Across Massachusetts, 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.

**SENATORS:** Elizabeth Warren and Edward J. Markey

### Key Facts
- **305,367 OR 30%**
  - Renter Households that are extremely low income
- **-163,318**
  - Shortage of rental homes affordable and available for extremely low income renters
- **$31,960**
  - Maximum income of 4-person extremely low income households (state level)
- **$78,984**
  - Annual household income needed to afford a two-bedroom rental home at HUD’s Fair Market Rent.
- **60%**
  - Percent of extremely low income renter households with severe cost burden

### Extremely Low Income Renter Households

- **In Labor Force:** 27%
- **Disabled:** 19%
- **Senior:** 38%
- **School:** 4%
- **Other:** 9%
- **Single caregiver:** 3%

**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: 2020 5-Year ACS PUMS data.

### Affordable and Available Homes Per 100 Renter Households

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Category</th>
<th>Homes Available</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0% – 100% of AMI</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0% – 80% of AMI</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0% – 50% of AMI</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0% – ELI</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** 2020 5-Year ACS PUMS data.

### Housing Cost Burden by Income Group

- **Extremely Low Income (0-30% of AMI):** 78.0%
- **Very Low Income (31%-50% of AMI):** 59.6%
- **Low Income (51%-80% of AMI):** 31.3%
- **Middle Income (81%-100% of AMI):** 46.2%
- **Severely Cost Burdened:** 7.7%

**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. Source: 2020 5-Year ACS PUMS data.

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**Extremely Low Income = 0-30%* of AMI**

**Very Low Income = 31%-50% of AMI**

**Low Income = 51%-80% of AMI**

**Middle Income = 81%-100% of AMI**

**Note:** *Or poverty guideline, if higher.