

# Albuquerque's Struggle to Address Homelessness and Housing Affordability

New Mexico prohibits control over rental rates, limiting availability of affordable housing options for low-income individuals.

Jay Duran | May 3, 2023



Photo: Matt Collamer

The importance of community support for homeless individuals, including donations to homeless shelters and nonprofits that provide aid to the homeless population, can make a significant difference in the lives of this population. *A Light in the Night Community Outreach* is a nonprofit that aids this population and is always in need of extra items. You can also provide assistance by donating to our storage expansion project. These donations can provide access to necessities, such as food and shelter, and can also help to connect individuals with resources and support networks that can help them transition out of homelessness.

Below, you will find a breakdown listicle of key points affecting Albuquerque's homelessness issues, housing crisis, and the dire need of support from legislation and the community. For an in-depth article, go to this [link](#).

- The city of Albuquerque faces hurdles in fulfilling legislation for a more comprehensive project related to housing affordability. They have hit a brick wall.
- The MIT Living Wage Calculator indicates a minimum wage of \$16.10 an hour is required for a single person without dependents in Bernalillo County to earn a living wage.
- They prohibited political subdivisions and municipalities in New Mexico from enacting ordinances or resolutions that control or would have the effect of controlling rental rates for privately-owned property.
- New Mexico has the highest increase in homelessness as measured by the point-in-time (PIT) count at 27%.

- The housing market in Albuquerque has limited availability of affordable rental properties for lower-income individuals.
- Households with higher incomes often occupy rental units affordable to low-income individuals.
- New Mexico's homeless community is facing a funding crisis, as federal and state agencies fail to provide adequate support.
- Many homeless individuals do not qualify for the government-aided stipends received after filing taxes.
- The homeless population cannot sustain themselves through extreme weather conditions for several years while waiting for housing programs to provide them with basic necessities.
- Donations to smaller nonprofits are an essential lifeline for providing aid to the homeless population. Without this aid fulfilled, the community will not suffer greatly.

Source List:

[The Albuquerque Journal](#) (Rental Property Registry Bill)

[MIT Living Wage Calculator](#) (Bernalillo County Wage Calculator)

[NM Stat § 47-8A-1 \(2021\)](#) (Rental control prohibition statute)

[The Albuquerque Journal](#) (Homeless numbers rising)

[MFA](#) (2020 report)

[HUD](#) (2020 report)

[KRQE](#) (Record high rental rates)

[City of Albuquerque](#) (Minimum Wage)

[2020 New Mexico Affordable Housing Needs Assessment](#) (2020 Affordable Housing Assessment)

[The Human Cost](#)