

# Affordable housing will hurt my community.

**THE REALITY:** In communities throughout North America, studies have shown that well-designed, well-built and well-maintained affordable housing has little or no effect on neighbourhood property values.



Find out more. Visit [www.reducepoverty.ca](http://www.reducepoverty.ca)

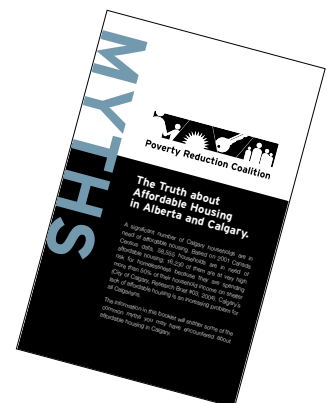
The Poverty Reduction Coalition is a community collaborative initiated and supported by United Way of Calgary and Area.



# AFFORDABLE HOUSING MYTH

People who need affordable housing are unskilled and unemployed.

**THE REALITY:** Many of the people who cannot afford current rental rates in Calgary are women and children fleeing violence. In 2006 nearly 27,000 women and children unsuccessfully sought emergency shelter in Alberta. More than half were turned away from shelters because they were full.



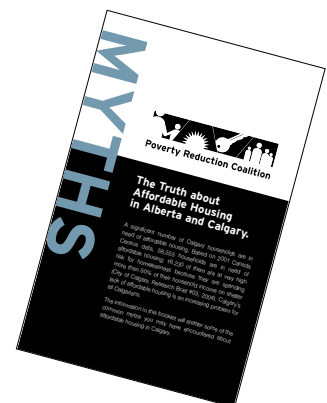
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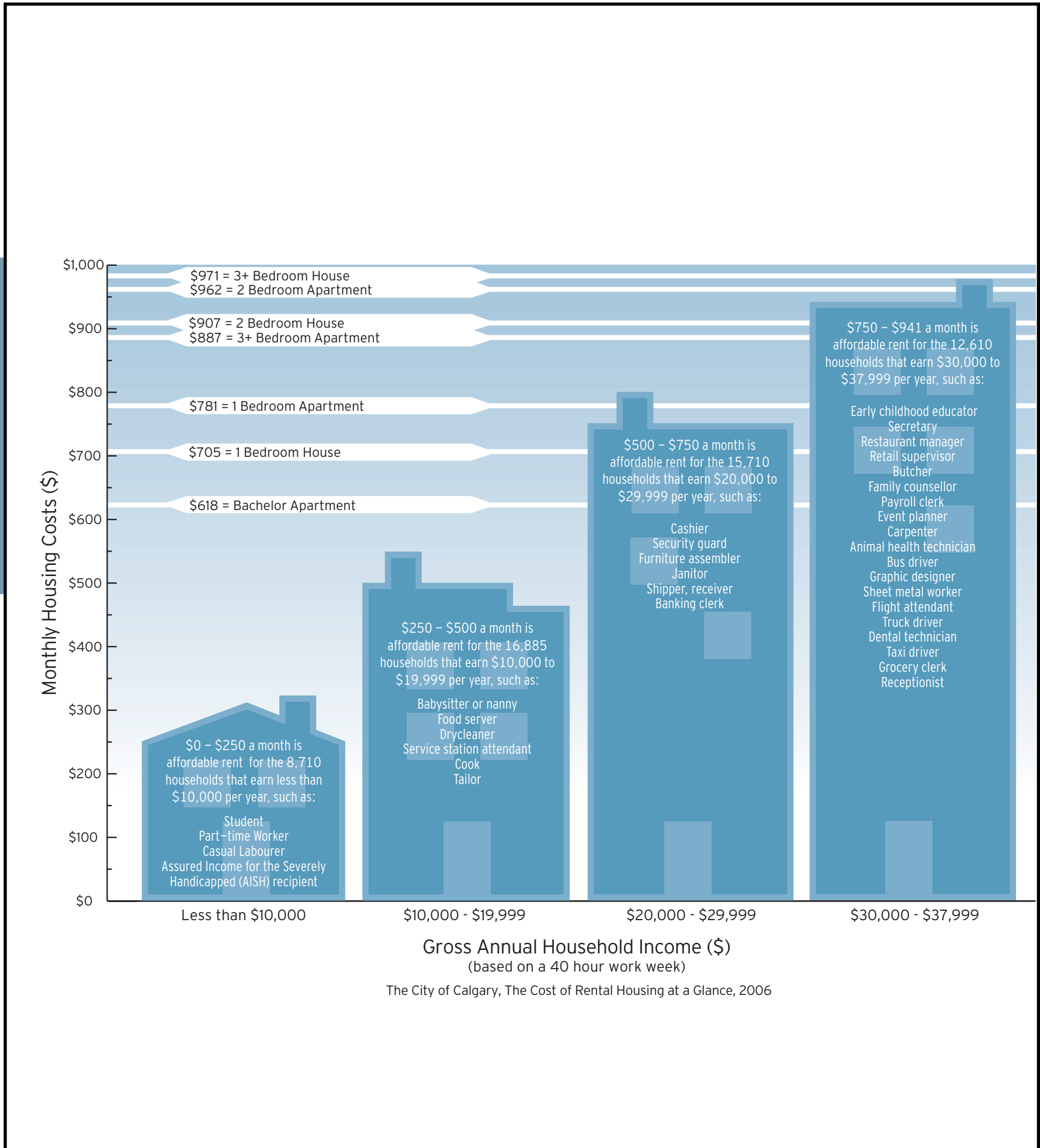
# Wages in Calgary are keeping up with housing costs.

THE REALITY: A Calgarian must earn at least \$11.87 per hour in order to afford a bachelor apartment, and \$15 per hour for a one-bedroom apartment. Based on this, roughly one-quarter of Calgary households would have an annual income that is insufficient to afford a one-bedroom apartment.



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The City of Calgary, The Cost of Rental Housing at a Glance, 2006

# The lack of affordable housing and homelessness in Calgary are proportionate to the city's growth.

Homelessness is increasing 15 times faster than the increase in the general population. In the last ten years, Calgary's population increased by approximately 30% while the homeless population increased by 460%.



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# There's nothing I can do to help the affordable housing crisis.

TRY opposing "Not In My BackYard" (NIMBY) proponents who resist affordable housing in their neighbourhoods. Champion the issues and dispel the myths.

TRY renting a legal basement suite or an extra room in your home to an individual or family.

TRY offering your employees a rewards structure that includes housing supplements, transit passes, or support for other day-to-day needs that will help them maintain their housing.

TRY talking to your circle of friends. Talk to those who can influence the policy changes that are needed to ensure that all Calgarians have safe, appropriate housing that meets their needs.



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