

Rental Assistance Program

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 use a RAP housing voucher in any home that meets quality standards with a participating landlord. RAP vouchers are a vital tool to improve housing security and aid severely cost-burdened renters struggling under the state's high housing costs. The program currently serves approximately 5,600 households with a closed waitlist of more than 3,400. The budget allocation for RAP set prior to 2014 serves fewer and fewer as rents rise.

RAP vouchers are a necessary tool to address housing insecurity and assist severely cost burdened renters struggling with the state's high housing costs.

The Need



Statewide, rents have increased by 24% since 2017. More than 114,000 renter households spend more than half of their income on housing costs.

After receiving a housing voucher, many families struggle to find an available home in the location they want.

Solution

The state should add an additional \$72 million in both FY 24 & 25 to the DOH Housing/Homeless Services line to expand the Rental Assistance Program to support 2,400 more low-income households; and

The state should add \$5 million to the DOH Housing/Homeless Services line for housing navigation and mobility services to assist voucher recipients with finding homes.

Impact

Expanding RAP is a critical step toward addressing Connecticut's racial inequities.

56% of Black renters in Connecticut are housing cost-burdened while only 12% of the population is Black.

Nearly all renters spending more than half of their household income on housing costs earn less than \$50,000.



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