



Rental Assistance Program (RAP)

What is the Rental Assistance Program (RAP)?

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The Rental Assistance Program (RAP) is Connecticut's state-supported housing voucher program. Like the federally funded Housing Choice Voucher Program, RAP supports very low-income households by subsidizing a portion of their rent. Assistance adjusts with changes in household income to keep rental payments affordable. Households can utilize a RAP housing voucher within the private market in any unit that meets housing quality standards and with an owner or landlord participates in RAP.

The Need

*There are not nearly enough available vouchers to meet the need in Connecticut. More than 220,000 renter households spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs, and 114,000 renter households spend more than half of their income on housing costs. Nationally, only 20-25% of voucher eligible households receive one. In January 2022, there were over **3,600 households on the waitlist for RAP** in Connecticut.*

RAPs in Connecticut

- In 2021, CT administered **5,574 RAP housing vouchers**.
- The FY22 budget allocation for RAP was just over **\$71 million**.

The Solution

*RAP vouchers are a necessary tool to address housing insecurity and assist severely cost burdened renters struggling under the weight of the state's high housing costs. **The state should expand rental assistance supports through the addition of at least \$20 million per year to the Rental Assistance Program (RAP) to support 2,000 more low-income households.***

Research shows that rental assistance:

- Reduces housing instability, and homelessness
- Reduces poverty and allows households to afford other necessities
- Reduces racial disparities
- Improves health, development, and educational outcomes for children
- Improves adult mental and physical health, and is linked to reducing health costs

Center on Budget & Policy Priorities | Dec. 2019
[Report](#); [Graphic](#)

Impact

Housing cost burden disproportionately impacts communities of color. 56% of Black renters in Connecticut are housing cost burdened while only 12% of the population is Black. 46% of white renters are housing cost burdened while representing 65% of the state's population. The expansion of RAPs is a critical step toward addressing Connecticut's racial inequities.

Access to RAP lifts households out of poverty and improves their quality of life. RAPs support housing choice by allowing renters to move to locations that work best for employment, education and other needs and preferences. RAPs also provide reliable rental income for landlords in the free market and help ensure basic housing quality standards are met.