



# Press Release

## 1,200 Applicants Selected Out of 4,883 for Tacoma Housing Authority’s Low-Income Housing Assistance

Tacoma, WA – Nov. 12, 19 – During two weeks in October, Tacoma Housing Authority invited people to apply for the wait list to receive housing or housing assistance. We invited only households with three or more people because our waitlist for smaller households is already long. We received 4,883 applications representing 18,979 people. They applied on-line, by phone or in person. Their data paint a somber picture:

- 33% of the applicants work full time
- 43% of the applicants are currently homeless
- 93% of the households have children
- 12% of applicants slept in a homeless encampment, car, abandoned building or outdoors the night before they applied

View our full waitlist data dashboard at [tacomahousing.net/waitlistdata](http://tacomahousing.net/waitlistdata).

Of the 4,883 eligible applicant households, we randomly chose 1,200 for the wait list. This is about the number of households we can serve within the next two years. In early November we notified applicants if they were or were not selected for the waitlist.

*“These wait list openings are always a somber reminder of the unmet need in Tacoma and Pierce County for affordable, safe and stable housing. These applicants are parents who cannot afford rent on a full time wage, and certainly not on disability income or public assistance. Their children struggle in school because their families must move often. These applicants are college students who struggle to balance parenthood, work and homelessness. The ones THA randomly chooses for assistance are the lucky ones.”*

– Michael Mirra, THA Executive Director

“I am in desperate need of housing assistance. My husband lost his job, I have a son with severe [REDACTED] and a daughter. I am about to be evicted because I can’t pay the rent. My rent is more than my income. I don’t know what to do. I have no one to lean on . . . We have nothing and I am worried about being out on the street with 2 kids. Can someone please assist us? - email to THA, October 17, 2019

“How do I apply for assistance? I am 62 and disabled. My rent went from 685. To 815. And my retirement income is 1339.00 per month.”  
- email to THA, February 3, 2018

Hi  
I am currently homeless and living in my jeep. Can you help me? Thank you,  
- email to THA, July 17, 2019

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### About Tacoma Housing Authority

Established in 1940, Tacoma Housing Authority provides high-quality, stable and sustainable housing and supportive services to people in need. It does this in ways that help them prosper and help our communities develop equitably. THA develops and manages real estate and provides rental housing. In partnership with thousands of private landlords, it helps families pay the rent in the private rental market. It delivers supportive services to help families succeed as “tenants, parents, students, wage earners and builders of assets who can live without assistance.” THA seeks to do its work in ways that help our community be an “attractive place to live, work, attend school, shop and play,” and that help Tacoma be “safe, vibrant, prosperous, attractive and just.” For more information about THA and its work, visit [www.tacomahousing.net](http://www.tacomahousing.net).