

# The Answer

SHELTERFORCE

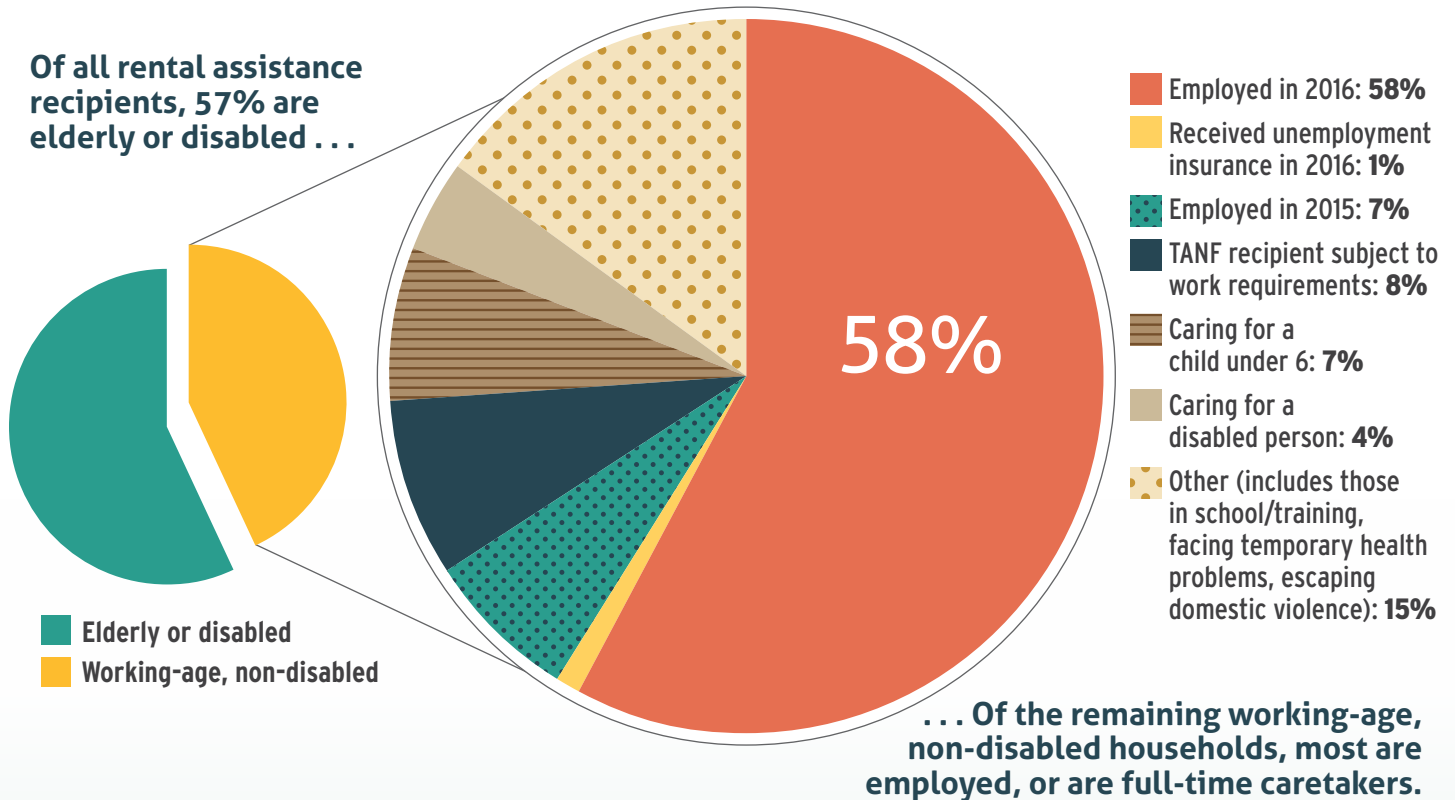
**Q:** Why don't people who are getting rental assistance get a job?

**A:** More than half are elderly or disabled. Of the rest, most of them do have a job!

## Who actually gets rental assistance?

**94%** of rental assistance recipients are either attached to the labor force, subject to work requirements, caring for children or disabled relatives, or themselves elderly or disabled. Many of the rest are in school or job training or facing temporary health problems, domestic violence, or other obstacles to stable employment.\*

Of all rental assistance recipients, 57% are elderly or disabled . . .



. . . Of the remaining working-age, non-disabled households, most are employed, or are full-time caretakers.

\*Data and pie charts based on *Chart Book: Employment and Earnings for Households Receiving Federal Rental Assistance*, by Alicia Mazzara and Barbara Sard, Feb. 5, 2018, [bit.ly/WhoGetsRentalAssistance](http://bit.ly/WhoGetsRentalAssistance)

## Having a job doesn't necessarily mean you can afford a place to live.

Wages have not kept pace with increased housing costs. In order to afford a modest, two-bedroom rental home in the U.S., renters need to earn \$21.21 per hour. The federal minimum wage is \$7.25; the average hourly wage earned by renters nationwide is \$16.38.

In *no county* in the nation can a person who works full time at the federal minimum wage afford a two-bedroom apartment at the Fair Market Rent. In *only 12 counties* can a full-time worker earning the prevailing federal or *state* minimum wage afford even a one-bedroom rental home.

Out of Reach, National Low Income Housing Coalition, 2017, [nlihc.org/or](http://nlihc.org/or)

