

Who Lives and Works in Federally Assisted Housing



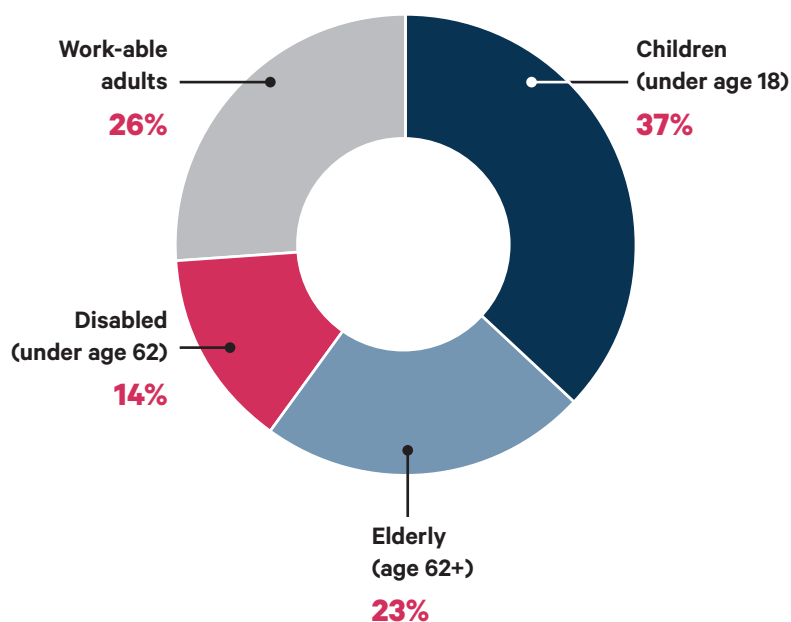
- Improving life outcomes is embedded in the missions of public housing authorities (PHAs). To this end, PHAs are supporting residents in their efforts to enter, stay, and grow in the workforce.
- Only about **25% of PHA residents are able-bodied adults**, most of whom work low-wage jobs.
- PHAs are focused on offering able-bodied adults workforce development and self-sufficiency opportunities with support from HUD programs and local partnerships.

Nearly 75%
of PHA residents
are children, elderly,
or disabled—
not work-able
populations.

Most Individuals Living in Federally Assisted Housing Are Children, Elderly, or Disabled

- PHAs serve a total of 6,823,987 individuals through the public housing and Housing Choice Voucher programs.
 - 2,523,833 children (37%)
 - 4,300,154 adults (63%)
- Approximately 74% of residents are children, elderly, or disabled.
- 23% of able-bodied, working age assisted renters have not completed high school.

Demographics of residents assisted by PHAs



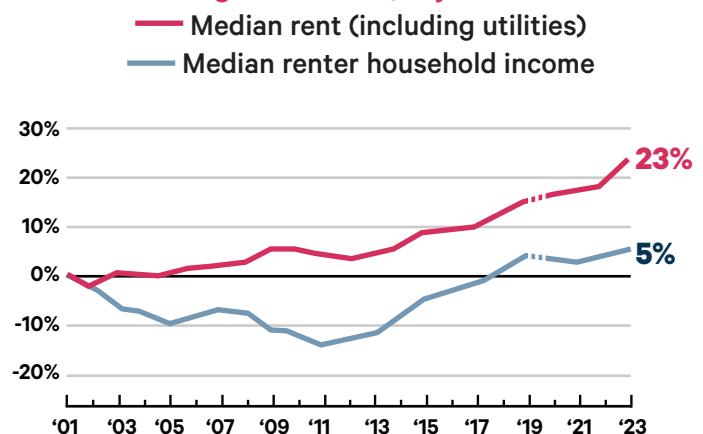
Most Able-Bodied Individuals Living in Federally Assisted Housing Are Working and Earning Wages

- In 2018, 87% of households receiving federal rental assistance with at least one able-bodied, working-age household member reported at least one household member working or who had recently worked.^[i]
 - Among able-bodied, working-age adults who were not working, 78% cited school attendance or family obligations as their reason for not working.^[ii]
- 60% of non-disabled, working-age American households receiving HUD rental assistance include at least one worker.^[iii]
- When you exclude children, the elderly, and people with disabilities, 26% of residents are “able-bodied” adults who would likely be subject to a work requirement.

Able-Bodied Individuals Living in Federally Assisted Housing Do Not Make Enough Money to Rent in the Private Market

- Median total annual income of households served (\$14,317) remains around 40% of the Federal Poverty Level.
 - Wages are a major source of income in 28% of all households.
 - Welfare is a major source of income in only 1.3% of households.
- The median assisted full-time worker would need a 70% wage increase (a \$9.10/hour raise) to afford the typical market-rate rental.

Percent change since 2001, adjusted for inflation



Note: Dashed line indicates missing 2020 1-year data due to pandemic-related data collected issues.

Source: CBPP tabulations of the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES | [CBPP.ORG](https://www.cbpp.org)

^[i] PAHRC, 2018

^[ii] PAHRC, 2018

^[iii] CBPP, 2025

The Council of Large Public Housing Authorities is a national non-profit organization that works to preserve and improve public and affordable housing through advocacy, research, policy analysis and public education. CLPHA's 85 members represent virtually every major metropolitan area in the country. Together they manage 40 percent of the nation's public housing program; administer more than a quarter of the Housing Choice Voucher program; and operate a wide array of other housing programs.