



at Roger Williams University

Housing Affordability Across Washington County: Meeting Our Communities' Needs

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Prepared for Washington County Coalition for Children November 28, 2018



About HousingWorks RI at RWU



- Founded in 2004, integrated into Roger
 Williams University in 2014
- Conduct research and analyze data related to housing affordability in Rhode Island
- Connect the dots between housing affordability and economic development, outcomes in health and education



Today's Agenda



- Washington County Facts
- Housing & Well-Being: Social Determinants of Health
- Housing Affordability & Programs
- Future Housing Needs
- Policy Recommendations



Washington County, Rhode Island

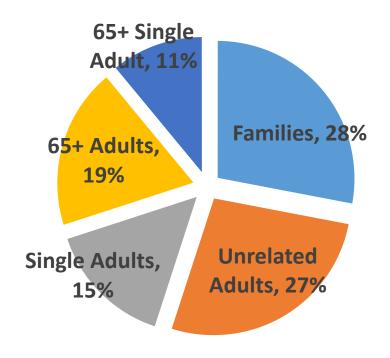






Washington County Households





Total Population: 126,319

Total Households: 49,553

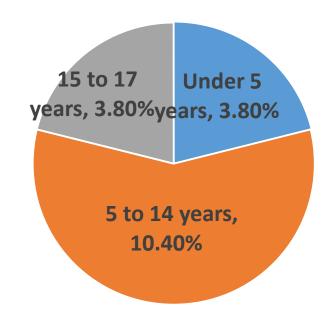
Households below 80% Area Median Income (AMI):

19,920 / 32% (\$64,250 for a 4-person HH)



Washington County Children & Youth





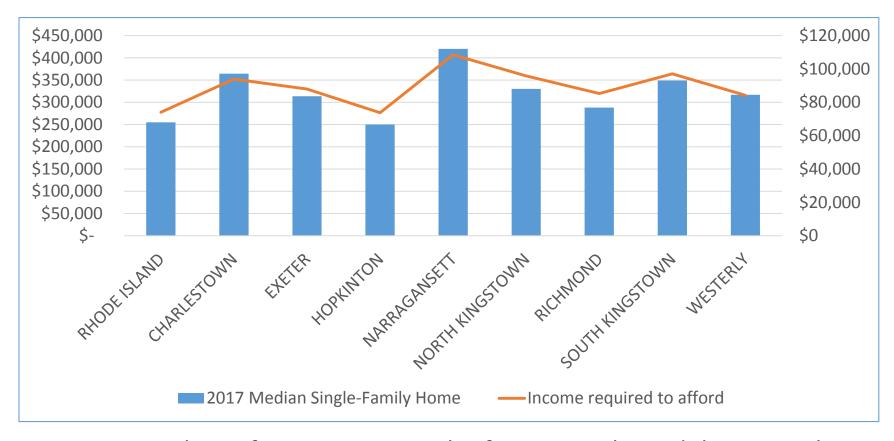
Population below 18 Years of Age: 18% / 22,737

Percentage of Families with Children <18 in Poverty: 13.1%



2017 Home Prices & Income Needed Across the Region*



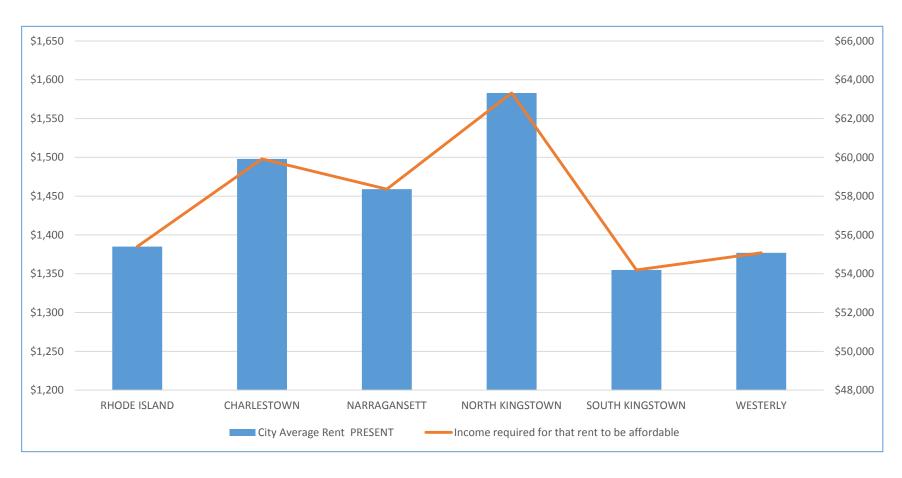


 HWRI analysis of Warren Group sales from 2017 showed that more than 62% of existing Washington County households could not afford the Median Home Price of \$312,000 (*excluding New Shoreham)



2017 Rents & Income Needed Across the Region*



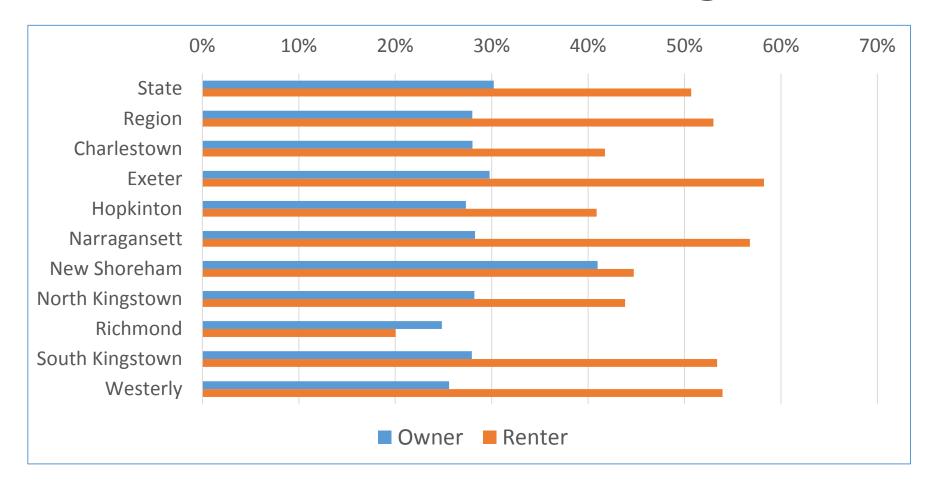


^{*} Insufficient rental data available for Exeter, Hopkinton, New Shoreham, and Richmond.



Cost Burdens Across the Region





• A household is considered cost burdened if it spends more than 30 percent of its annual income on housing costs—leaving room in their budgets to afford food, healthcare, transportation, and childcare.



Housing Impacts Our Well-Being



Housing is a social determinant of health

Access to stable, affordable housing impacts our

- Health & Healthcare
- Education
- Social/Community
- Neighborhood & Environment
- Economic Stability

Other Livability / Opportunity Indices

- AARP
- Opportunity 360



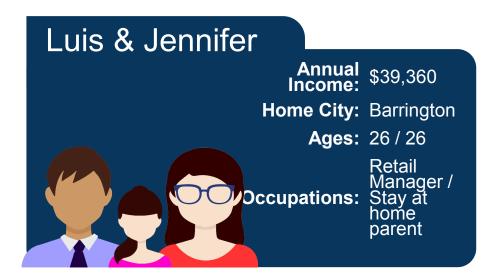


Who Needs Housing They Can Afford?

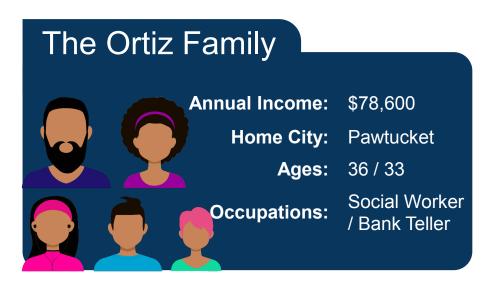














Housing Programs in Rhode Island



	Market Rate Aff	ordable Stock ^{is}	Long-Term Aff	ordable Stock	Supportive Stock
PROGRAMS	OWNERSHIP Energy Efficiency Upgrades Home Modifications Home Repairs Lead Remediation Septic System & Sewer Tie-In Loans Weatherization	RENTAL Housing Choice Vouchers HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Vouchers	CAPITAL ASSISTANCE Building Homes RI HOME Investment Partnerships Program Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Neighborhood Opportunities Program (NOP)	RENTAL ASSISTANCE Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) HUD 202 HUD 811 Public Housing RHS 515 Section 8 / Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD)	Emergency Shelters Permanent Supportive Housing Thresholds Transitional Housing
PARTNERS	Community Action Agencies (7) Municipal Offices of Community Development Nonprofit community development corporations (13) Private developers Public Housing Authorities (25 local, 1 statewide) Providers (43) RIHousing Section 8 Public Housing Agencies (2)				
FUNDING & OVERSIGHT	US Department of Environmental Manageme	Housing & Urban Developm Int RI Department of Heal Inmunity Development (OHC	ortment of Agriculture (USDA) nent (HUD) US Department o th RI Governor's Commission D) RI Housing Resources Cor	f Veterans Affairs STATE: I on Disabilities RIHousing	RI Department of RI Infrastructure Bank ousing Tax Credit Equity



Two Paths to Affordability



1. Market-priced Affordable

- Real estate market prices may be affordable.
- Sufficient income may allow for housing costs to remain at or below 30% of a household's income.

2. <u>Long-term Affordable</u>

- A <u>subsidy</u> (Federal, state, or municipal) is used to create the home.
- <u>Deed restricted</u> to guarantee affordability to low- and moderate- income households for 30+ years.
 - As defined by 4553 Low Moderate Income Act.



Creating Stable, Long Term Affordable Homes

Two general types of programs the federal government and states use to create long term affordability for families at or below 120% AMI.

- 1. Rental assistance
 - Subsidy directly helps the renter/occupant with housing costs.
- 2. Development subsidies
 - Subsidy provided to the developer build housing that can be affordably rented to Low and Moderate income households.

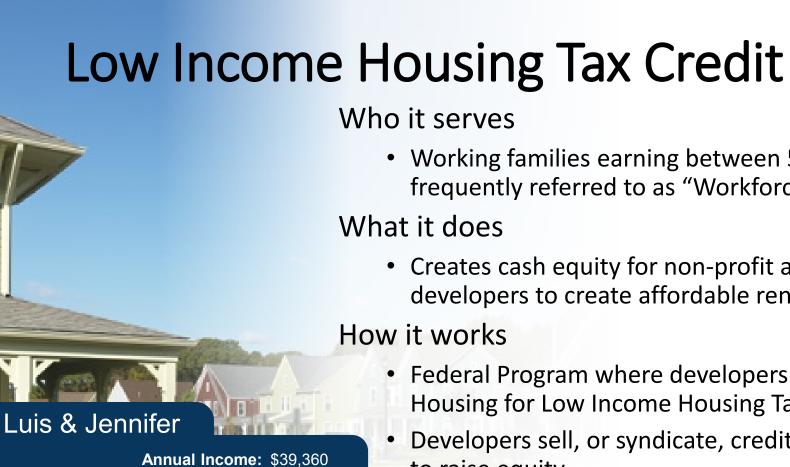


Development Subsidies



- Forms of cash equity for property developers/owners that reduces project development debt burden, making rents affordable.
- Received in exchange for an agreement to rent a specific number of units to qualified tenants at below market rents.





Home City: Barrington

Occupations:

Ages: 26 / 26

parent

Who it serves

 Working families earning between 50% and 60% of AMI, frequently referred to as "Workforce Housing."

What it does

 Creates cash equity for non-profit and private sector developers to create affordable rental housing.

How it works

- Federal Program where developers apply to Rhode Island Housing for Low Income Housing Tax Credits.
- Developers sell, or syndicate, credits to private investors to raise equity.
- Units must have "affordable" flat rents at 30% of income of tenants at the top of the selected AMI category, typically ranging from \$765 for an efficiency apartment to \$1,090 for a 3 bdrm. unit.

Building Homes Rhode Island

Who it serves:

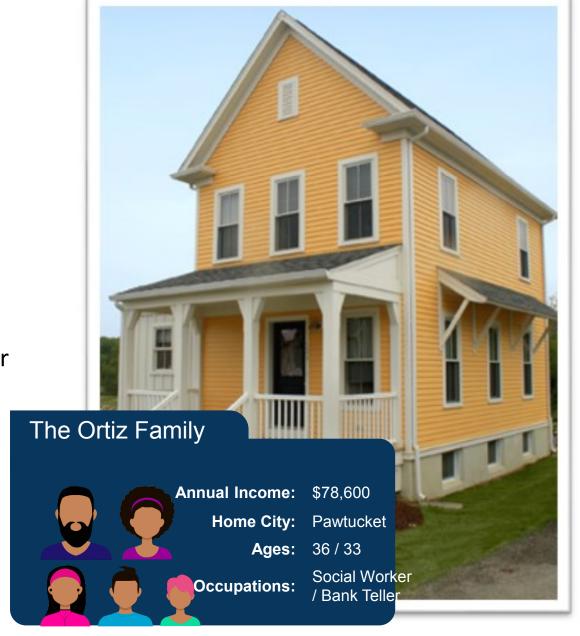
• Families earning less than 80% of AMI (rental) and 120% AMI (ownership). Flexible funding that can be used to serve different groups: Families, seniors, veterans.

What it does:

 Provides cash equity for non profit and private sector developers to create both affordable rental and ownership housing.

How it works:

- Developers apply to Rhode Island Housing and compete for funds.
- Frequently used to leverage other private/federal sources, fill financing gaps and maximize impact.



Rental Assistance

- Tenants pay 30% of their income (after certain deductions) for rent and utilities, and may be required to pay a minimum rent, often \$25 per month.
- Private sector or non profit property owner charges <u>"fair market rent" (FMR)</u>, per government data, or similar based on the program.
- The gap between the tenant contribution and the FMR is filled by a monthly payment (subsidy), typically from the federal government, to the owner of the building.





Housing Choice Voucher/ Veterans Affairs Housing Assistance (VASH)



Who it serves

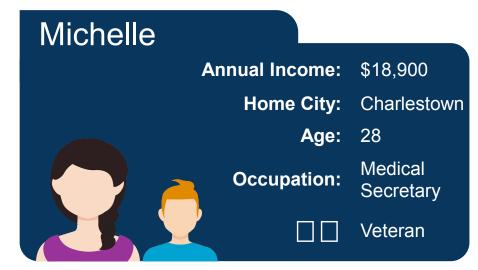
- Extremely Low-Income households and/or Veterans and their families.
- VASH: Participants referred by the local Veterans Administration (VA).

What it does

 Provides Housing Choice Vouchers to families to find housing in the private market.

How it works

- Federally funded, administered by local Public Housing Authority.
- VASH: Services provided by VA.
- 30% of income pays for rent and utilities.
- Incorporates Fair Market Rents (FMR).



In Charlestown, HUD sets Fair Market Rent (FMR) at \$1014 per month for a 2 bdrm. apt.

Michelle pays 30% of her monthly income toward rent and utilities	\$472
Subsidy pays	\$542
Rent total	\$1014



Public Housing

Who it serves

Extremely low and low income seniors and families

What it does

Provides affordable housing in PHA buildings

How it works

- Federally Funded, units built and operated by local Public Housing Authorities (PHAs).
- 30% of income pays for rent and utilities.
- Subsidy is based on the cost to the PHA to operate a unit
- The subsidy goes directly to the PHA.

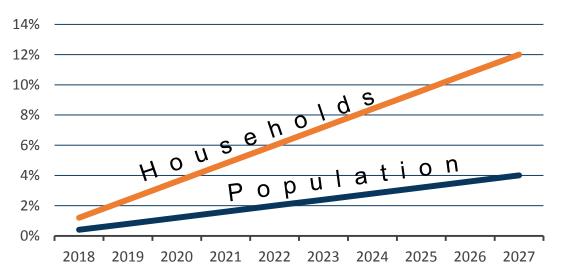




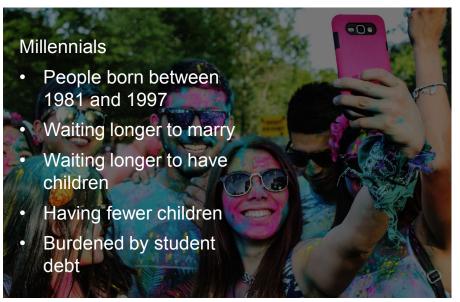


Rhode Island's Future Housing Needs







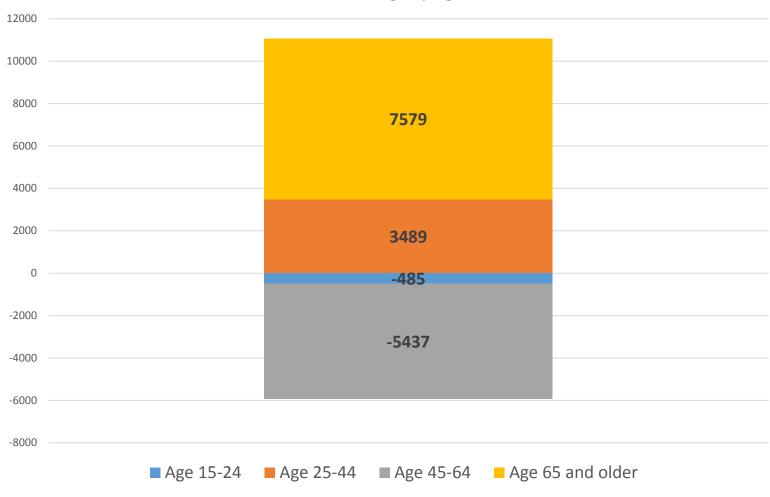




Projected Housing Growth for Washington County





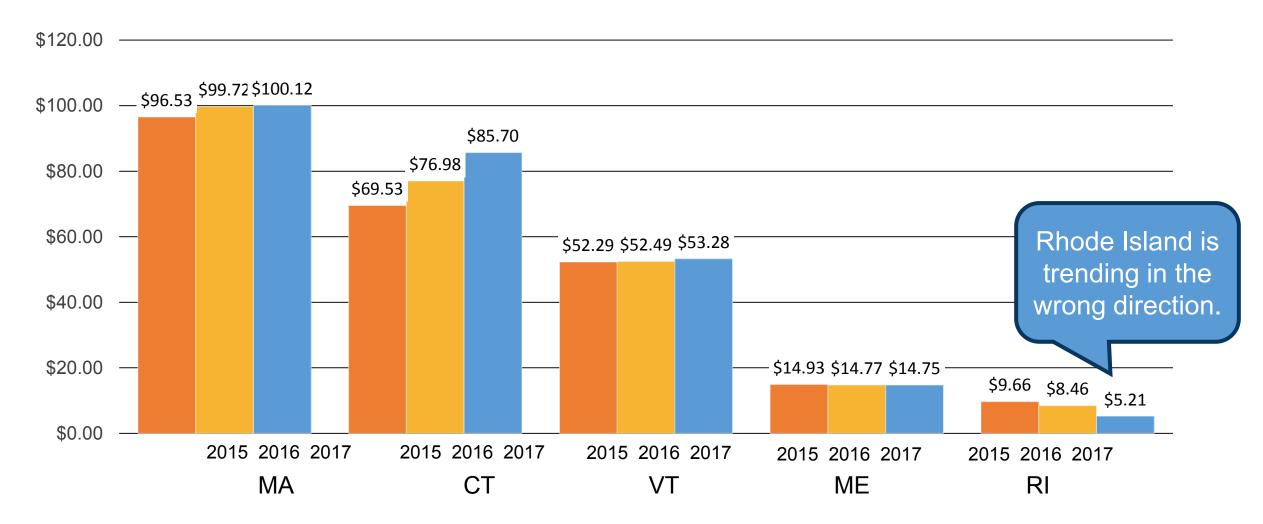




Policy Recommendations

- 1. Increase investment in the development and preservation of homes affordable to working Rhode Islanders and those with special housing needs.
- 2. Make it easier to build the homes that are needed.
- 3. Make existing housing more affordable.
- 4. Develop a long-term strategy for meeting the State's housing needs.

Per Capita State Spending on Housing*



^{*}Does not include disbursement of 2016 BHRI.



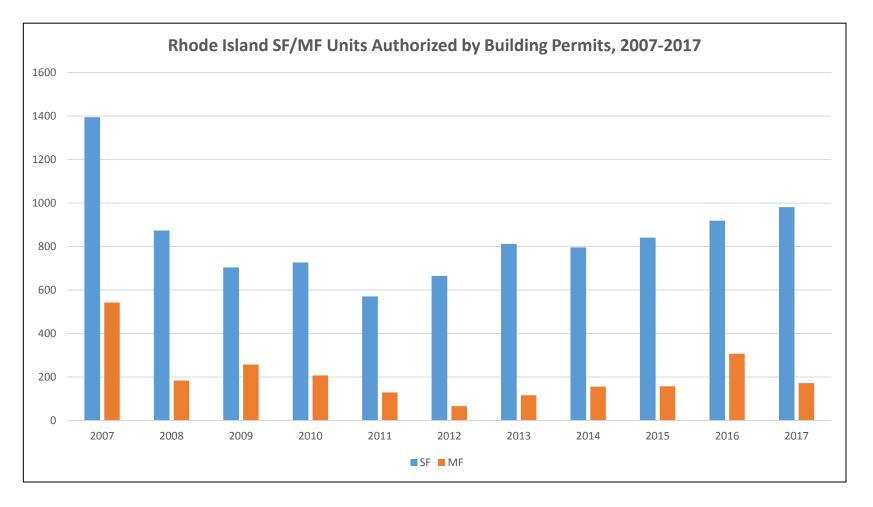
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Not Building Enough Multifamily Homes





• In 2017, Rhode Island municipalities authorized permits for only 172 multifamily homes (units) and 981 single-family homes.



Policy Recommendations

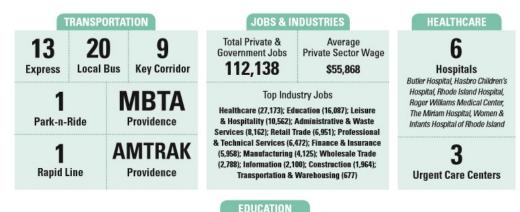
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Washington County: Livability & the Future







Colleges

Brown University • Community College of RI, Liston Campus • Community College of RI, Shepard Building • Johnson & Wales University • Providence College Rhode Island College • Rhode Island School of Design • Roger Williams University, Metro Campus • University of Rhode Island, Shepard Building

High Schools

Birch Vocational School • Central High School • Classical High School • Hope High School • Juanita Sanchez Educational Complex
La Salle Academy • Lincoln School • Metropolitan Career & Technology Center • Moses Brown School • Mount Pleasant High School
Providence Career & Technical Academy • RI School for the Deaf • School One • Textron Chamber of Commerce School • Wheeler School



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THANK YOU!



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