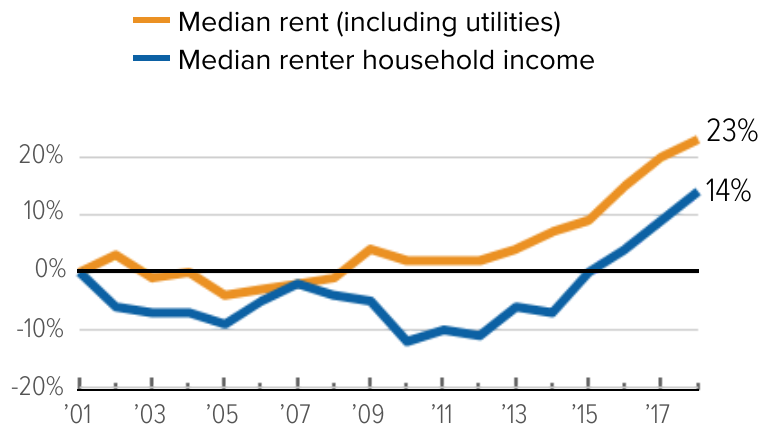
Rental Costs Have Risen Dramatically in Oregon

The median rent (including utilities) for an apartment in Oregon was **\$1,130/month** in 2018, a 23 percent increase since 2001.

But wages for many jobs have not caught up.

As a result, **292,800** people in **152,400** low-income Oregon households pay more than half their income for rent, often forgoing necessities, like food or medicine, to keep a roof over their heads. The federal government considers housing unaffordable if it costs more than 30 percent of a household's income.

Percent change since 2001, adjusted for inflation



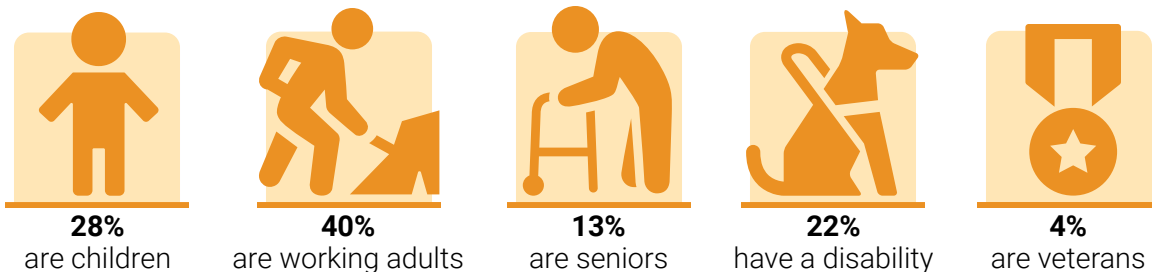
Source: CBPP tabulations of the Census Bureau's American Community Survey

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Federal Rental Assistance Hasn't Kept Pace

Despite the importance of rental assistance, more federal dollars go to homeownership subsidies like the mortgage interest deduction, which mainly benefit higher-income households, instead of families that struggle the most to afford housing. Oregon communities only thrive when everyone — renters and homeowners, whether Black, brown, or white — have access to decent, affordable housing.

292,800 low-income Oregon renters pay more than half their income for housing. Most don't receive rental assistance due to funding limitations. Who are they?



When low-income renters can't find a decent, affordable apartment, they are more likely to be evicted and risk becoming homeless.

On a single night in 2018, **14,480** people experienced homelessness in Oregon. An estimated **22,640** Oregon school children lived in shelters, on the street, doubled up with other families, or in hotels or motels during the 2016-2017 school year.

22,640 Oregon children live in unstable housing

Our country's current policy approach gives more help to those who need it least. We can change this. Policymakers need to work together to expand rental assistance and ensure that all Oregon residents have access to good, affordable homes.

Last updated December 10th, 2019

*Low-income = household income not exceeding 80 percent of local median income. For a family of three in Oregon, 80 percent of the local median is equivalent to \$54,300. Download data for all 50 states and D.C. [here](#). Full sources and methodology available [here](#).