Seattle Housing Authority
A Place to Live, a Place to Grow

The mission of the Seattle Housing Authority is to enhance the Seattle community by creating and sustaining decent, safe and affordable living environments that foster stability and self-sufficiency for people with low incomes.

The Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) provides subsidized rental housing and rental assistance to people in Seattle with low incomes. In addition to providing high-quality housing, SHA offers tenants an array of programs to help them increase self-sufficiency and lead healthy, productive lives.

The Scope of SHA

37,069	17,204	8,777	376	8,139	3,564
Individuals served	Households served	SHA owned/ managed units	SHA locations	Tenant-based vouchers	Collaborative housing units

SHA is an independent public corporation established in 1939. SHA's first undertaking was development of Yesler Terrace, the first public housing community in the region and one of the first racially integrated public housing programs in the country. In the time since Yesler Terrace opened in 1941, SHA has grown an extensive portfolio of high and mid-rise buildings, small multiplexes, townhomes and single-family homes, located through-out Seattle.

In recent years, SHA redeveloped its three largest properties, converting them from older public housing-only sites to vibrant mixed-income communities with new replacement housing for low-income families, thousands of additional affordable housing units, home ownership opportunities, new parks and community spaces, and other amenities. The original Yesler Terrace, located in the heart of Seattle near downtown, is currently being transformed into a modern, urban community with new homes for the low-income residents, the addition of more than 4,000 apartments for people at all income levels, a new central park and other green areas, and renovation of a historic steam plant into a center for early childhood education, employment assistance and community gathering.

In addition to owning and managing public housing, SHA administers a Housing Choice Voucher program that enables thousands of low-income individuals and families to rent from landlords throughout Seattle.

The Seattle Housing Authority employs approximately 645 people. SHA is committed to a diverse workforce and actively recruits tenants receiving public housing assistance and others with low incomes for jobs within the agency. More than 40% of SHA staff began their employment as a member of one of these groups.

MORE THAN HOUSING

Through partnerships with numerous organizations, with expertise in many different areas, SHA is able to provide tenants with access to services that will help them meet needs beyond housing. Programs and services available to SHA tenants include health care, youth programs and academic support, scholarships, job training and placement, computer access, mental health counseling, activities for seniors, savings match and a wide range of other support. SHA property management staff and Community Builders work with tenants throughout the different housing locations to help residents learn about and take advantage of the many opportunities to improve their lives.

13,695
Adults 24 to 61

10,566
Children under 18

8,103
Seniors age 62+

2,680
Young adults 18 to 23

2,025
Age unknown

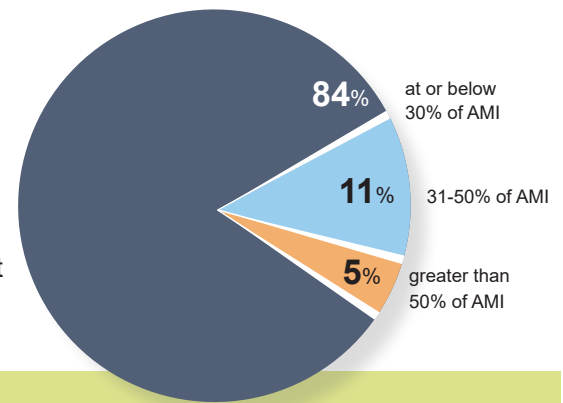**9,335**
Disabled individuals

52
Languages spoken

WHO SHA SERVES

Income

95 percent of households served by SHA have incomes at or below 50 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI). 84 percent are at or below 30 percent of AMI, which is considered extremely low income.

84% at or below 30% of AMI

11% 31-50% of AMI

5% greater than 50% of AMI

| **50**% African/ African American | **22**% White | **11**% Asian | **7**% Hispanic | **2**% American Indian/ Alaska Native | **1**% Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander | **3**% Multiracial | **4**% Unknown |

HOUSING PROGRAMS

The Seattle Housing Authority provides housing to a wide range of individuals and families through three types of programs.

SHA owned/managed

This housing is owned and/or managed directly by the Seattle Housing Authority. Many locations include on-site supportive services. The majority of this program is low-income public housing, which is supported by a federal subsidy that allows households to pay 30% of their income for rent and utilities. It also includes housing that is reserved primarily for seniors and disabled adults, who pay an affordable rent according to tiers that are tied to income. A small number of units in the program are owned by SHA but have different eligibility and rent rules than the rest of the program and serve people with a wider variety of incomes. They are often financed with low-income housing tax credits and/or tax-exempt bonds.

Tenant-based vouchers

Tenant-based vouchers enable participants to rent housing from any landlord, provided the housing meets quality standards set by the federal government. Participants generally pay 30- 40% of their income for rent and utilities. SHA pays the remainder, up to an established maximum, directly to the landlord. Vouchers are assigned to the participant, not any particular housing unit, and, if tenants remain in compliance with their leases and program rules, they can apply the voucher to another place to live if they choose to move. There are a limited number of vouchers and every few years, SHA conducts a random lottery to place households on a waiting list.

Collaborative housing

Through this program, SHA subsidizes affordable housing that is not owned or managed by SHA. The majority is funded through what are called project-based vouchers, meaning the funding is attached to certain units of housing, typically operated by private nonprofit housing providers. These are long-term funding commitments that stay with the housing units and do not transfer if a tenant leaves. In addition, through different funding arrangements that do not involve a voucher, SHA subsidizes other affordable housing it does not own or operate.

MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information about the
Seattle Housing Authority, or to contact SHA,
please visit the website:

seattlehousing.org

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Information is current as of December 31, 2024