

The Housing Situation in Missouri

As Vincentians, we daily encounter Neighbors in Need who struggle to keep a roof over their heads. The housing statistics for our Archdiocese and for Missouri as a whole underscore this struggle:

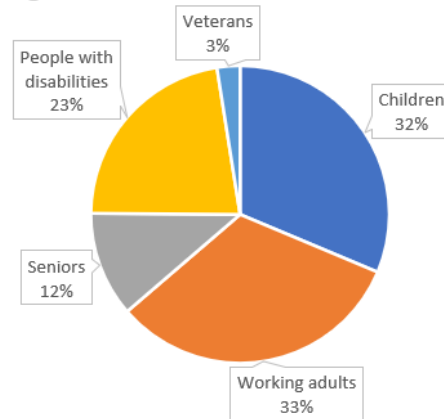
In the Archdiocese of St. Louis:

- The HUD fair market rate for a modest 2-bedroom rental ranges from \$662 in less populated areas to \$938 in the greater St. Louis metro.
- The income needed to afford a modest 2-bedroom rental ranges from \$26,480 annually (\$12.73 hourly) to \$37,520 annually (\$18.04 hourly).
- 1.2 to 1.8 full-time jobs at minimum wage are needed to afford a modest 2-bedroom rental.¹

In Missouri:

- 345,000 low-income Missouri renters pay over half their income in rent. Rent is considered unaffordable if it costs more than 30% of a household's income. These Missourians must often forgo other necessities like food and medicine in order to remain housed.
- 34,030 Missouri schoolchildren live in unstable housing—on the street, in shelters, with other families, or in motels.
- 6,530 Missourians experienced homelessness on a single night in 2020.²

Who Forgoes other Necessities to Remain Housed?



In its [Position Statement on Affordable Housing for](#)

[the Poor](#), the Voice of the Poor Committee, National Council of the United States, calls on Vincentians to encourage the preservation and production of quality housing for low-income families, the elderly, and other vulnerable people; work with other interested groups on affordable housing; and speak out in favor of increasing the number of rent subsidy programs.

There are programs available now that can help our Neighbors in Need who are facing a housing crisis. For guidance on applying for State Assistance for Housing Relief (SAFHR), please see this [video of a Vincentian SAFHR meeting](#). The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Archdiocesan Council of St. Louis, also offers a [Housing Assistance program](#) and Rapid Rehousing program.

Our St. Louis Voice of the Poor Committee welcomes and encourages your feedback on how best to advocate for affordable housing for our Neighbors in Need. Contact us at vopstlouis@gmail.com and share the insight you've gained from your service to our Neighbors.

¹ National Low Income Housing Coalition. (2021). *Out of Reach 2021*. Retrieved February 22, 2022, from https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/poor/2021/Out-of-Reach_2021.pdf.

² Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (2022, January 19). Federal Rental Assistance Fact Sheets. Retrieved February 22, 2022, from <https://www.cbpp.org/research/housing/federal-rental-assistance-fact-sheets#MO>.