

The economy just doesn't work for a rapidly-growing number of Americans across urban, suburban, and rural communities alike. **Wages that do not keep up with the cost of living, a shortage of affordable housing, a broken healthcare system, and a weak social safety net force people out of their homes and into homelessness** every single week.

3,280 people enter homelessness each year in Maine.

WITHIN MAINE:

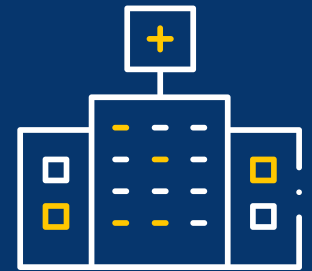
There are only **52** affordable rental homes for every 100 extremely low-income renter households.

Minimum wage earners must work **78** hours weekly to afford a two-bedroom rental home.



There are **213,000** people with unmet substance use treatment needs.

Mental health provider capacity meets only **14.4%** of estimated community need.



Homelessness response systems are stuck between a rock and a hard place.

They have become the default safety net for every other system's shortcomings — and they're being stretched beyond their limits.

1,336 people move into permanent housing each year in Maine.

WITHIN MAINE:



Emergency shelter capacity can only serve **92%** of individual adults experiencing homelessness.



Available permanent housing can serve only **14%** of people experiencing homelessness.

Underfunding homelessness resources puts greater costs on other systems. People experiencing homelessness are forced to stay in shelters and on the street for longer, growing sicker and more vulnerable.

WITHIN THE UNITED STATES:

The national average length of stay in an emergency shelter increased from **77 to 92 days** between 2018 and 2023.



Incarceration and hospitalization are far more expensive than investing in targeted interventions, especially housing paired with supportive services — and neither end homelessness.



STATE HOSPITAL
\$750 – \$3000
PER PERSON



JAIL
\$115
PER PERSON



SUPPORTIVE HOUSING
\$72
PER PERSON

COMMUNITIES CANNOT DO THIS ALONE. Only Congress can deliver the investments needed to prevent people from falling into homelessness and help those experiencing it return to stable housing.

