

We all need a safe and decent place to call home

A home is foundational to accessing quality jobs, education opportunities, maintaining good health, and has the power to break the cycle of poverty.

However, there is a critical shortage of affordable homes in Somerset County: for every **100** extremely low-income families, seniors, and people with disabilities renting in Somerset County, only **50** affordable rental homes are available to them.

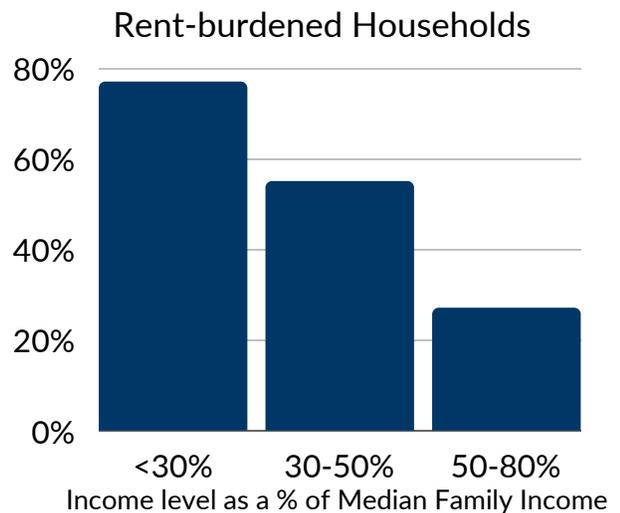
An extremely low-income family lives on less than **\$19,170** a year and may be forced to sacrifice paying for food, healthcare, or education needs to keep the roof over their heads.

Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition tabulation of HUD CHAS data (2014-2018)

Rent burdens are deeply inequitable

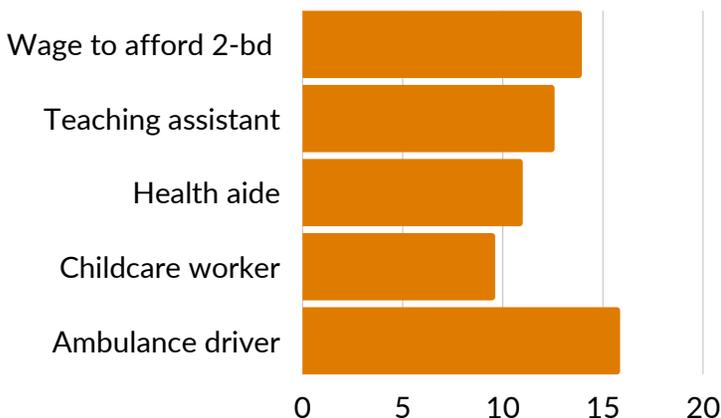
The lack of affordable housing leads to deep rent burdens, and this burden is not felt equally. In Somerset County, lower-income renters are more likely to face unaffordable rents, with **77% of extremely low-income renters** paying more than 30% of income on rent. Lessening the burden of paying for a home is a critical part of advancing equity.

Source: HUD CHAS (2014-2018), Table 8



We need more homes for essential workers

Somerset County Average Wages



In Somerset County, a worker needs to earn **\$14.85** an hour to afford rent for a modest 2-bedroom home.

More affordable homes would help essential workers in Somerset County give their families a stable foundation to build on, especially for workers in marginalized communities who are likely to earn less.

Sources: National Low Income Housing Coalition Out of Reach Report (2021), PA DLI tabulation of OEWS data (2020)