

What Do You Mean by Affordable?

What is affordable housing?

Housing is affordable if the people living there pay no more than 30% of their income towards the rent or mortgage. So, what's affordable depends on your income.

What is median income?

Each year the federal government calculates the median income for communities across the country to use as guidelines for federal housing programs. Area median incomes depend on family size. In Los Angeles the median income for a family of four is \$55,100/year, or \$4,590/month.

How does income compare to rent?

In Los Angeles a decent one-bedroom apartment rents for about \$1,200/month. This rent is affordable to someone earning \$23/hour (\$48,000/yr) or more. An \$800/month apartment is affordable to someone earning around \$15/hour (\$32,000/year). A \$1,400/month apartment is affordable to someone earning \$27/hour (\$56,000/year).

LIVABLE PLACES



634 So. Spring St., #727
Los Angeles, CA 90014
(213) 622-5980
www.livableplaces.org

Who lives on 30% of median income?

- A single person working 36 hrs/week at minimum wage.
- A cashier with one child working 41 hrs/wk at minimum wage.
- Some of the people who have incomes below 30% of median are: single people receiving General Relief (7% of median), families receiving CalWORKs (15% - 21% of median) and a senior or disabled person receiving SSI (24-37% of median).

Who lives on 50% of median income?

- A single person working full time at \$10/hour.
- A receptionist with a young daughter earning \$1,970/month.
- Two people working full time at minimum wage with two kids.
- Some of the people working full time but earning less than 50% of median income in Los Angeles for a family of two include: waiters, restaurant workers, sewing machine operators, maids, child care workers, security guards, cashiers, and janitors.

Who lives on 80% of median income?

- A single person working full time at about \$16/hour.
- A Licensed Vocational Nurse with one child earning \$3,170/month.
- An electrician with a wife & one child and an income of about \$41,800/year.
- A tax preparer with three children earning about \$47,000/year.

Who lives on 100% of median income?

- A single person working full time at about \$18.50/hour.
- A carpenter with one child earning \$3,670/month.
- A correctional officer with a wife & one child and an income of about \$49,000/year.
- A police officer with three children earning about \$53,600/year.
- A college professor with a wife & two children earning \$54,000/year.

Who lives on 120% of median income?

- A single person working full time at just over \$22/hour.
- A registered nurse with two children earning \$5,000/month.
- An industrial engineer with a husband & two children earning about \$66,000/year.

Who lives on 150% of median income?

- A single person working full time at about \$28/hour.
- A single parent with one child earning \$5,500/month.
- A couple with one child and an income of about \$74,400/year.
- A couple with two children earning about \$82,600/year.