

RCLCO REAL ESTATE CONSULTING





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- Affordable housing, both naturally occurring and subsidized, is a large asset class that has experienced significant growth in transaction volume and investor interest in the last several years.
  - Approximately 30% of the nation's 23.1M units of multifamily housing can be classified as "affordable," of which half are naturally-occurring affordable housing (of low quality but unsubsidized), and approximately 38% are subsidized through a government program.
  - Whether subsidized or not, these properties are generally affordable to households at or below 60 percent of area median income, with the true implications of such affordability varying depending on localized income inequality, costs of living, etc.
  - Affordable housing ownership is dominated by for-profit entities, with over half of owners, managers, and developers being for-profit.
  - Transactions representing institutional capital have grown dramatically in the past decade, aided by increased involvement of commercial brokerage firms and better market data to facilitate underwriting potential acquisitions.



- This asset class has benefited from consistent strong performance, especially in downturns, characterized by the stable predictability of income generation.
  - While there is new construction of affordable housing, and the market has shown strong absorption of new units including throughout the most recent economic cycle, the supply of affordable housing in America is shrinking.
  - Existing product demonstrates consistently high occupancies and low tenant turnover.
  - Cap rates for affordable housing assets have compressed at a consistent pace with conventional multifamily and the spread between cap rates has been relatively consistent over the past decade.



- Demand for affordable rental housing continues to grow in an increasingly supply-constrained market environment. These fundamentals support the continued attractiveness of investment in the affordable asset class.
  - Market data shows that affordable housing is a market with significant pent-up demand, as affordable housing supply lags demand by large margins.<sup>1</sup>
  - Regularly expiring subsidy contracts will naturally constrain the supply of subsidized affordable housing.
  - Historical and projected trends in housing costs and wage stagnation indicate a persistent and pervasive need for affordable housing.
  - Additionally, investment in affordable housing has other intrinsic social benefits including meeting helping meet investors' Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG) goals.



- The affordable housing sector is not without risks, and investors and developers should weight them against the outlined benefits of entering the space.
  - Zoning restrictions, high land and construction costs, and competition with value-add investors can make development difficult
  - Federal subsidies can assist with overcoming development hurdles, but the subsidies are currently limited, the ratio of LIHTC applications to credits available is frequently 3:1<sup>1</sup>
  - Lower rents, and less ability to provide rent increases, can impact potential NOI
  - Operating costs for affordable assets have been under pressure in comparable or even more challenging levels compared to conventional multifamily housing



# **OVERVIEW & PURPOSE**

The goal of this report is to support the efforts of affordable housing developers, preservers, operators, and investors—and in turn provide for the growing populations of people who require affordable housing—by making a case for increased deployment of capital into the affordable housing asset class.<sup>1</sup>

- The first section provides a basic *characterization of the current stock* of affordable housing, by sizing
  and scoping what has been built, who have been involved, where supply has gone, and how much has
  been transacted.
- The second section begins to quantify the *performance* of the asset class, both operationally and in the capital markets. This section highlights the nature of the asset class's advantages, with an emphasis on stability of income and diversification benefits.
- Finally, the third section takes a forward look at the robustness of *future demand*, reflecting both the fundamental need for increased supply and the long-term attractiveness of investment towards this asset.

This report combines takeaways from the existing literature with novel analysis of multiple public and proprietary data sets. The nature and limitation of these sources are outlined on page 8. Collectively, the data sources used present a key challenge, as they rely upon incongruent definitions, sample sizes, and methodologies. However, their distinctive uses also complement each other in telling a fuller story about the characteristics, performance, and prospects of a growing and institutionalizing asset class. The precise source and use of each figure is qualified in footnotes where relevant.



# METHODOLOGY & SOURCES

Source	Data/Publication(s) used	Sample Size	Used in this report for	Limitations
Used for RCLCO Analy	sis			
National Housing Preservation Database	Main database	~128,000 subsidized properties	Detailed sizing, mapping, and breakdown of subsidized units by subsidy type	Though this data was the most precise, it does not include property performance data
CoStar	Historical Trends data output	Database of ~55,000 fully or partially subsidized properties	Performance data	Occasionally imprecise labeling of property subsidy status
Real Capital Analytics	Transaction Listings; Database of Major Players	Database of 3,263 transactions of subsidized apartments	Transactions data (e.g. volume, cap rates), key players/investors	Smaller universe of properties; very broad label categorizing "subsidized" as any property self-reporting rental subsidies
National Apartment Association	Income and Expense Reports, 2013-2021	Variable sample size surveying ~3,500 market- rate and ~300 subsidized properties	Graphic representation of operating metrics (operating and capital expenses, NOI, revenues, turnover)	Limited sample set
Key Secondary Source	S		•	
CohnReznick	Housing Tax Credit Investments Report, 2021	22,000 surveyed properties	Foreclosure data for LIHTC and other multifamily properties	Limited sample set
Joint Center for Housing Studies	State of the Nation's Housing, 2021	N/A	Cumulative number of units with expiring subsidies	N/A
CoStar	2016 report on Naturally- Occurring Affordable Housing	Database of 300,000+ total communities	Approximating the number of "naturally occurring affordable housing" units, defined to be lower-quality, 1-2 stars	CoStar's star classifications risk being inconsistent or inaccurate. Moreover, poor building quality might not be tightly correlated with affordability, and vice versa.

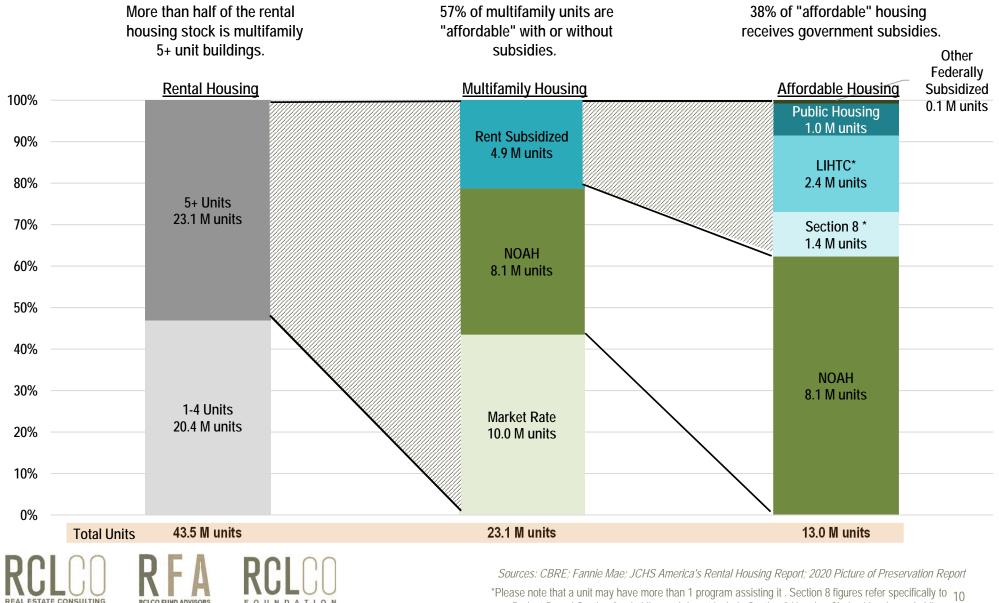


# I. SIZE AND SCOPE

Housing Product Key Players Transactions

#### About 30% of rental housing is affordable multifamily

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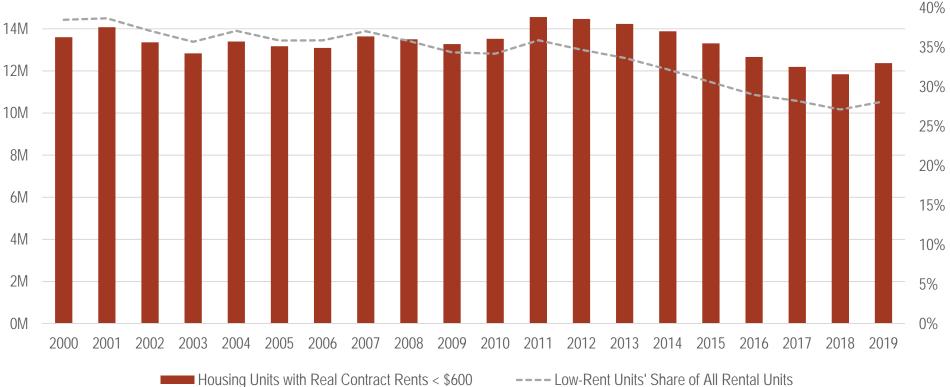
Project-Based Section 8 subsidies and do not include Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher subsidies.

# DECREASING SUPPLY OF LOW RENT UNITS

## Supply Decreases Driven by Obsolescence and Conversions to Market Rate

Only 60 affordable housing units per 100 households at or below 50% AMI

Only 37 affordable housing units per 100 households at or below 30% AMI



#### Supply of Low-Rent (< \$600) Housing Units

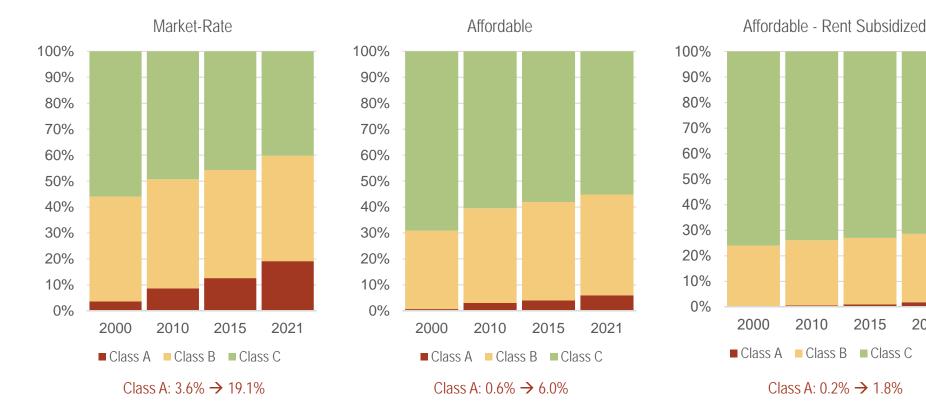
---- Low-Rent Units' Share of All Rental Units



Source: U.S. Census Bureau via IPUMS USA; National Low Income Housing Coalition. Note: Rents are inflation-adjusted to 2019 prices with CPI-U: All Items Less Shelter U.S. City Average. Data are not available for 2020 due to the Census Bureau's pandemic-induced data collection problems for the American Community Survey (ACS). 11

### LIHTC and IZ Incentivize New and/or Mixed-Income Construction

Class A product has grown as a share of all units within both subsidized and market-rate property types. For the subsidized asset class, this growth in "Class A" product is largely driven by mixed-income properties, such as those incentivized by inclusionary housing policies.



#### Share of Units by Class, Market-Rate Vs. Affordable 2000-2021



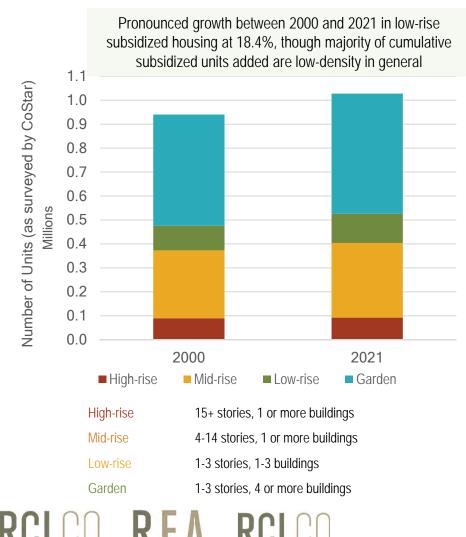
2021

2015

# AFFORDABLE BUILDINGS: LOW-DENSITY, OLDER

#### Reflects lower construction costs and depreciation

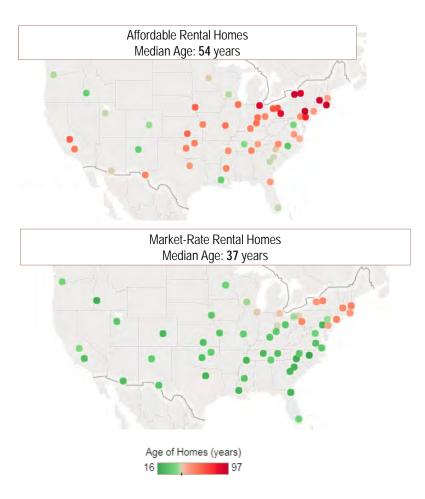
Distribution of Units in Subsidized Affordable Buildings, by Building Type 2000 and 2021



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Median Age of Affordable and Market-Rate Rental Homes 2017



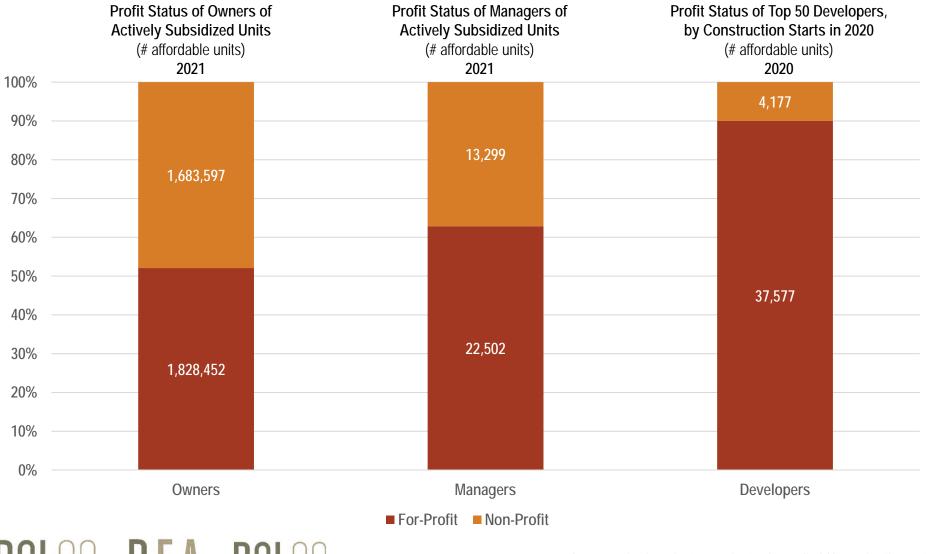
Based on Zillow research. Units surveyed include both multifamily and single-family. "Median Age" stated is the weighted mean of the median age across 100 largest metros.

Sources: CoStar; RCLCO

## Across ownership, management, and development roles

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Sources: National Housing Preservation Database; Affordable Housing Finance; RCLCO

# KEY PLAYERS MOSTLY DEVELOPER / OWNERS

## Otherwise, institutional – whose holdings have a higher PPU

Top 50 U.S. Investors in Subsidized Housing (by number of units held) Data Through 2019

Rank	Company	Units	Projects
1	The Michaels Organization	45,682	378
2	Dominium	32,066	216
3	The Millennia Cos.	27,183	246
4	Mercy Housing	22,608	331
5	Volunteers Of America 20,660		506
6	Starwood Capital 20,655		84
7	Southport Financial Services 20,361		213
8	National Church Residences	18,361	269
9	The NRP Group	16,364	134
10	Beacon Communities	15,840	130
11	Herman & Kittle Properties	15,751	156
12	LIHC Investment Group	15,494	65
13	Conifer Realty	15,341	228
14	Woda Cooper Cos.	14,494	351
15	L+M Development Partners	14,157	99
16	Retirement Housing Foundation	14,119	174
17	Jonathan Rose Cos.	14,081	89
18	Capital Realty Group	14,029	99
19	McCormack Baron Salazar	13,817	131
20	The Pacific Cos.	13,389	185
21	Gene B. Glick Co.	13,256	87
22	American Community Developers	12,811	99
23	WinnCompanies	12,496	109
24	LDG Development	12,466	74
25	GHC Housing Partners	12,045	119

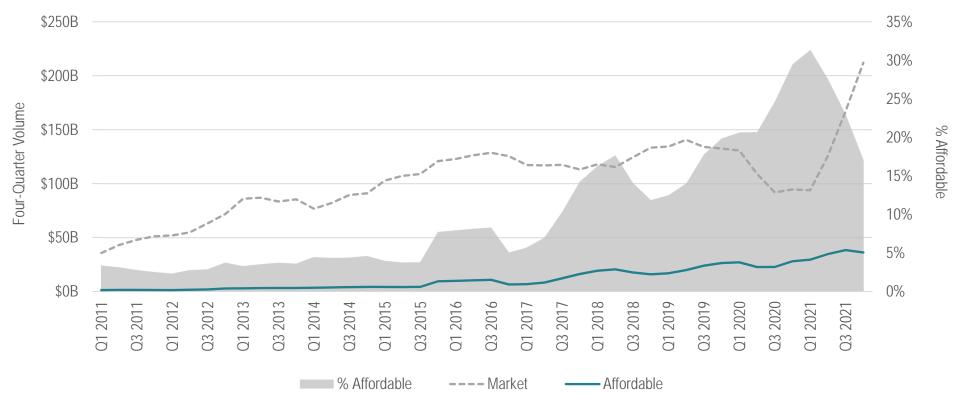


jii 2017				
Rank	Company	Units	Projects	
26	Enterprise Community Development	11,810	108	
27	BRIDGE Housing Corp.	11,787	110	
28	Pennrose	11,700	182	
29	Vitus	11,516	68	
30	The Hallmark Cos.	11,442	250	
31	Preservation of Affordable Housing	11,325	113	
32	Related California	11,276	98	
33	USA Properties Fund	11,031	84	
34	Highridge Costa Cos.	10,992	112	
35	The Community Builders	10,802	141	
36	The NuRock Cos.	10,670	38	
37	Fairfield Residential	10,638	47	
38	Omni New York	9,956	43	
39	Envolve Communities	9,828	76	
40	Fitch Irick Partners	9,753	195	
41	Eden Housing	9,743	147	
42	The NHP Foundation	9,664	56	
43	Avanath Capital Management	9,597	57	
44	Lincoln Avenue Capital	9,290	48	
45	TM Associates	8,945	237	
46	Standard Communities	8,796	47	
47	Wallick Communities	8,768	124	
48	Fairstead	8,504	46	
49	Security Properties	8,462	60	
50	Jamboree	8,104	88	

# SUBSIDIZED TRANSACTIONS OUTGROWING CONVENT

# Annual transaction volume for affordable multifamily has increased from \$1.3B in 2011 to \$36.1B in 2021.

This represents an average CAGR of 39%, over 2.5 times the 15% CAGR in market-rate transaction volumes over the same decade.

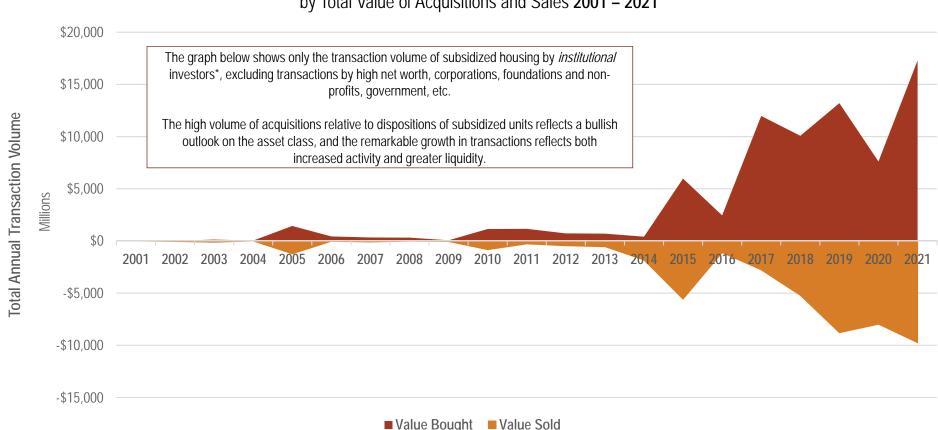


#### Rolling Four-Quarter Multifamily Transaction Volumes



# TRANSACTIONS IN INSTITUTIONAL CAPITAL

#### Growth in volume reflects both acceptance and appetite, 2021 strongest year on record



Institutional Investor\* Subsidized Housing Transaction Volume

by Total Value of Acquisitions and Sales 2001 – 2021

\*Note: RCA defines "Institutional Investors" to include equity funds, pension funds, insurance companies, banks, investment managers, sovereign wealth funds, open-ended funds, and other financial services firms



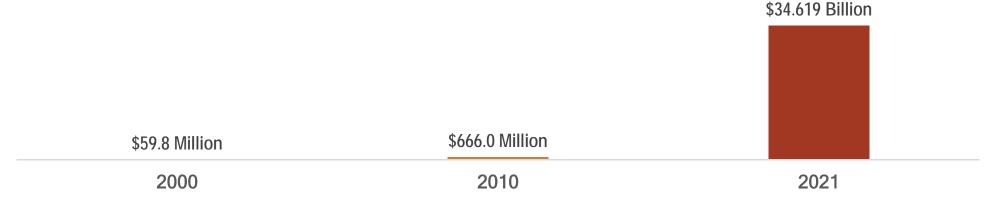
# COMMERCIAL BROKERS INCREASINGLY INVOLVED IN THE PAST DECADE

#### Brokerage world pushes transactional efficiency

In the past, transactions of subsidized properties took many months, as parties had to cobble together financing from multiple government programs Today, deals often close in 30 – 60 days, due to:
More capital from large institutional sources (often paying in cash)

• More involvement of commercial brokers (who assemble deals with greater sophistication and efficiency)

Total Brokerage Transaction Volume of Subsidized Properties 2000 - 2021



#### Transactions of Subsidized Properties as a Share of Total Broker Business 2000 - 2021

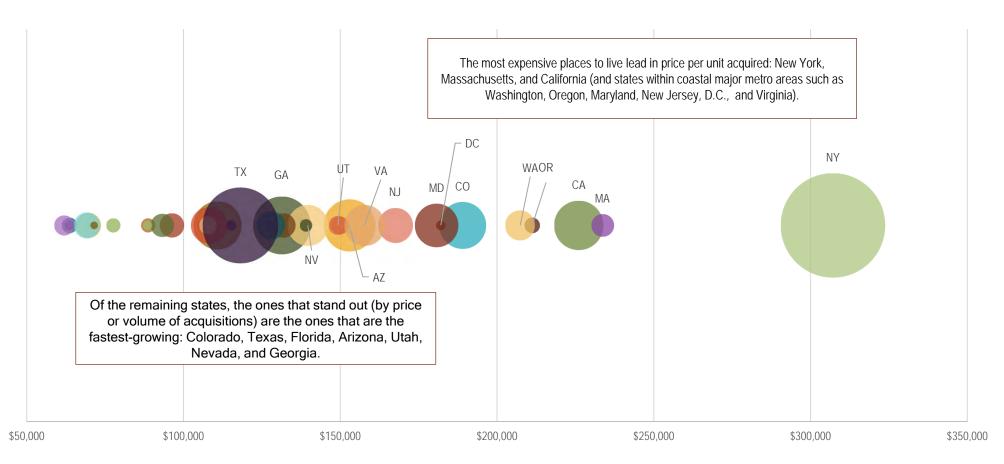
Year		2000	2010	2021
	Total Transaction Volume	0.2%	0.6%	5.6%
Brokered Transactions of Subsidized Properties as a Share of	Total Transacted Properties	0.2%	1.2%	4.2%
	Total Brokerage Firms	1.1%	2.3%	8.9%



# ACQUISITIONS BY INSTITUTIONAL CAPITAL

## Have favored large, high-cost, and/or fast-growing states

Subsidized Apartment Units Acquired and Price Per Unit Paid, By State 2000 – 2021



Note: Size of bubble represents number of units within any fully or partially subsidized properties that were acquired.



## II. PERFORMANCE REAL MARKETS: OPERATIONS

Real Markets: Operations Capital Markets: Pricing

# ABSORPTION HAS OUTPACED NEW DELIVERIES

#### In seven of the eight years since the great recession

16,000 14,000 12,000 10,000 Units 8,000 6,000 4,000 2,000 0 2011 2012 2016 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2013 2014 2015 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 Change in Inventory Net Absorption

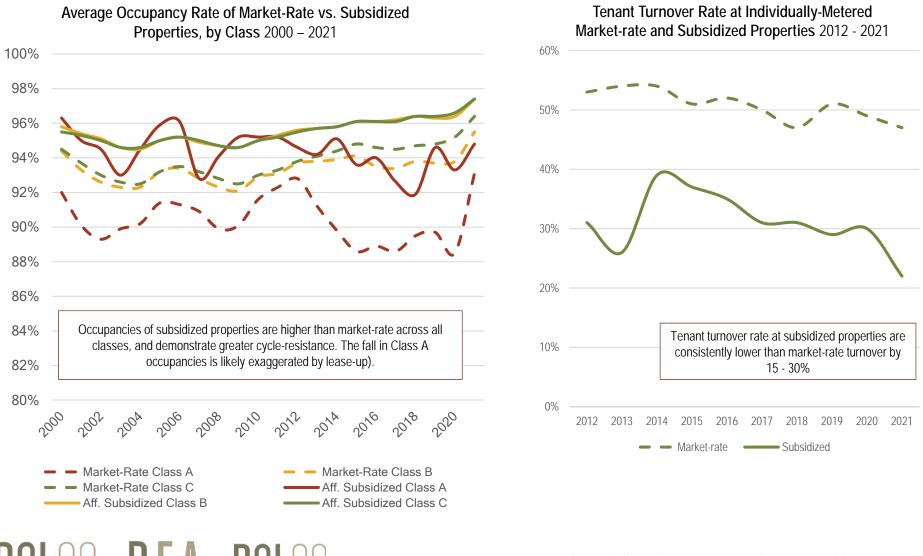
Deliveries and Absorption of All Subsidized Affordable Housing, U.S. 2005 – 2021



#### Subsidized: persistently higher occupancies & lower turnover

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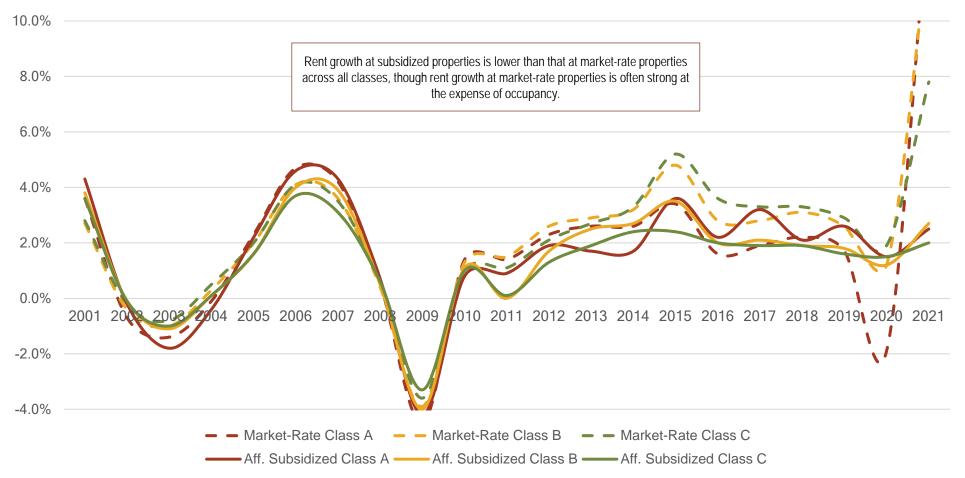
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# RENT GROWTH LOWER, BUT STILL POSITIVE

#### As is expected of low-income, rent-restricted units

Rental Growth Rate of Market-rate and Subsidized Affordable Housing, by Class 2001 – 2021



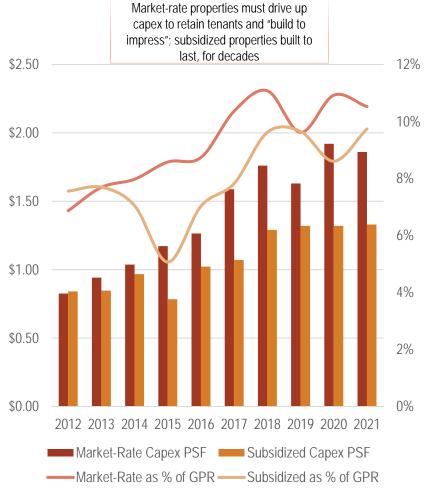


Sources: CoStar; National Apartment Association Income and Expenses Report; RCLCO

# CAPITAL AND OPERATING EXPENSES HIGHER

## And escalated faster at subsidized properties

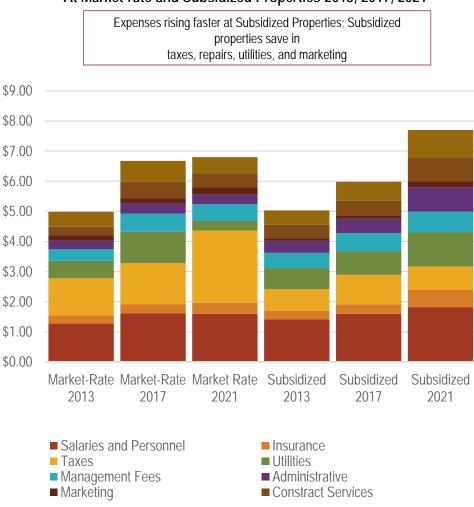
#### PSF Capital Expenses and Capex as % of Gross Potential Revenue at Market-rate and Subsidized Properties 2012 – 2017





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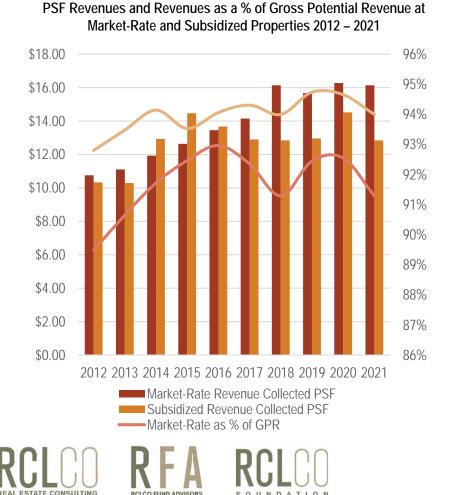


#### Breakdown of Annual PSF Operating Expenses At Market-rate and Subsidized Properties 2013, 2017, 2021

Sources: National Apartment Association Income and Expenses Report; RCLCO

#### And revenue as a *share* of the gross potential is much higher

Favorable revenues and NOIs at subsidized properties are primarily driven by occupancy. As seen here, absolute per-square-foot revenues and NOI exceeded those of market-rate units in 2014 – 2015, when market-rate rent growth pushed to new highs and occupancies fell steeply.



PSF NOI as % of Gross Potential Revenue of Market-rate and Subsidized Housing 2012 – **2021** 



Sources: National Apartment Association Income and Expenses Report; RCLCO

# FORECLOSURE RATES DRAMATICALLY LOWER

### For LIHTC properties compared to conventional

5% Annual Foreclosure Rate / Delinquency Rate 4% 3% 2% 1% 0% LIHTC Foreclosure Ratio FDIC-Insured Multifamily Delinquency Ratio

Annual LIHTC Foreclosure Rate vs. Conventional Multifamily Delinquency Rate 2002 – 2020

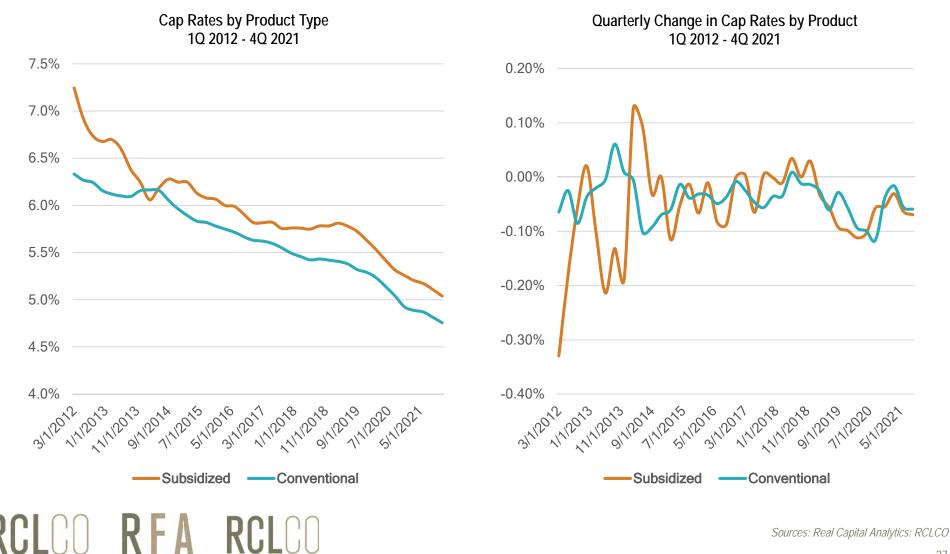


Source: CohnReznick 2021

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Cap rate volatility was higher, but is now more in-line with conventional, cap rate spread has been relatively consistent over the past decade



# III. FUNDAMENTAL DRIVERS

Eroding Supply Growing Demand

# LIFESPAN OF SUBSIDIES HAS BECOME SHORTER

## Impending rate of subsidy expiration will be unprecedented

Each dot represents one subsidy contract, plotted against contract start date and the subsidy's stipulated duration. (Public housing contracts, for which there are no "end" dates, are excluded). Downward Trend of Subsidy Duration 

Duration of Housing Subsidy Contracts Over Time 1970 – 2022

Other 
 Section 8 
 LIHTC 
 HOME

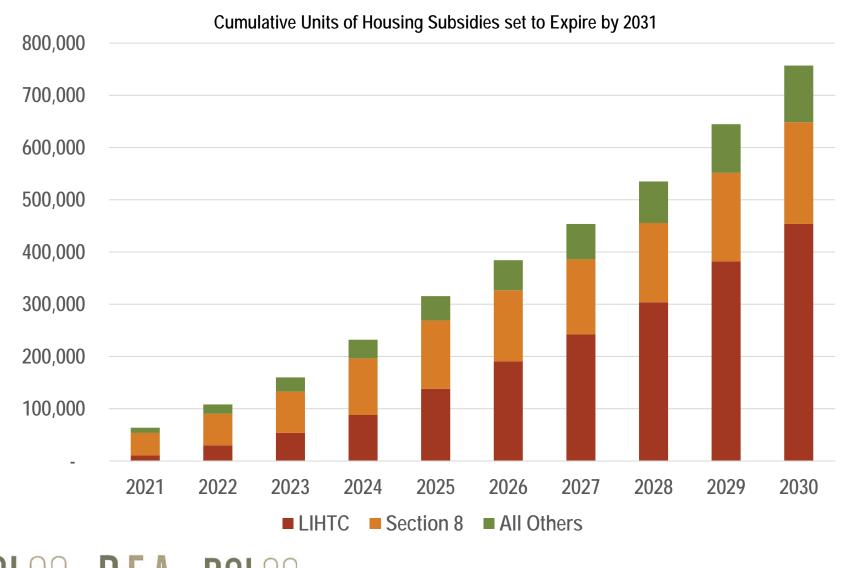


Sources: National Housing Preservation Database; RCLCO Section 8 figures refer specifically to Project-Based Section 8 subsidies and do not include Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher subsidies.

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## Units funded by tax credits set to expire rapidly, 750,000 units by 2031

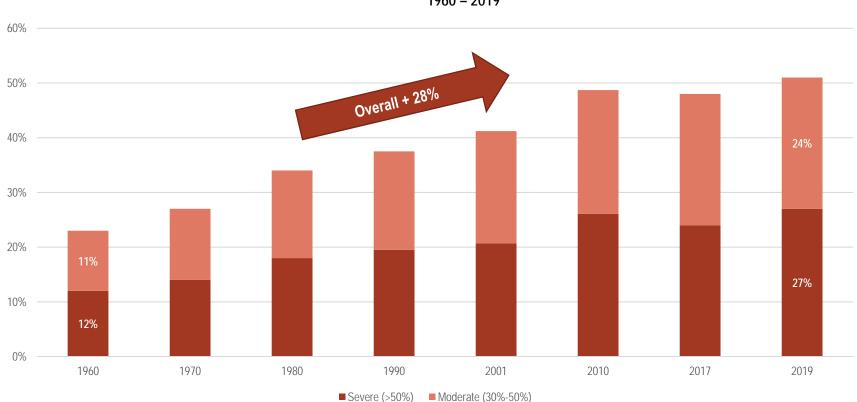


Source: National Housing Preservation Database Picture of Preservation Report, 2021.

# HOMEOWNERSHIP NOT AN OPTION FOR MANY

#### Low-income renters are increasingly cost-burdened

Homeownership remains more expensive than renting in most markets. Of renters, an increasing share are severely cost-burdened (>50% of pre-tax income spent on housing).

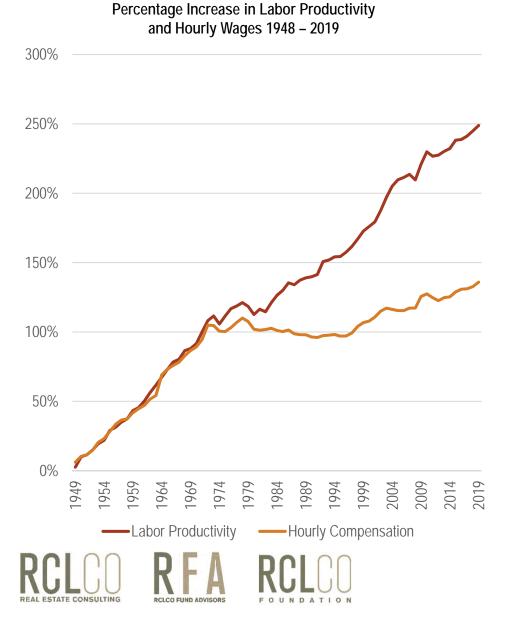


Share of Cost-Burdened Renter Households 1960 – 2019



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics; FRED; Joint Center for Housing Studies 2015 tabulation, GAO Rental Housing 2020 Report; NMHC; RCLCO

### Meanwhile, development costs rising – pushing rents



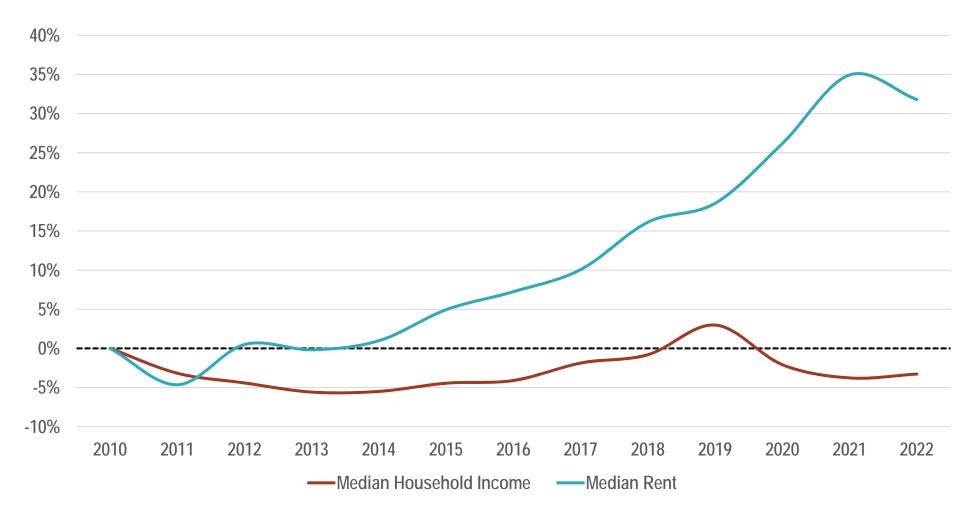
# North America Construction Cost Index and Quarterly Growth 4Q 2016 – 4Q 2021



Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics; Rider Levett Bucknall; RCLCO

## Reflecting costs of development and wage stagnation

Percent Change in Median Household Income and Median Rent 2010 - 2022

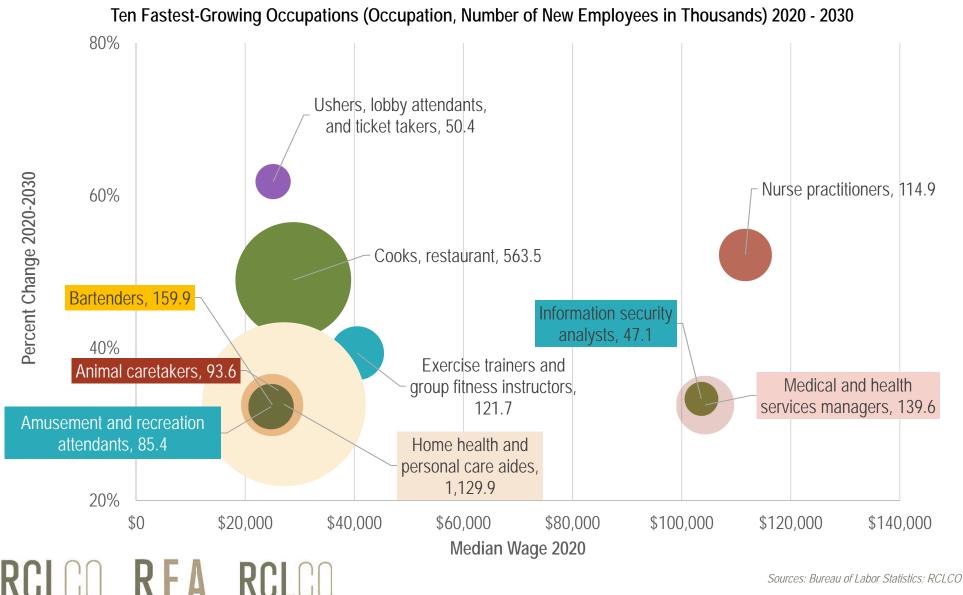




Source: Moody's; RCLCO

# MOST NEW DEMAND FROM LOW-INCOME RENTERS

## Fastest-growing jobs over next decade earn ~\$25,000



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#### Actual Performance

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