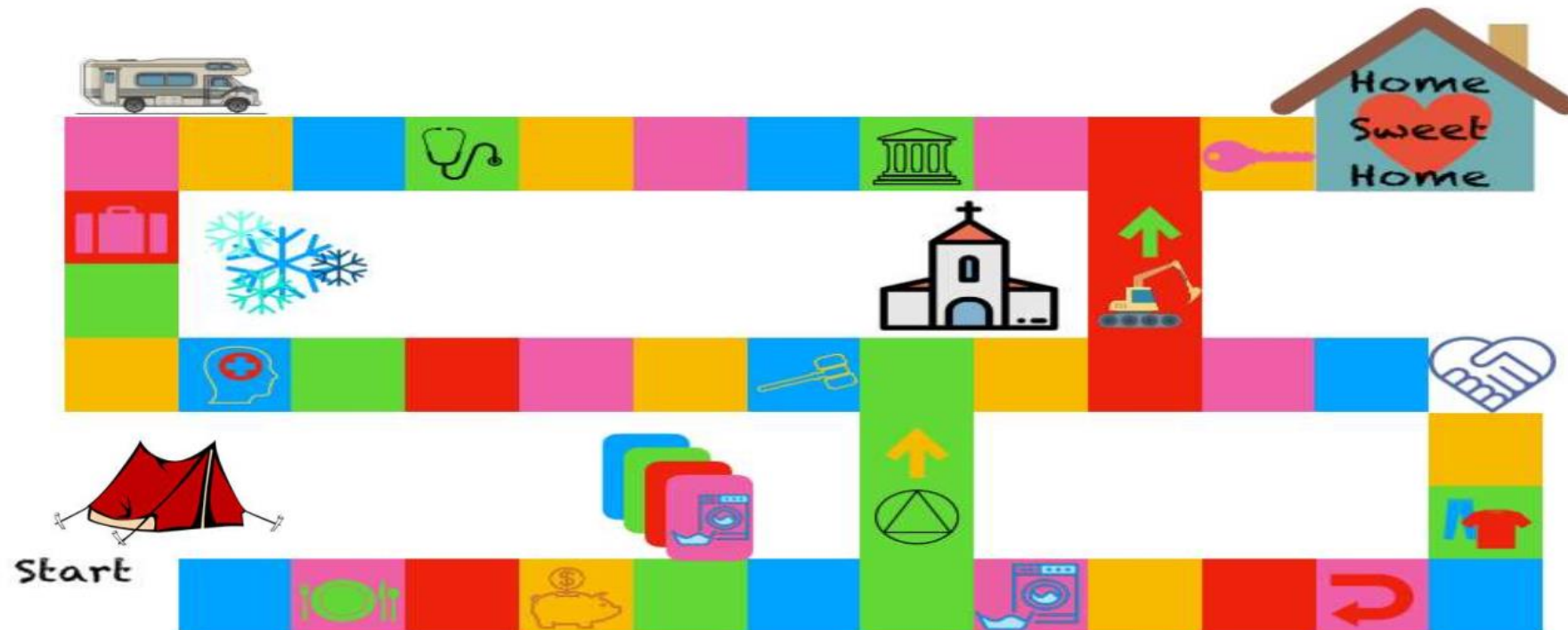


Bishop's Homeless Taskforce Report

THE HOMELESS CRISIS

We can be **GAME CHANGERS** for our unhoused neighbors



You and the Church Can Make A Difference

Who Are the Homeless?

Those we call homeless will often tell you they have a home, albeit in a vehicle, or a tent, or living communally. However they are un-housed and they are living in conditions that lack secure tenure.

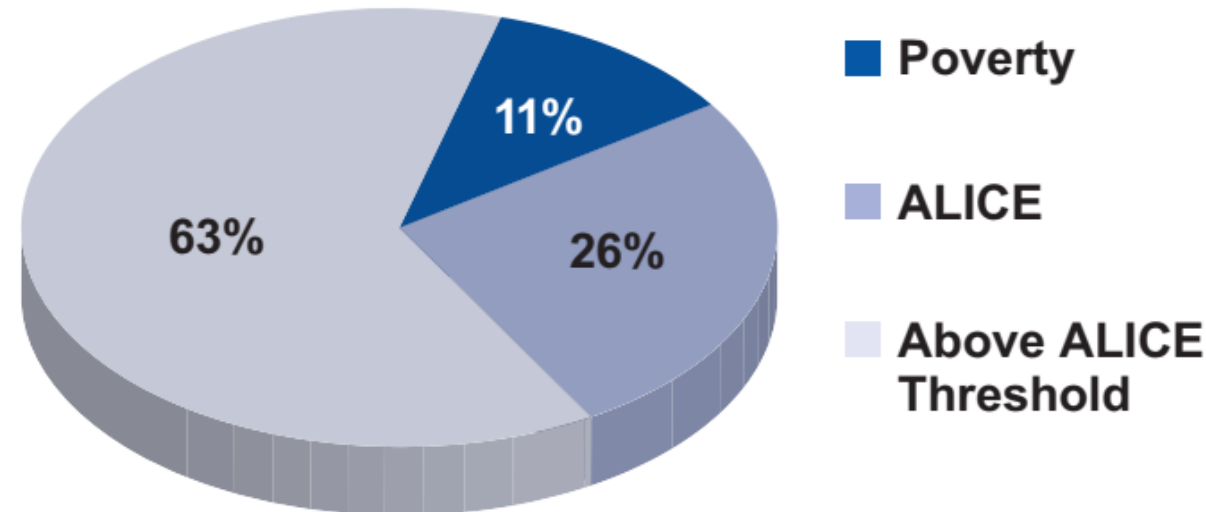
People are categorized as homeless if they are:

- living rough on the streets, under bridges, in public spaces, or in rural areas
- moving between temporary shelters,
- moving between houses of friends, family and emergency accommodation
- living in accommodations without a bathroom or security of tenure

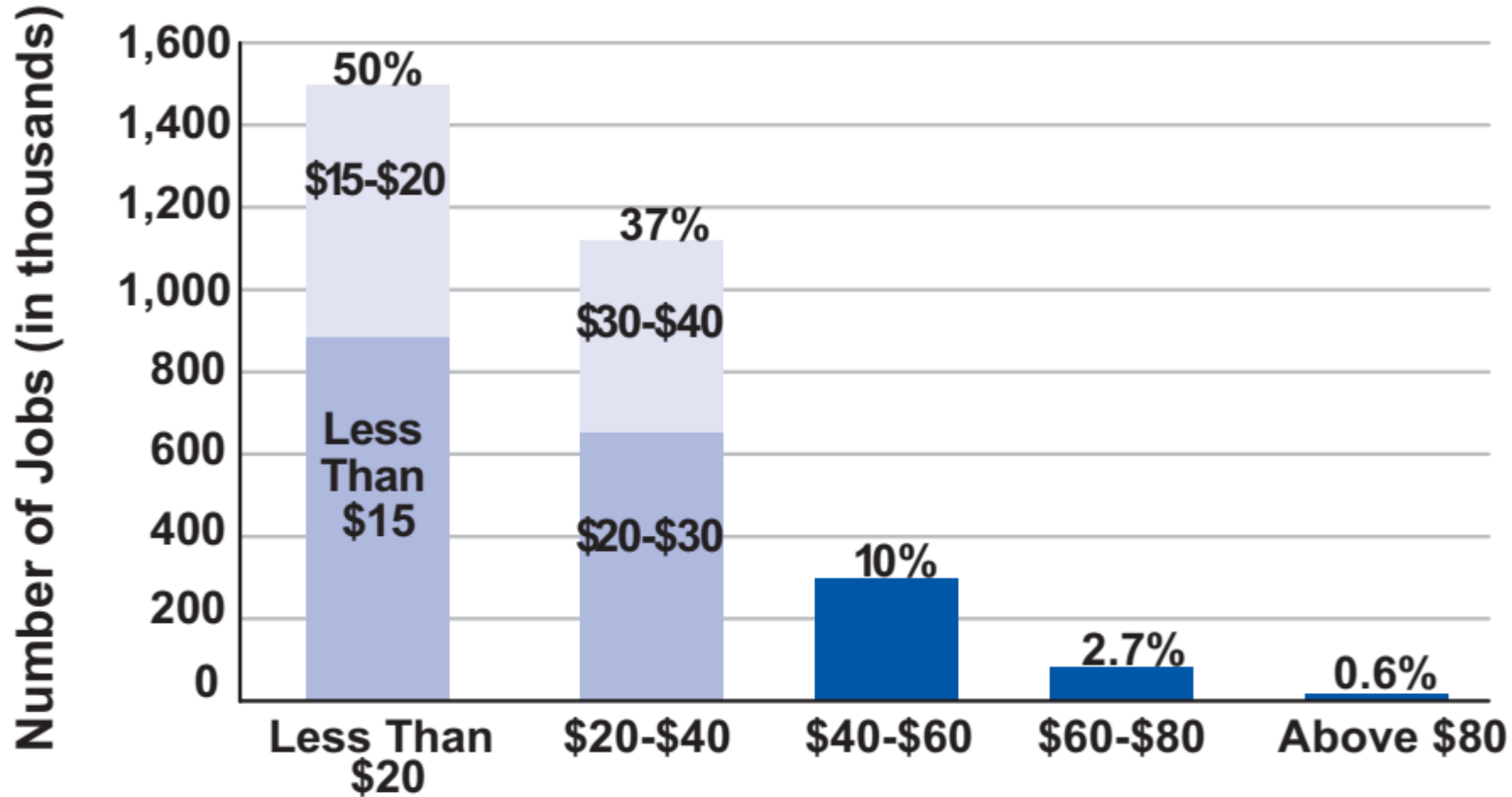
The majority of the homeless are not addicted, pan-handlers or those on skid-row they are a part of our population known as ALICE and are mostly invisible

Getting to Know ALICE

ALICE, an acronym for **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed, comprises households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), but less than the basic cost of living for the state (the ALICE Threshold). Of Washington's 2,767,682 households, 301,493 earn below the FPL (11 percent) and another 707,702 (26 percent) are ALICE.



How Much Does ALICE Earn Per Hour?



Four out of five
jobs in
Washington
State have an
hourly wage
that place them
in the ALICE
category

Exactly What is Affordable Housing?

- **Housing where residents pay at most 30% of their income in housing costs**
 - Renters Housing Cost = Rent + Utilities
 - Homeowners = Principal + interest + taxes + insurance
- **Covers a wide range of housing types and demographics**

Apartments and Condos	Supportive transitional housing
Single and multiple family dwellings	Shelters
Veterans and disabled persons	Senior Citizens

When housing costs exceed 30% of a family's income it is not affordable!

**THERE IS A CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF
AFFORDABLE HOUSING THROUGHOUT THE
DIOCESE AND IT TAKES FROM 3 TO 10
YEARS TO BUILD NEW UNITS.**

WHAT DO WE DO IN THE INTERIM?

First and Foremost Make Your Vote and Voice Count!

When considering candidates for local, county, state and federal office know their position on providing affordable housing for everyone who lives in your locality.

Vote for those who pledge to do everything possible to increase the stock of available units and preserve the currently available stock of housing to ensure that everyone who works to serve you can afford a decent affordable home to live in.

Make every effort to advocate for additional affordable and supportive housing:

- Learn more about affordable housing.**
- Talk with your neighbors about affordable housing.**
- Petition your elected officials to construct more affordable housing.**

Actions You Can Take For Affordable Housing

- Begin by convincing your local jurisdiction (county, city, or town) that much more available stock is needed.
 - Advocacy by each member of a parish and the parish itself is the best way to get the attention of those in government.
- Once your local jurisdiction gets the message then advocacy shifts:
 - Require the jurisdiction to mandate and hold fast (i.e. disallowing developers to pay a fee to opt out) to making all new multi-unit residential developments provide a percentage of units that are low income (annual income less than \$55K) affordable – this is key to resolving the problem.
 - Require your jurisdiction to identify potential pieces of property that could provide affordable housing that are convenient to public transportation and suppliers of the necessities for living.

Note: If some church property meets this requirement learn how to move forward and get guidance from the Diocese.

Then Consider Ministering to the Homeless

- Work locally to build coalitions to develop additional supportive and affordable housing.
- While they must wait for affordable housing work with others to establish Tiny House Villages, Safe Parking Locations, and Temporary Encampments.
- Access the diocesan website information for Best Practices for any parish that wants to engage in one of these ministries to the Un-Housed and other ministries to those in need.

More importantly all members of the diocese are urged to advocate locally, statewide and federally for our brothers and sisters who are un-housed with regard to their rights and their right to a roof over their head

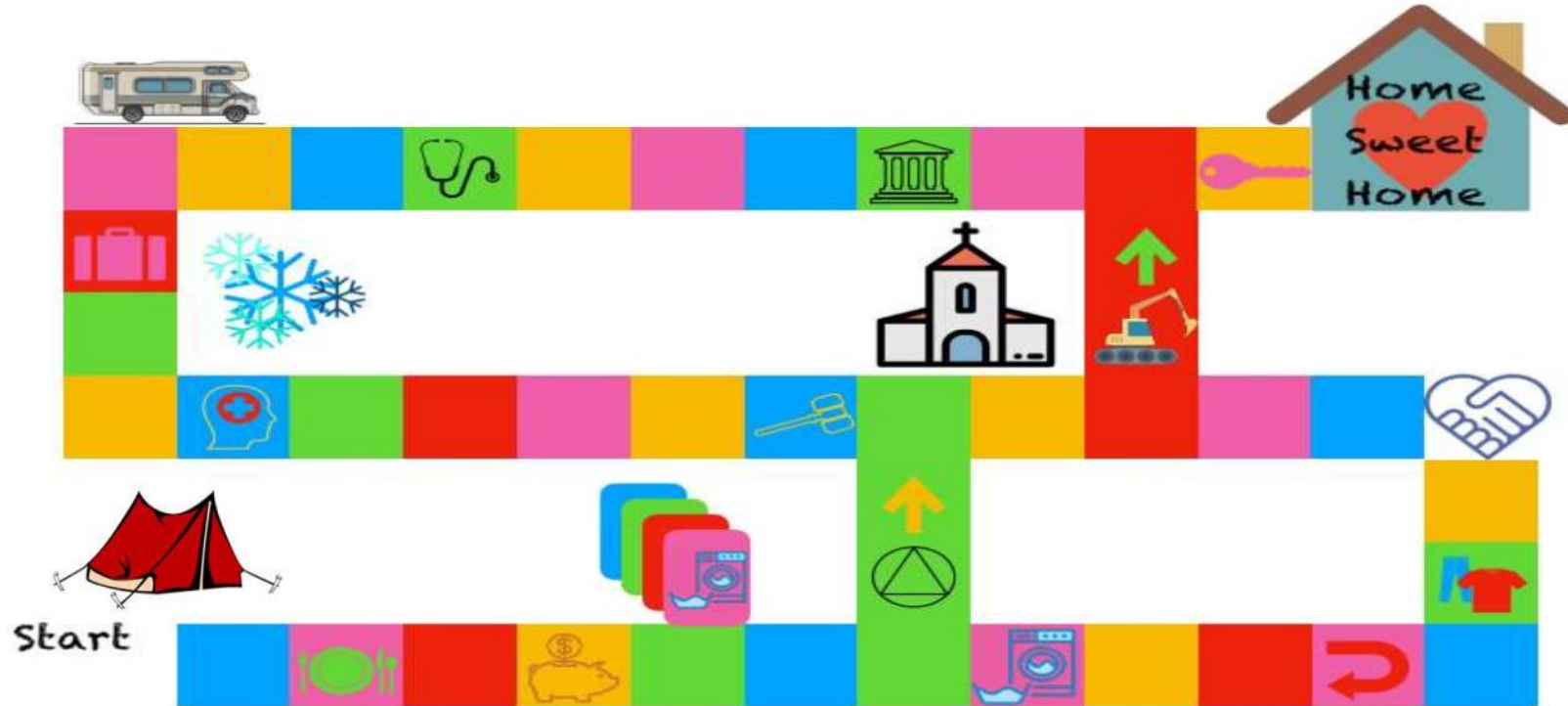
**THE CURRENT CRISIS OF THE LACK OF
AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS ONE THAT EVERYONE
OF US NEEDS TO ADDRESS.**

**OUR NEIGHBORS WHO ARE UN-HOUSED CAN
NOT WAIT FOR SOME FORM OF MAGIC ELIXIR.**

THEY NEED HELP TODAY.

**WE ARE THE ONES WHO ARE CALLED BY OUR
BAPTISMAL COVENANT TO DO SOMETHING!**

We can be GAME CHANGERS for our unhoused neighbors



Will You ?