

# Virginia Housing Alliance

Expanding Housing Opportunity and Ending Homelessness

Expanding affordable housing opportunities and ending homelessness throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia

The merger between the Virginia Housing Coalition and Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness has created a **stronger, sustainable and more effective organization to expand affordable housing opportunities and end homelessness**. We serve our member organizations through three core services in an effort to end homelessness and create sustainable, affordable housing options throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

## Advocacy

### Your voice in Richmond and Washington, D.C.

We identify key issues of concern as well as policy opportunities from members across the state in order to develop an annual legislative and policy agenda that addresses state and federal issues. VHA offers an online platform to take action, as well as opportunities to meet with legislators at annual housing events at the General Assembly and in Washington, D.C.



## Education

### Comprehensive Training to Support You.

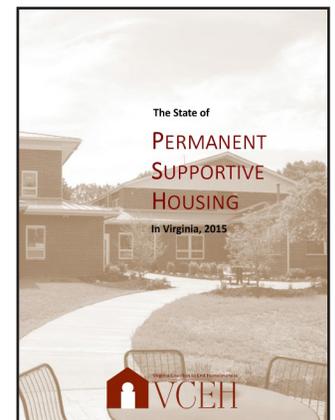
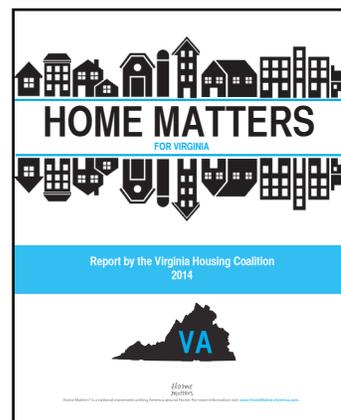
We are launching the Virginia Housing Education Learning Partnership (VA- HELP) to support individual professional development as well as organizational growth and sustainability to end homelessness and promote more sustainable and affordable housing options.

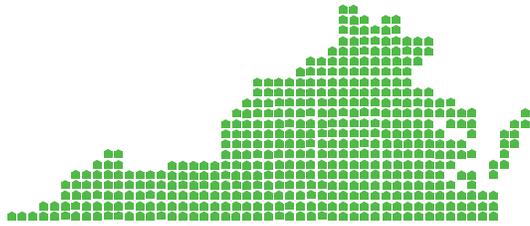


## Resources and Program Support

### Providing You Up-to-Date Information.

We stay connected with our membership and keep them informed of housing news and policy and legislative issues with reports and frequent updates through email alerts and social media. We also offer direct technical assistance to help build stronger programs and implement best practices.





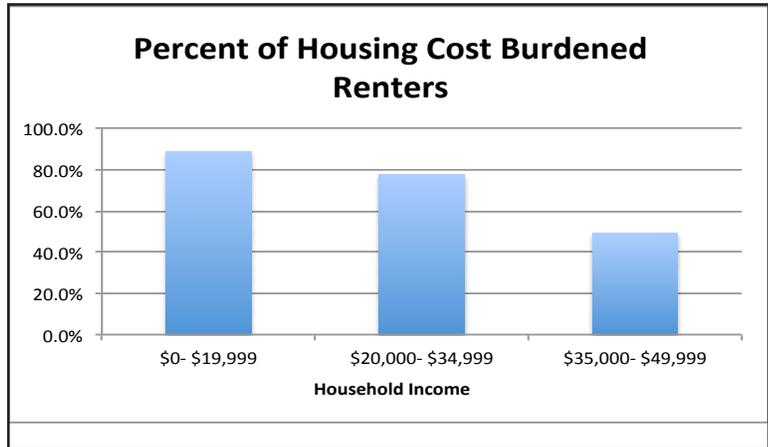
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Why do we need the Virginia Housing Alliance?

## Many Virginians Face Housing Cost Burdens

Almost 1 million households in Virginia, or one third of all Virginia households, are cost burdened, which means that they spend more than 30% of their income on housing. As a result, they have less money to spend on groceries, health care, and other necessities. More than 88% of renters in Virginia that make less than \$20,000 are cost burdened.



Source: Housing Virginia Sourcebook

## Ending Homelessness

On any given night, roughly 7,000 men, women, and children are homeless in Virginia, each confronting unique barriers to locating and keeping housing. This includes 4,215 homeless individuals and 883 homeless families. VHA helps communities improve their capacity and approach to providing housing and service options that respond to all levels of needs.



## Virginia Has the Highest Housing Costs in the Region

Virginia is the most expensive state for rental housing in the Southeast. The housing wage in Virginia is \$20.93, which means that a person would need to make at least \$20.93 per hour for 40 hours per week in order to afford a decent, two bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent without spending more than 30% of their income on housing. Many jobs with hourly wages pay well below \$20.93 an hour.

