

Rental Assistance Works for Minnesota: Keeping Families Housed, Working, and Connected to Their Community

Minnesotans want to live near their work, send their kids to neighborhood schools, and feel safe at home. Federal rental assistance helps make that possible.

More than 100,000 Minnesota households—seniors, families, people with disabilities—rely on it to afford a place to live. Now, proposed federal cuts threaten to take that stability away, putting lives and local economies at risk.

Who Receives Federal Rental Assistance

From big cities to small towns and everywhere in between, Minnesotans count on rental assistance to stay stably housed.



101,000

Minnesota households—home to

178,000

people—use rental assistance.[1]

Recipients include:[3]



55%
families with children

28%
households with a person with a disability

19%
seniors



Average annual income is less than

$18,500.[2]

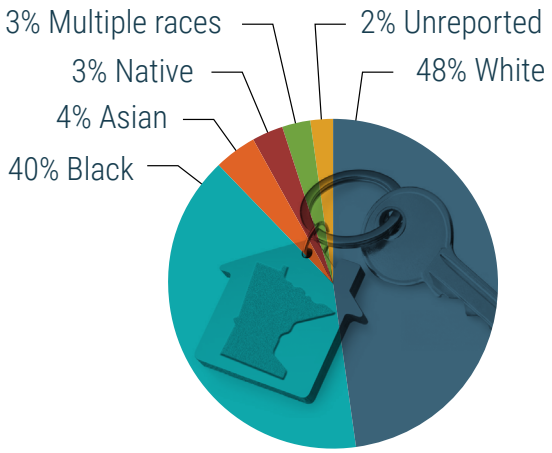
Families contribute

30%

of their income to rent.

Rental assistance helps Minnesotans of all backgrounds stay housed.[4]

Share of Heads of Households Receiving Assistance:



By ethnicity: 4% Hispanic



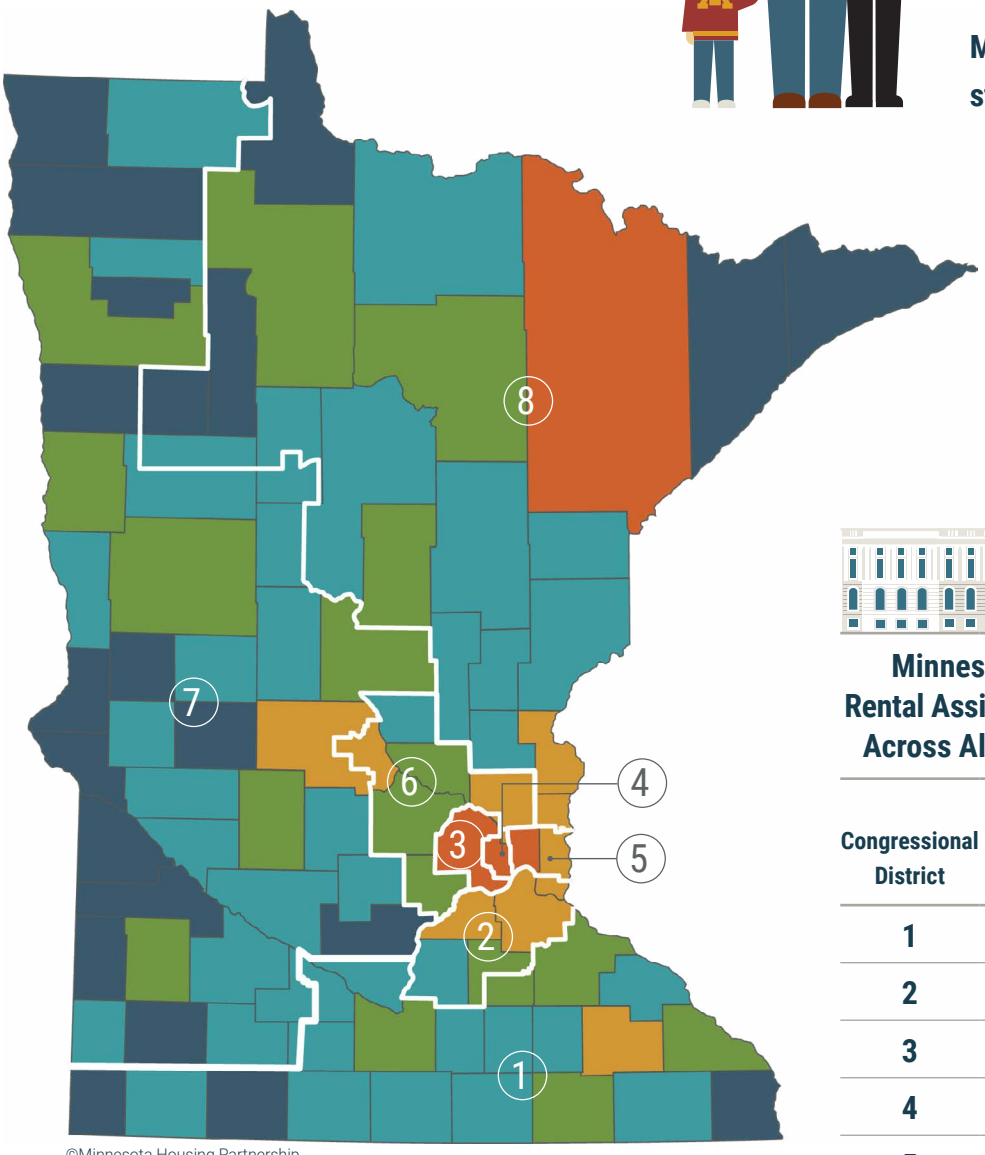
In 2023, **federal rental assistance provided**

$782 million[5]

to keep more than

100,000

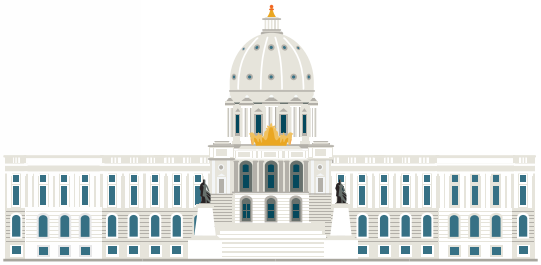
Minnesota households stably housed.



©Minnesota Housing Partnership

People Assisted by County

- 92–250
- 251–1,000
- 1,001–3,000
- 3,001–9,000
- 30,000–53,900



Minnesota Families Using Federal Rental Assistance (RA) to Afford Housing, Across All HUD and USDA Programs[6, 7]

Congressional District	Families Using HUD RA	Families Using USDA RA	Total MN Families Using RA
1	11,000	2,000	13,000
2	6,200	500	6,700
3	7,500	25	7,525
4	16,800	0	16,800
5	21,500	0	21,500
6	4,500	1,200	5,700
7	12,700	3,200	15,900
8	11,500	2,100	13,600
NA	300	0	300
Total	**92,000**	**9,000**	**101,000**

A Growing Need, Not Enough Support





Only

1 in 4

eligible U.S. households

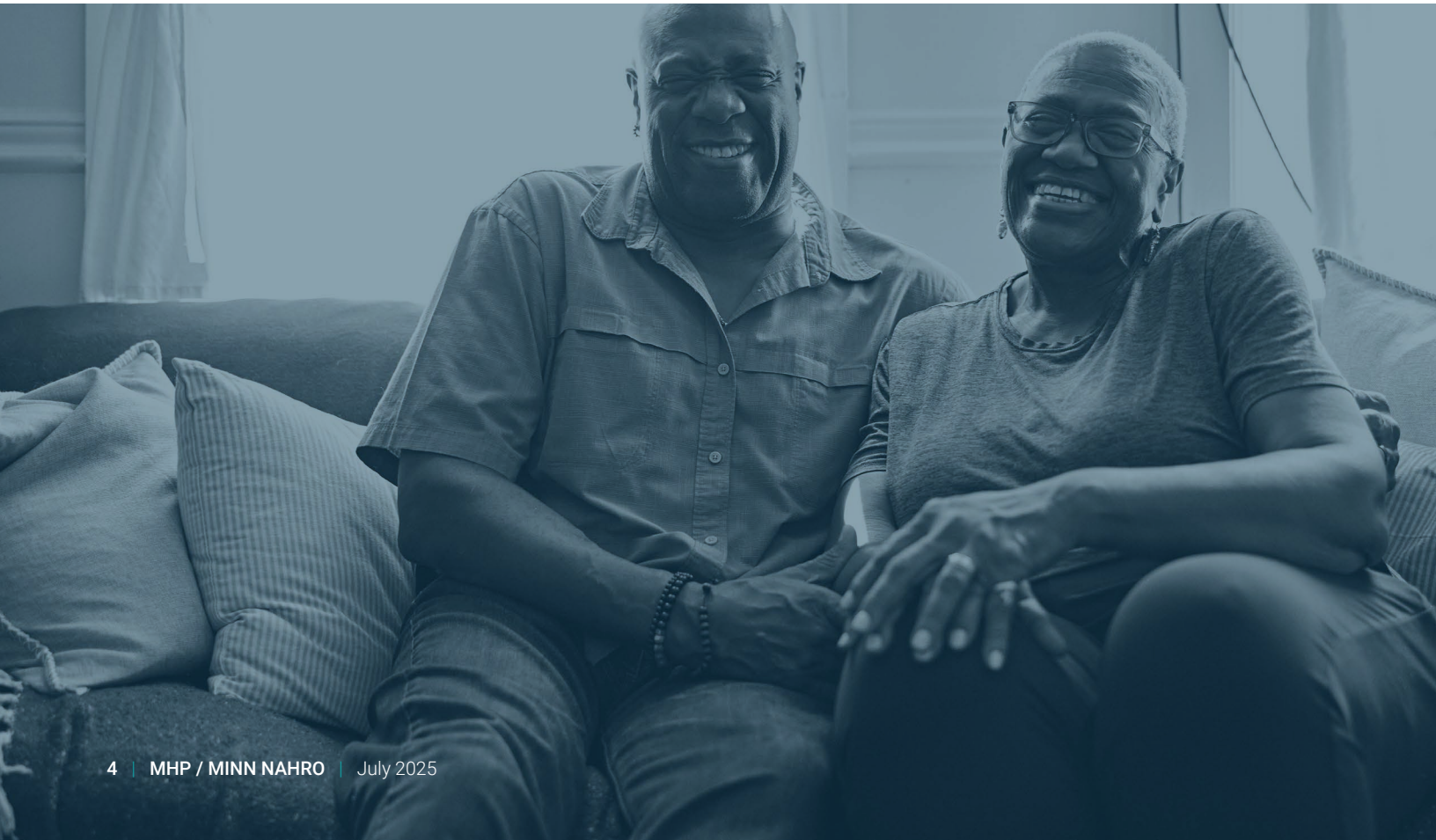
actually receives rental assistance.[8]



Average wait time in Minnesota:

over 2 years.[9]

Many families are just one paycheck
or medical bill away from losing their home.



Why it Matters: Economic Stability and Local Strength

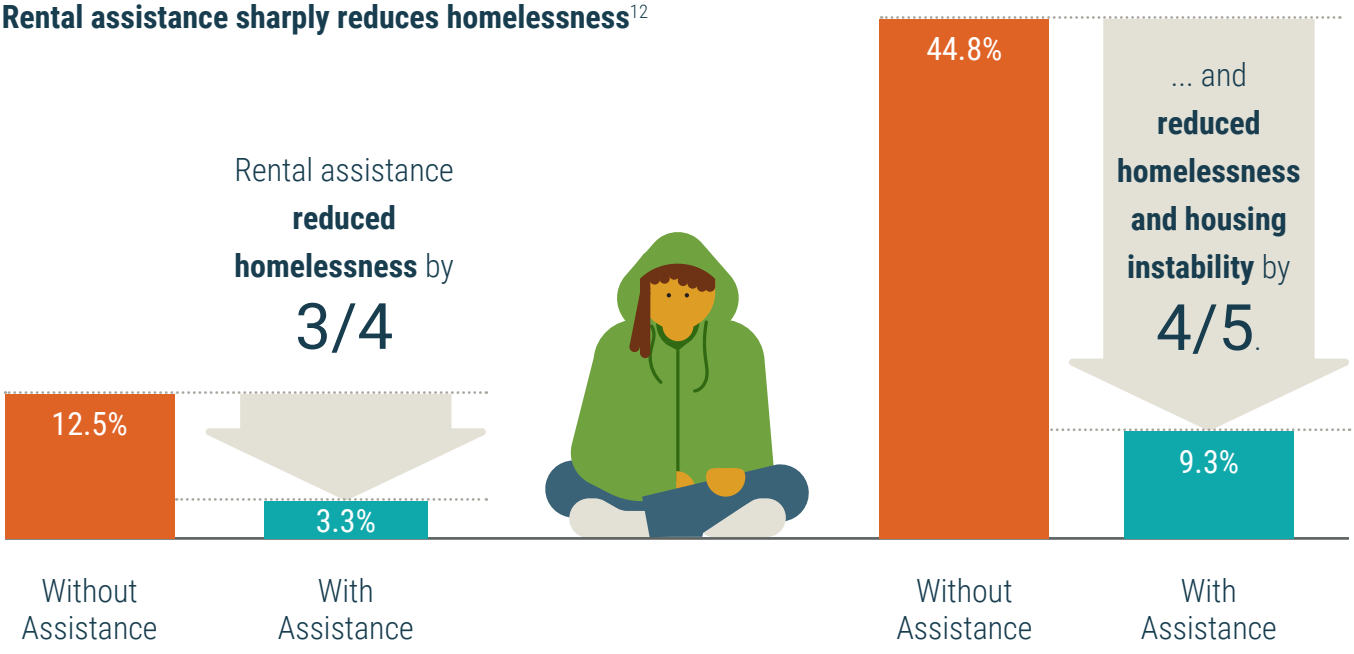
Rental assistance helps Minnesotans stay connected to work, family, and community. With a stable home, people stay healthier, parents keep working, and kids do better in school. It also supports local landlords—especially in rural areas where individual owners play a big role.[10]

Keeping people housed is more effective—and far less expensive—than responding after they lose their homes.[11]

"In our rural communities, some of the most vulnerable people we house would become homeless if rental assistance was decreased or went away. We could see an increase in vacancies which could lead to loan defaults. The domino effect would be devastating." —Skip Duchesneau, President, D.W. Jones, Inc., which manages a diverse portfolio of housing, providing over 2,500 homes to rental residents across Northern MN

Research backs this up: rental assistance reduces homelessness and housing instability, and eases pressure on emergency shelters, hospitals, and crisis services. It's a smart, proven investment that strengthens communities and saves taxpayer dollars.

Rental assistance sharply reduces homelessness[12]



We Need More Housing Support—Not Harmful Cuts

Even a

1% reduction

would displace about a

1,000 families

—**increasing homelessness and financial hardship** for those Minnesotans and straining rural hospitals, schools, and county safety nets.[13]

About 1,700 Minnesotans



1% Reduction
to Assisted Families

40,000 Families



43% Reduction
to Assisted Families

A

43% cut,

as proposed in President Trump's Fiscal 2026 budget request, would be devastating—putting up to

40,000 families

at risk of losing housing support.[14]

What's at Stake for Minnesota

In big cities and small towns alike, **housing costs are rising**. Rental assistance helps people live near the jobs they do and the families they care for. Cutting this support would undercut the very foundation our communities depend on.

Minnesotans are asking Congress: Protect rental assistance. Protect our neighbors. Keep our communities strong.

Take Action:

Ask your Member of Congress to fully fund all renewals of federal rental assistance in the HUD and USDA FY26 budgets.

[Subject Line]
Fully Fund Rental Assistance — Keep Minnesota Families Housed!

[Suggested message]

Dear Member of Congress,

I urge you to support full funding to renew all federal rental assistance programs and oppose any cuts in the FY26 HUD and USDA budgets. This funding ensures hard-working Minnesotans—including veterans, farmers, seniors, and people with disabilities—have a safe place to call home, close to their jobs and communities.

Families need more, not less. A reduction of even 1% in federal rental assistance could displace more than a thousand Minnesota families—pushing more people into homelessness, overloading shelters, hospitals, and local services, and driving up costs for everyone.

Please stand for full funding. It's a smart investment rooted in Minnesota values—supporting work, family, and the freedom to live in the community you call home.

[name and address]





Tweet-Length Version

Rental assistance helps Minnesotans live near work, care for family, and stay housed. Cuts will push families into crisis. Congress must protect this smart investment in stable homes and strong communities. #mnleg #HousingMatters

Rural-Specific Version

Rental assistance keeps families in small towns and rural areas housed near jobs, schools, and their aging parents. Cutting it would hurt the very communities that hold Minnesota together. Congress must protect this smart, local investment. #HousingMatters #mnleg

Endnotes

1 MHP household and person assisted calculations based on US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s 2024 Picture of Subsidized Housing and US Department of Agriculture (USDA) 2025 Rural Development Datasets. HUD and USDA rental assistance programs data include Public Housing, Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers, Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance, Supportive Housing for the Elderly (Sec 202), Supportive Housing for People with Disabilities (Sec 811) and USDA Rural Rental Assistance (Sec 521).

2 Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *Federal Rental Assistance in Minnesota*, 2025.

3 Average household income across HUD Rental Assistance Programs.

4 HUD's Picture of Subsidized Housing, 2024. Percentage of households in which the head of household is Black, Native American, Asian or Pacific Islander, or multiple races, and ethnicity is not Hispanic.

5 Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *Federal Rental Assistance in Minnesota*, 2025.

6 MHP calculations based on HUD's 2024 Picture of Subsidized Housing and USDA 2025 Rural Development Datasets. Estimates rounded to the nearest 100.

7 Rental assistance that is allocated to the State of Minnesota, but not assigned to a specific Congressional District, is reflected in state level data totals.

8 "Long Waitlists for Housing Vouchers Show Pressing Unmet Need for Assistance" | Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

9 Average wait time for HUD Housing Program assistance in Minnesota is 25 months.

10 Erika C. Poethig, *Evidence-Based Reform of Federal Rental Assistance* (Urban Institute, September 2016); Daniel Gubits, Marybeth Shinn, et. al., *Family Options Study: 3-Year Impacts of Housing Services Interventions for Homeless Families* (HUD, Office of Policy Development and Research, October 2016); Maya Brennan, Mary Cunningham, et. al, *Ending Family Homelessness: An Opportunity for Pay-for-Success Financing* (Urban Institute, August 2017); and William Fischer, Douglas Rice and Alicia Mazzara, *Research Shows Rental Assistance Reduces Hardships and Provides Platform to Expand Opportunity for Low-Income Families* (Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, December 2019)

11 Spellman et al, *Costs Associated with First-Time Homelessness for Families and Individuals* (HUD 2010)

12 Wood, M., Turnham, J., & Mills, G. (2008). Housing affordability and family well-being: Results from the housing voucher evaluation. *Housing Policy Debate, 19*(2), 367–412.

13 A 1% reduction to assisted families would impact approximately 1,010 families or up to 1,780 people.

14 Around 40,000 households around the state could lose access to rental assistance, if a 43% cut to HUD rental assistance programs proposed by President Trump's FY26 Budget request is implemented.

For data inquiries, please contact
Gabriela Norton
Research Manager, MHP
gabriela.norton@mhponline.org

mhp
improving home & community

MINNESOTA NAHRO
Celebrating 70 Years
est. 1955