A Place to Call Home: Polk County

Homes give people an opportunity to build better lives and communities. But how do Polk County residents fare?

We have a serious shortage of affordable housing

For every 100 families with extremely low incomes, there are only 24 affordable units available.

1,821 units are needed to meet the need

More than 1 out of 4

renters are paying more than 50% of their income in rent

4 out of 5

renters with extremely low incomes are paying more than 50% of their income in rent

Our neighbors are facing homelessness

1 in 30 students experienced homelessness in 2018-2019

That's 196 children during the 2018-19 school year in Polk County.

Oregonians on fixed incomes struggle to pay rent even for a one bedroom apartment.

Social Security: $9,396

Veterans' pension: $17,845

Retirement: $17,576

1 bedroom housing wage: $29,440
Workers can't afford rent

$9.65

Mean renter wage

66 hours

Number of hours per week at minimum wage needed to afford a 2 bedroom apartment

Homeownership is out of reach for many

$326,500

median home value in 2019

...up 3.8% from 2018

A household must earn at least $38,880 to afford a 2 bedroom apartment at fair market rent.

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