

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.

**2,586** people enter homelessness each year in Rhode Island.

## WITHIN RHODE ISLAND:

There are only **54** affordable rental homes for every 100 extremely low-income renter households.

Minimum wage earners must work **85** hours weekly to afford a two-bedroom rental home.



There are **156,000** people with unmet substance use treatment needs.

Mental health provider capacity meets only **48.9%** 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.

**1,069** people move into permanent housing each year in Rhode Island.

## WITHIN RHODE ISLAND:



Emergency shelter capacity can only serve **62%** of individual adults experiencing homelessness.



Available permanent housing can serve only **13%** 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.

