Access to safe, affordable homes builds a strong foundation for families and communities. But too many Minnesotans lack good housing options.

Mirroring the state trend, the cost of rent continues to rise far more quickly than renter income, making it increasingly challenging for renters to make ends meet.

Income for families who own their homes is not rising nearly as quickly as home values, with median home value increasing 25% but income increasing 18%.

Countywide, 216 households pay more than 30 percent of their income toward housing costs, putting them at risk of being unable to afford basic needs like groceries, clothes, prescriptions and transportation. This includes 24% of seniors who rent and more than 68% of owners and 74% of renters who earn less than $20,000 per year.

### Cost Burden
Percentage of households paying more than 30% of their income toward housing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Bracket</th>
<th>Renters</th>
<th>Owners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than $20,000</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$20,000-$34,999</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$35,000-$49,999</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than $50,000</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total # cost burdened**

- **RENTER households**: 101
- **OWNER households**: 115
- **SENIOR households**: 86
WAGES: Housing remains a challenge even for workers who are fully employed. The median earnings for most of the top in-demand and high-growth jobs do not cover housing costs at an affordable level. Those working at the median wage – and especially those earning the minimum wage – cannot afford a two-bedroom apartment or the mortgage for a median-value home.

Wages & housing affordability for top in-demand jobs in Traverse County

- Annual median income:
  - Food prep & serving: $18,795
  - Cashier: $19,175
  - Personal care aide: $22,845
  - Nursing assistant: $24,629
  - Truck driver: $36,479

- Salary needed to afford median-value home: $21,270
- Salary needed to afford two-bedroom apartment: $23,688

New job openings in Northwest Planning Area by 2024: 74,670
County median household income: $49,186
Hours / week minimum wage employee must work to afford a two-bedroom apartment: 48

HOMELESSNESS: Across the state, homelessness has declined since 2012, but too many families, seniors and children in the West Central region are still suffering the devastating consequences of having no place to call home.

- # of homeless on given night in 2015: 269
- % change in homelessness 2012-2015: -14%

Number of homeless CHILDREN: 99, homeless SENIORS: 20

HOUSING STOCK: While a significant portion of the rental and owner-occupied housing is aging (built before 1960), new construction is not keeping up with demand. Of particular concern is the gap between the number of available units for extremely low income households – and the number of people who need them.

- % single family homes built before 1960: 59%
- Single-family units permitted in 2015: 4
- % rental units built before 1960: 53%
- Multi-family units permitted in 2015: 0

Number of extremely low income (ELI)* households: 70
Available units affordable to ELI households: 39


SENIORS: The number of seniors will rise dramatically over the next two decades, growing by more than 90% across the state – and making senior housing a critical need.

Total senior households by 2035: 1,129
Growth in number of individual seniors by 2035: 14%
Seniors % of overall population by 2035: 32%