

Puerto Rico | Federal Rental Assistance Facts



About 30 percent of all Puerto Rico households – or 379,500 households – are renters. Federal rental assistance programs enable more than 107,100 low-income households in Puerto Rico to rent modest housing at an affordable cost. About 28 percent of these households are headed by people who are elderly or have disabilities; approximately 53 percent are families with children that are headed by people younger than 62 and do not have disabilities.

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

- In Puerto Rico, 70,193 low-income renter households pay *more than half* their monthly cash income for housing costs. The median income of these households is \$480, which is not enough to cover median housing costs of \$490 or any other necessities. About 37 percent of these severely cost-burdened renter households are headed by people who are elderly or have disabilities, while 45 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 3,100 people are homeless in Puerto Rico.

Federal Rental Assistance in Puerto Rico					
Program	Number of Units	Percent Extremely Low Income	Percent Elderly	Percent Disabled	Percent Families with Children
Housing Choice Vouchers	28,358	64	14	8	61
Public Housing	53,721	43	18	7	51
Section 8 Project-Based Rental Asst.	20,142	48	33	5	51
Supportive Housing for Elderly and People with Disabilities (202/811)	1,098	22	90	10	0
Other HUD programs	2	50	50	0	0
USDA Section 521 Rental Asst.	3,790	NA	14	NA	NA
Total	107,111	49	21	7	53

Characteristics Of Low-Income Renters With Unaffordable Housing Costs In Puerto Rico , 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	117,114	NA	56	21	17	43
Housing costs greater than 50% of income	70,193	NA	70	19	18	45

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