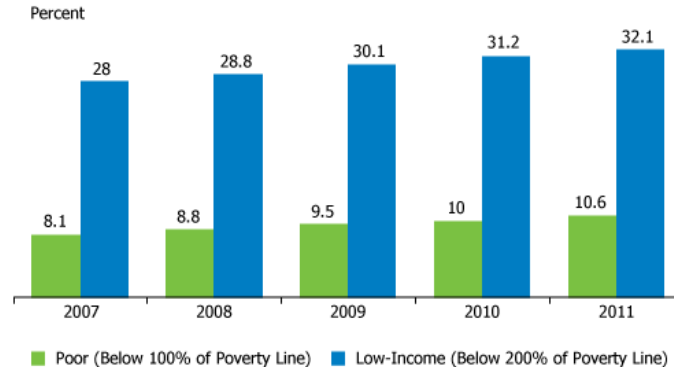




Home finding service for low income renters

# Statistics



- The percentage of Low income families increased from 28% to 32.1% from 2007 to 2011.
- The total number of people living in low-income working families was 47.5 million in 2013, including 23.5 million children.
- In general, households pay at least 30% of monthly adjusted income for rent and utilities.
  - Whereas in 2011, the majority of low-income working families (61%) spent more than one-third of their gross income on housing, exceeding an accepted guideline for what constitutes affordable housing.
- High-work, low-income families spend 12% of income on child care.

# Problems

- Low income renters are not aware of rental assistance that can benefit them.
- Accessible, quick, and low-cost transportation to work may be scarce or unaffordable for low income renters.
- Safe neighborhoods may be perceived as too expensive.
- Researching homes within transit time limit and safety limit is possible but tedious due to data being non-centralized and often buried across multiple services/websites.

# Solution

A single service that enlightens low income renters of renting assistance options and searches for affordable homes within transit time and neighborhood safety constraints.

# Data Sources

- Rental Data and Filters
  - Fair Market Rents For The Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Program
  - HUD Location Affordability Data
  - HUD Public Housing Buildings (Occupied/Unoccupied listings)
  - HUD Income Limit Data
  - Housing Authority Websites
- Address to Geographical Location
  - Google Geocode/Reverse Geocode APIs
- Transit Time Data
  - General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS)
  - Google Map APIs
  - WalkScore TravelTime Widget & JS API
- Local crime data
  - data.seattle.gov
- School district data
  - GreatSchools

# Future Work

- Travel time and Safety heatmap features are not restricted to low income customers only. They can be integrated with regular as well as senior citizen rental/buyable listings to help make informed decisions.
- Integrate the listings with Low Income buying data for assisting Low Income buying.
- Extend to include “saved money” information alongwith HH size/income to predict which of renting or buying is better.
- Add further filtering options for the Safety heatmap to filter by crime type.
- Use community amenities data on the map view.

**Questions?**

# Other Resources

- <http://www.prb.org/Publications/Articles/2013/us-working-poor-families.aspx>
- WDOT 2014 Corridor Capacity <http://wsdot.wa.gov/publications/fulltext/graynotebook/CCR14.pdf>
- <http://www.urban.org/publications/900832.html>