Fueled by a strong economy, the supply of housing across the region struggles to keep pace with housing demand. This pushes up rents and home prices. Jobs in lower-wage service sectors, such as leisure and hospitality, healthcare, and retail, are expanding. This increases demand for more affordably priced housing. Housing needs continue to evolve as our population changes and ages.

WHY IS THERE DEMAND FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING?

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2. Jobs in lower-wage service sectors, such as leisure and hospitality, healthcare, and retail, are expanding. This increases demand for more affordably priced housing.

3. Housing needs continue to evolve as our population changes and ages.

WHAT IS AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Having an affordable home ensures a household pays no more than approximately 30% of its income (before taxes) on rent or mortgage payments and related housing costs (such as utilities and insurance). Affordable housing helps Alexandria families, workers, and seniors meet important needs, such as healthcare and childcare, build savings, and invest in education.

Affordable housing is also critically important to the City’s economic vitality and competitiveness. Businesses look for a diverse and stable local workforce when deciding to locate, retain, and expand their operations in the City.

WHO DOES AFFORDABLE HOUSING SERVE?

Affordable housing is critical for the City’s workforce, students, and seniors. It supports working families, individuals with disabilities, and households with income below 80% of the area median income. According to the Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) National Affordable Housing Atlas and Data System (NAHASDS) data, 46% of households have more than 30% of income spent on housing costs, 119% of households have more than 50% of income spent on housing costs, and 122% of households have more than 60% of income spent on housing costs.

HOW MUCH AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING IS THERE IN THE CITY?

According to the City of Alexandria’s 2019 Annual Apartment Survey, the City has committed affordable units that serve lower- to moderate-income households with incomes at or below 80% of the area median income. In 2019, the City had 15,200 committed affordable rental units, representing 3% of all rental units in the City.

LEARN MORE ABOUT AFFORDABLE HOUSING AT: ALEXANDRIAVA.GOV/HOUSING