Municipal leaders in partnership with the South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) are taking steps to expand housing opportunities. Hamden is taking part in SCRCOG’s Housing Initiative, learning about strategies and tools as it seeks to serve the changing housing needs of its residents. Appropriately-priced homes can provide access to jobs, transportation, childcare, recreation, and other vital services. The opposite is also true, not having appropriately-priced homes can deny those same important opportunities.

**Housing Burden**

Households who spend more than **30%** of their income on housing are considered "cost-burdened."

In Hamden the percentages are:

- **47%** of renters
- **32%** of homeowners

37.31% of the combined renters & homeowners in the SCRCOG Region and 39.61% in Connecticut are cost-burdened.

Source: Connecticut Data Collaborative, Cost-burdened Households by Town 2015-2019

**Housing Wage**

In Connecticut, the Fair Market Rent, as calculated by the US. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), for a two-bedroom apartment is:

- **$1,423**

To not be considered cost-burdened, a household must have an income of at least:

- **$4,743 per month** OR **$56,922 per year**

Housing wages are an estimate of the per hour earnings an individual working full-time must receive to afford a two-bedroom rental property.

- **Hamden’s Housing Wage**
  - **$31.16 per hour**

- **Connecticut’s Housing Wage**
  - **$27.37 per hour**

Sources: The Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT), 2021 Housing and Transportation (H+T®) Affordability Index;*Out of Reach 2021- Two-Bedroom Housing Wage by Zip Code

**Median Home Value and Rent**

- **$225,300** is the average value of a home in Hamden
- **$1,376** is the average monthly rent in Hamden

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2019 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates Data Profiles, Table DP04

Source: https://www.ctdata.org/ U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2019
Demographics

Race
- 55.6% White
- 24.0% Black or African American
- 12.5% Hispanic or Latino (Any Race)
- 5.1% Asian
- 2.4% Two or More Races

Age
- 19 and Under: 23.1%
- 20 to 29: 18.9%
- 30 to 44: 16.9%
- 45 to 64: 25.0%
- 65 and Over: 16.0%

Housing and Transportation Index

The Housing and Transportation index describes the percent of income as household spends on housing and transportation costs combined.

The Hamden Average is 57%.
The SCRCOG Region Average is 55%.

Living within ½ mile from a transit station can reduce transportation expenses of a household budget.

Struggling Households

8,719 of 22,945 or 38% of all households are at the ALICE and poverty-level threshold.

Households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level but less than the basic cost of living for the area are considered ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households.

ALICE Survival Budget

The ALICE Household Survival Budget, based on county-level data, is the bare minimum cost of basics household expenses necessary to live and work in the modern economy. These basic budget items include housing, child care, food, transportation, technology, and health care, plus taxes and a contingency fund equal to 10% of the household budget.

The annual total household survival budget for a family of four (two adults, one toddler, and one infant) in the Greater New Haven Area is:

$90,732

Source: The Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT), 2021 Housing and Transportation (H+T®) Affordability Index