

# S3 HOUSING CONNECT

## HOMELESSNESS FACT SHEET

*S3 Housing Connect seeks to bring together the needed resources to create a coordinated approach to ensure that homelessness is a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience.*

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- On a given night in 2017, **553,742 people experienced homelessness** in the U.S. Over the course of an entire year, in 2016, more than 1.4 million people used an emergency shelter or transitional housing program.
- On a single night in 2017, there were 184,661 people in families experiencing homelessness. This includes children.
- On a single night in 2017, there were 369,081 single individuals and 82,962 individuals with a debilitating illness experiencing homelessness.
- 2.5 million children will experience homelessness this year in America.
- 1 in 30 children in the United States experience homelessness annually.
- 35% of all homeless persons nationwide are families with children; in New Jersey, they are more than 50% of all homeless persons.
- Homeless families are often hidden from our view—they are living in shelters, cars, campgrounds, or doubled up in overcrowded apartments.
- More than 43 million people (1 in 7) in the U.S. live below the poverty line.
- 1 in 5 U.S. children under age 18, or nearly 15 million, live in poverty.
- In 2000, 12 million U.S. children (17%) lived in poverty. By 2015, that number had grown to 15 million (21%).
- The poverty line for a family of four is \$24,300.
- A worker needs to earn \$11.68/hour to reach the poverty level for a family of four.
- A renter needs to earn \$21.21/hour to afford a two-bedroom rental in the U.S.
- In only 12 counties in the country can a worker making the federal minimum wage afford a Fair Market Rent, one-bedroom apartment.
- 11 million households now pay more than 50% of their income for housing—an increase of 20% since 2007.
- Only 25% of those eligible for federal housing assistance receive help, due to lack of funding.
- For every ten extremely low income households, there are only three affordable rentals available on the market.
- To meet the needs of low-income families, we need 4.5 million affordable housing units added to the current supply.

*Source: National Alliance to End Homelessness*

