



Community Foundation for Nantucket

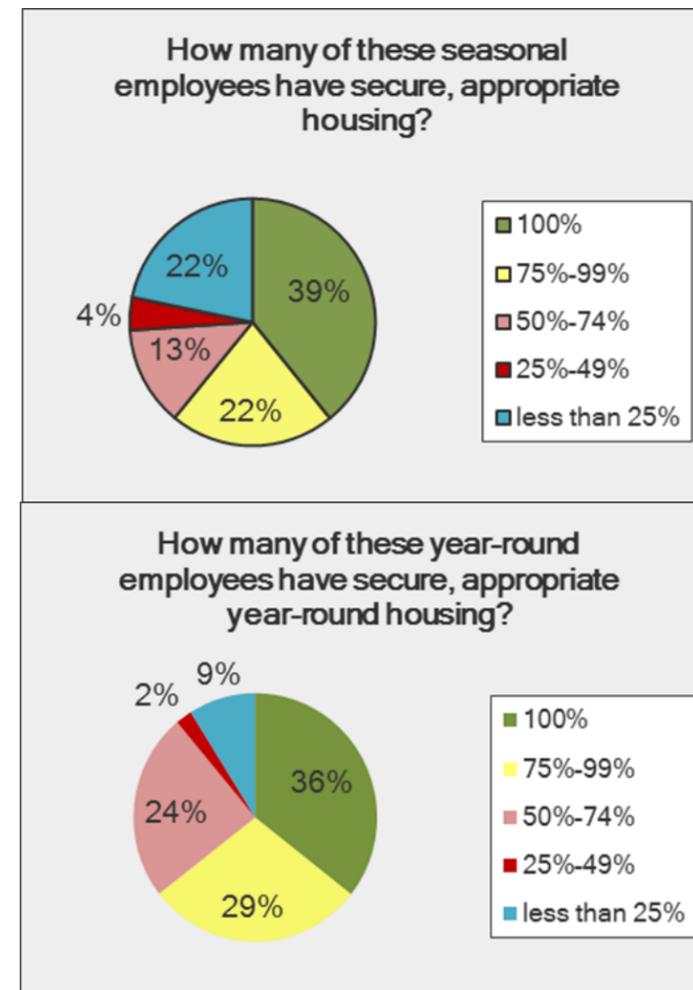
Nonprofit Housing Survey Results

In August, the Community Foundation conducted an informal survey of Nantucket nonprofit organizations. The hope was to begin a discussion about the nonprofit sector’s housing needs. Forty seven organizations responded and these are the results.

More than ½ of respondents have lost good employees because the employees were unable to find stable housing on Nantucket.

Almost ½ of all respondents believe that their employees’ inability to find secure housing on Nantucket has negatively affected the level of service they desire to provide.

1/3 of respondents have had positions unfilled for more than 6 months due to the inability to provide secure housing on Nantucket.



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Year- Round

Seasonal

Further Comments

Secure Housing

Approximately 1/3 of the nonprofits that responded have secure housing for ALL of their staff at this time. 2/3 have some need, or foreseen need.

30% of respondents supply some type of housing for their year-round employees. Of these, less than 25% of the staff receives this housing.

Rent v. Own

Of the 14 employers who do provide housing to some year-round employees, 9 employers own housing, 1 rents, and 4 both own and rent.

Financial Assistance

89% of nonprofit employers who responded do NOT offer financial assistance for year-round housing.

Of the 8 employers who do offer assistance, it is primarily to less than 25% of their year-round employees.

2 of these employers will assist with the purchase price of a home for select employees. 1 employer is considering a similar program.

Secure Housing

39% of seasonal employees have secure housing.

26% of respondents who have seasonal employees provide secure housing.

Of these, 60% supply the housing to at least 75% of their staff.

Rent v. Own

Of the 7 employers who supply housing to seasonal employees, 2 own, 1 rents, and 4 both own and rent.

Financial Assistance

Of the employers who have seasonal employees, 91% do NOT offer financial assistance for housing.

“We offer new employees three months’ rent or a stipend to assist with first, last and security deposit payments.”

“The family unit is very important to every community. Because of instability in housing, family units have been experiencing some separation. Some families had to seek off island housing and heads of families have been commuting to their place of employment in order to survive. Parking facilities have been made available to many who have to seek housing elsewhere to secure their work as well as private vehicles, in order to maintain employment. With adequate housing all these inconveniences and discomfort would be eliminated.”

“We generally do not post open positions off Nantucket because we know that it is cost prohibitive to move here for a job with the pay rates we’re able to offer. And even if the pay rate is not an issue, the ability to find housing is. This significantly impacts the pool of applicants we have access to. I have also noticed the trend of young professionals moving off the island because they don’t have a future here.”

“Barriers for workforce are not just lack of inventory but also the high price of rents.”

“Would love to explore some type of communal dormitory style housing... This is a huge issue for us! You might have also asked how much time and effort is devoted to finding then securing housing for our employees...”

“Even though we haven’t lost employees because of housing, it is a real concern and we are aware of it and the potential impact in the future.”

“Housing needs help! I am not sure what the answer is but it is impossible to grow my business because I depend on year round stable young families which are finding it harder if not impossible to secure housing.”

“My business provides [...] services year-round. I have had no choice but to contract with other professionals off island. This is 50% of team. The other 50% has secure housing and is the seasonal help. My concern is watching my single friends who are professional struggle to find year-round, affordable AND respectable rentals. People in their 40’s should not have to rent rooms. We should have apartments as an option, not full houses.”