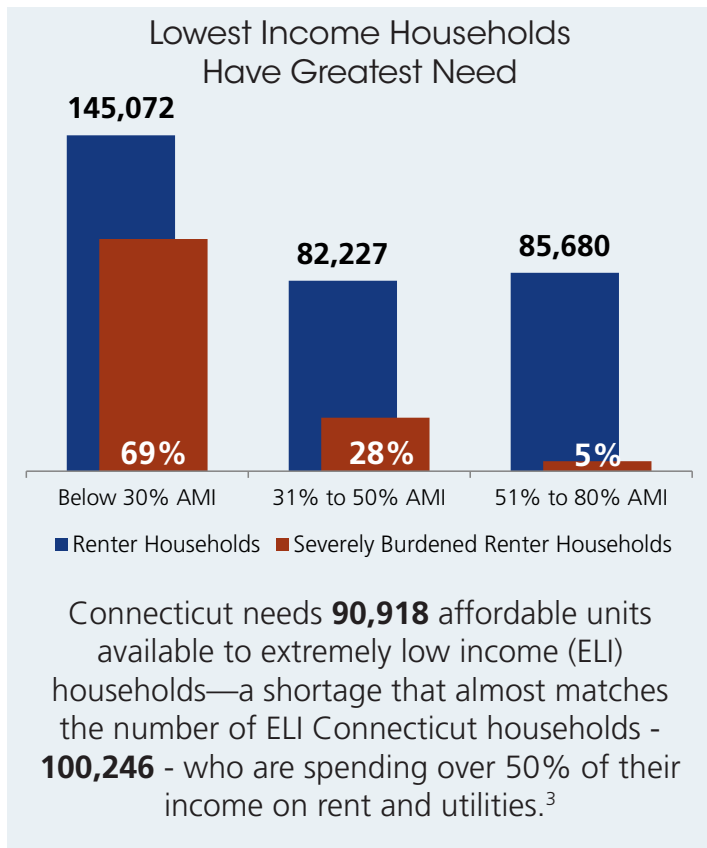


The Unmet Need

Connecticut has the 8th highest state rental costs in the nation. To afford a modest two-bedroom apartment in Connecticut, a worker must make **\$23.02 an hour¹** – a wage level not reached by almost half of the occupations in Connecticut.²

- **100,246** extremely low income (ELI: less than 30% of Area Median Income) households in CT are severely cost-burdened, spending more than 50% of their income towards housing costs.³
- When the Section 8 waitlist last opened in 2007, it received **48,000** pre-applications. Only 7,000 were selected for the list through a lottery drawing and 3,000 people remain on the list today.
- The number of families experiencing homelessness continues to increase. Between 2010 and 2013, the number of families entering shelters increased by 6%. The number of children increased by 9%.⁴

The systems meant to serve them become gridlocked, and despite a statewide commitment to ending homelessness, there are not enough units to get the job done.



Sources:

1. NLIHC, *Out of Reach*, 2014
2. CT Dept. of Labor, *CT Occupational Employment & Wages: Statewide 2011*
3. 2014 NLIHC Congressional District Housing Profiles
4. CT Homelessness Management Information System

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The Result?

When the state's housing market fails residents with the greatest need for stable, affordable housing, families and individuals become stuck in a cycle of instability.

A lack of deeply affordable housing can gridlock a system by not providing an exit strategy from more intensive and expensive interventions to less expensive ones as individuals' need for services declines.

Providing access to rental assistance for these individuals would not only support tenants in furthering their goals, but also could increase availability of supportive housing units for higher-need, chronically homeless individuals.

Opening Doors—CT Offers Solutions

The state's ongoing commitment to affordable housing must continue to support the creation of units that are targeted to people who have very limited incomes. This can be accomplished by:

- **Targeting a minimum of 10%** of all state resources for non-supportive affordable housing to extremely low-income households
- **Including incentives for deep income-targeting** in future state housing development funding rounds
- **Setting aside a portion of rental subsidies,** making them available to housing developers to be paired with state capital investments, increasing access for very low income households



Opening Doors in Connecticut...

...to a Future Where **Everyone** Has a Home