Across Washington, DC, there is a shortage of rental homes affordable and available to extremely low income households (ELI), whose incomes are at or below the poverty guideline or 30% of their area median income (AMI). Many of these households are severely cost burdened, spending more than half of their income on housing. Severely cost burdened poor households are more likely than other renters to sacrifice other necessities like healthy food and healthcare to pay the rent, and to experience unstable housing situations like evictions.

**KEY FACTS**

- 54,624 OR 29% Renter Households that are extremely low income
- -32,990 Shortage of rental homes affordable and available for extremely low income renters
- $41,400 Maximum income of 4-person extremely low income households (state level)
- $73,520 Annual household income needed to afford a two-bedroom rental home at HUD’s Fair Market Rent.
- 73% Percent of extremely low income renter households with severe cost burden

**EXTREMELY LOW INCOME RENTER HOUSEHOLDS**

- Senior: 30%
- Disabled: 19%
- In Labor Force: 29%
- Other: 13%
- Single Adult Caregiver: 5%

**AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOMES PER 100 RENTER HOUSEHOLDS**

- At 100% of AMI: 102
- At 80% of AMI: 94
- At 50% of AMI: 65
- At ELI: 40

Source: 2021 ACS PUMS.

**HOUSING COST BURDEN BY INCOME GROUP**

- Extremely Low Income (0-30%* of AMI): 83.3% Cost Burdened, 73.3% Severely Cost Burdened
- Very Low Income (31-50%* of AMI): 70.5% Cost Burdened, 21.4% Severely Cost Burdened
- Low Income (51-80%* of AMI): 47.7% Cost Burdened, 7.0% Severely Cost Burdened
- Middle Income (81-100%* of AMI): 24.4% Cost Burdened, 0.4% Severely Cost Burdened

Source: 2021 ACS PUMS.

**Note:** Renter households spending more than 30% of their income on housing costs and utilities are cost burdened; those spending more than half of their income are severely cost burdened.

**Note:** Mutually exclusive categories applied in the following order: senior, disabled, in labor force, enrolled in school, single adult caregiver of a child under 7 or of a household member with a disability, and other. Nationally, 15% of extremely low-income renter households are single adult caregivers, 55% of whom usually work more than 20 hours per week. Source: 2021 ACS PUMS.