

# HOUSING & PUBLIC SAFETY

KEEP FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES SECURE BY BUILDING SAFE, AFFORDABLE HOMES



“California’s affordable home developers are ready to deploy much-needed investment to put affordable homes within reach of the state’s neediest individuals and families, create jobs, and strengthen communities.”

– Ray Pearl, Executive Director of the California Housing Consortium

## AVAILABILITY OF QUALITY AFFORDABLE HOMES IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

- When police and firefighters can afford to live in communities where they work, they can remain connected to those communities. Evidence shows that people who live in neighborhoods with strong and close community connections have lower crime rates.
- People living in decent, safe homes commit fewer crimes than people who have no home. Formerly homeless Californians, for example, decrease the total number of days they spend in jail by 76% after finding a home, significantly reducing burdens on local resources.
- A Californian on probation is seven times less likely to re-offend when housed than when homeless.
- People with disabilities are much less likely to become victims of crime when living in safe housing, than on the streets.

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS A COST-EFFECTIVE PUBLIC-SAFETY STRATEGY

- For populations who are most at-risk for criminal justice involvement, supportive or affordable housing has been shown to be a cost-effective public investment, lowering corrections and jail expenditures.
- Studies show that states that spent more on housing experienced lower incarceration rates than states that spent less.
- Incarcerating an individual costs almost three times as much as providing that same individual with supportive housing in Los Angeles.



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A SNAPSHOT OF HOUSING AFFORDABILITY FOR THOSE PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES

New data shows many public safety professionals can't afford to rent a basic one-bedroom apartment in California. We are pricing out too many crucial professions from our communities. These jobs can't be outsourced, housing predicaments hurt the safety of all CA communities.



## PAYCHECK TO PAYCHECK

Many of those protecting our communities struggle to find affordable housing near their workplaces in California. Rising rents have far outpaced modest wage increases for over 200,000 public safety workers, forcing many to live paycheck to paycheck. This is not surprising given the generally high cost of housing throughout the state relative to household income.

## PUBLIC SAFETY PROFESSIONALS STRUGGLE TO FIND AFFORDABLE\* RENTALS IN CALIFORNIA:

- Ambulance drivers can afford to rent a one-bedroom home in 5 of California's 25 Metro Areas
- Security Guards can afford to rent a one-bedroom home in only 8 of 25 Metro Areas
- Emergency Medical Technicians can afford to rent a two-bedroom home in 11 of 25 Metro Areas
- Hazardous Materials Removal Workers can afford to rent at two-bedroom home in 12 of 25 Metro Areas

## THE AVERAGE 2016 SALARIES FOR THE FOLLOWING OCCUPATIONS WERE NOT ENOUGH TO AFFORD\*\* TO RENT OR OWN AN AVERAGE ONE-BEDROOM HOME IN CA:

- Ambulance Drivers and Attendants
- Police, Fire, and Ambulance Dispatchers
- Protective Service Workers, All Other
- Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers
- Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics
- Crossing Guards
- Security Guards
- Court, Municipal, and License Clerks
- Lifeguards

\*To be affordable, the cost of rent and utilities must not exceed 30% of household income

\*\*Household affordability estimates from HUD's FY 2016 Fair Market Rents. Available at [www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/fmr.html](http://www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/fmr.html)

Wage data is from Occupational Employment Statistics and Wages (OES) semiannual mail survey measuring occupational employment and occupational wage rates for wage and salary workers in California, by industry. Available at: <http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/>