

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 Forest County: for every **100** extremely low-income families, seniors, and people with disabilities renting in Forest County, only **106** affordable rental homes are available to them.

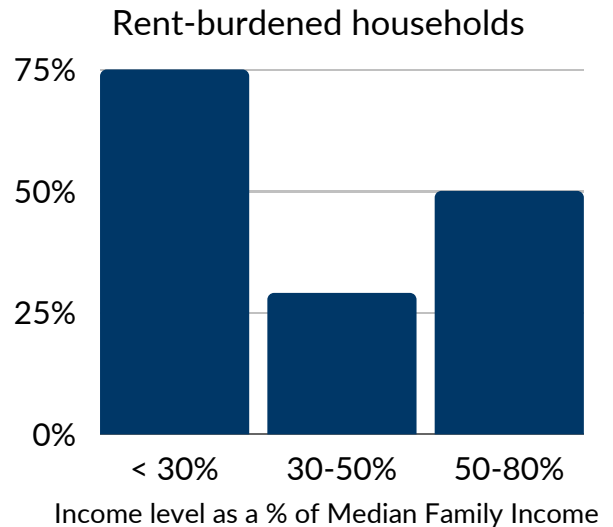
An extremely low-income family lives on less than **\$15,480** a year and may be forced to sacrifice paying for food, healthcare, or education needs to keep the roof over their heads.

Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition tabulation of HUD CHAS data (2015-2019)

Rent burdens are deeply inequitable

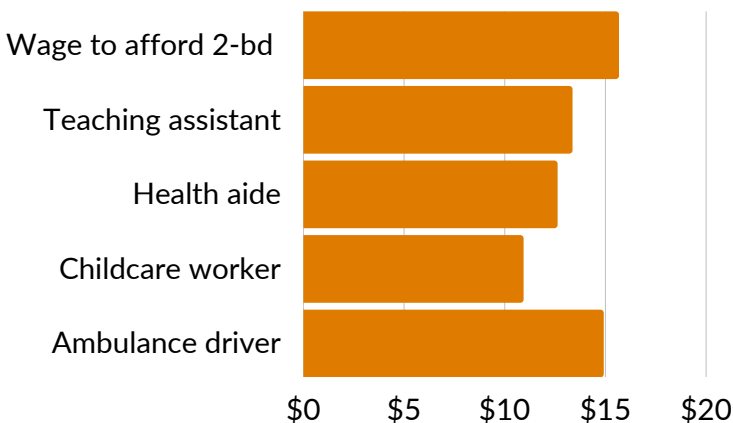
The lack of affordable housing leads to deep rent burdens, and this burden is not felt equally. In Forest County, lower-income renters are more likely to face unaffordable rents, with **75% of extremely low-income renters** paying more than 30% of income on rent. Lessening the burden of paying for a home is a critical part of advancing equity.

Source: HUD CHAS (2015-2019), Table 9
Please note that data for smaller groups have greater uncertainty.



We need more homes for essential workers

Forest County Average Wages



In Forest County, a worker needs to earn **\$15.65** an hour to afford rent for a modest 2-bedroom home.

More affordable homes would help essential workers in Forest 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 (2022), PA DLI tabulation of OEWS data (2021)