

## The Other Side:

**46,000** or nearly

**20%** of all households spend more than half of their income on housing

**23,000** households, or

**10%** of all households are dangerously close to homelessness

These households are disproportionately made up of people of color, and elderly women living alone.

Homelessness has reached record numbers across the state, rising 14% since 2010 to almost 20,000. Nearly 2,100 families are unable to find room in homeless shelters.

Thousands of families are losing their rental assistance.

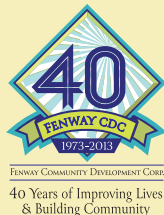
This is a **crisis**.

The Menino administration's Housing 2020 Plan proposes to add 10,000 new affordable housing units. Of these, only 3,000 will serve most Bostonians. The rest will go to a small minority of households at costs that are unaffordable for Boston's middle and working classes.

While the City spends money to create housing for Boston's wealthier households, thousands of our residents are in danger of losing their homes.

Help us to build an equitable, affordable Boston for all. For almost two decades, the Boston Tenant Coalition has fought for housing justice across the city. Find out how you can help, contact us at [info@bostontenant.org](mailto:info@bostontenant.org) or at (617) 423-8609.

Fenway Community Development Corporation aims to achieve greater residential stability in the Fenway. We develop affordable housing, engage residents in community planning, build leadership capacity, and advocate for services for low- and moderate-income residents. Find us on the web at [www.fenwaycdc.org](http://www.fenwaycdc.org)



# A MAP TO BOSTON'S REAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS



## "A Boston of Rich and Poor with no middle class"?

We've all heard a lot about the need for affordable "middle class" housing in Boston, and it's true:

Many middle class households are facing affordability challenges in certain parts of Boston

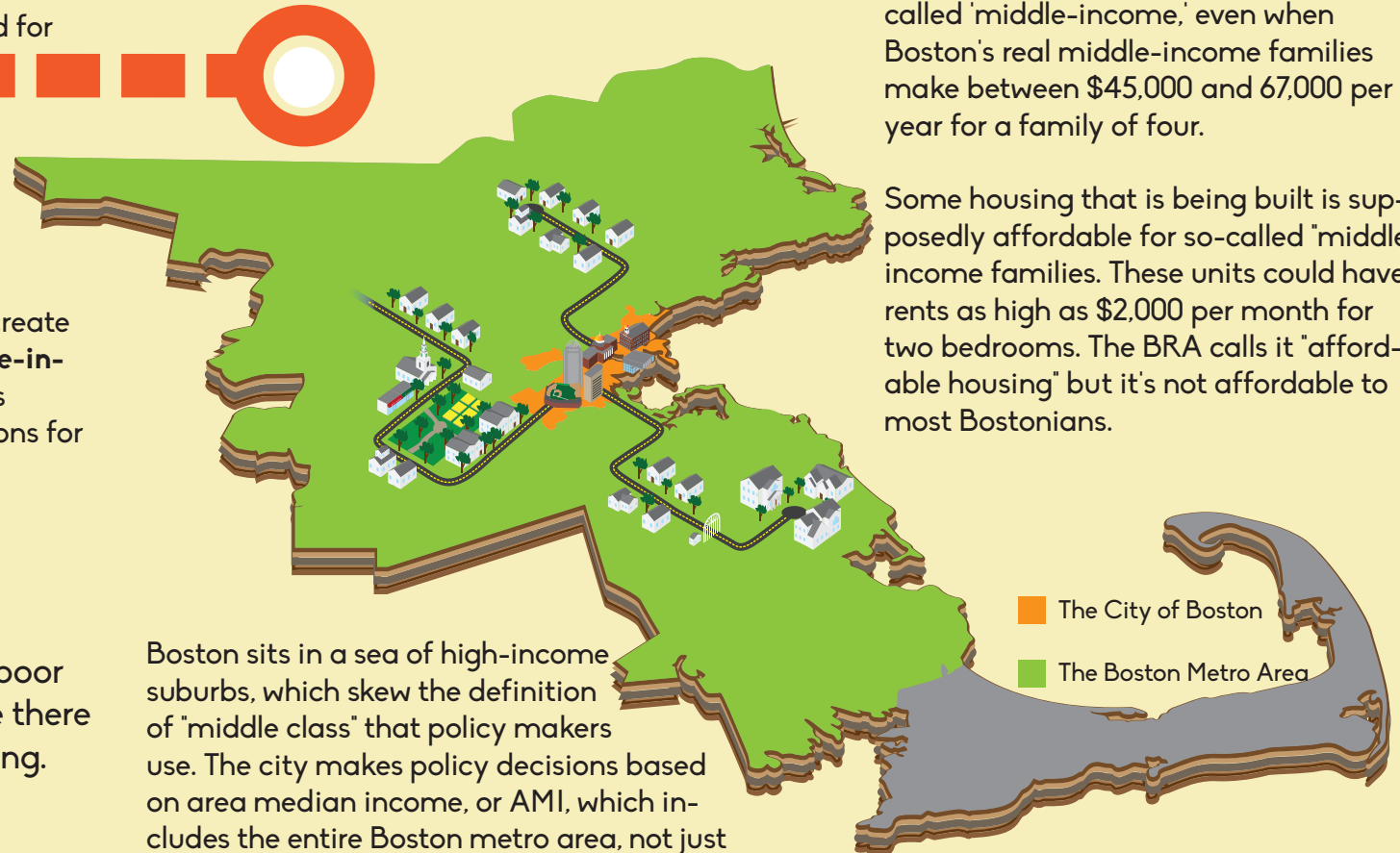
The Housing 2020 Plan propose to create thousands of new homes for "middle-income" families, saying that Boston's poorest residents already have options for housing.

Let's get some perspective.  
Let's get real:

The housing needs of half the poor are still not being met because there is not enough affordable housing.

Much of the housing that the Housing 2020 Plan proposes to build is not aimed at Boston's actual poor and middle income residents

## What does "middle class" mean in Boston today?



Boston sits in a sea of high-income suburbs, which skew the definition of "middle class" that policy makers use. The city makes policy decisions based on area median income, or AMI, which includes the entire Boston metro area, not just the city. Even wealthy suburbs as far out as Hopkinton, Marblehead, and Wellesley get factored in.

This means that families of four making from \$75,000 to 115,000 per year can be called 'middle-income,' even when Boston's real middle-income families make between \$45,000 and 67,000 per year for a family of four.

Some housing that is being built is supposedly affordable for so-called "middle income families. These units could have rents as high as \$2,000 per month for two bedrooms. The BRA calls it "affordable housing" but it's not affordable to most Bostonians.

■ The City of Boston  
■ The Boston Metro Area

## Change the definition.

Push the Boston Redevelopment Agency to use the Boston Median Income (BMI) so we can keep our true middle class in Boston.

## Move the target.

Urge the City to redirect resources to the vast majority of middle and working class Bostonians.

Help our families rise up into the middle class, not slip down into homelessness