



## SER'WA'S STORY

For Ser'wa the experience of homelessness lasted for much longer than she ever could have anticipated. After all, her Section 8 voucher was supposed to bridge the gap between low wages and high rents, but things weren't really working out that way. The search for a home took a massive toll on her health, her wallet, and her employment prospects.

With skyrocketing rents and low vacancies, Ser'wa had a very difficult time finding a place she could afford. Over the course of seven months, Ser'wa had to transfer her voucher through three different housing authority jurisdictions - Seattle, King County, and Renton - just to find an apartment. Holding down a job during this time was nearly impossible because searching for a home became its own full-time job. Near the end of her search Ser'wa wasn't sleeping, couldn't work, and couldn't address her current health needs, let alone the new ones she developed under this kind of stress. She was denied apartment after apartment, her credit score was taking hit after hit, and she felt stuck in a cycle that just wouldn't end.

Ser'wa finally found an apartment in Renton that would accept her voucher, and Catholic Community Services was able to assist with the move-in fees. With a safe and stable roof over her head, Ser'wa is now able to address her chronic health needs and seek employment. She's happy and thriving for the first time in a long time, and is beginning to recover financially. She says, "You just don't know what it's like to be homeless until it happens to you. Access to a healthy home is a life or death situation. Everything else is obsolete if you don't have a home."

The 11th district is represented by Senator Bob Hasagawa, Representative Zach Hudgins, and Representative Steve Bergquist, and is located just south of Seattle. Data below is for King County, and the Renton School District.



**15,291**

Housing Trust Fund supported homes



**10,730**

people counted without a home during the Point in Time Count, 4,505 counted as unsheltered



**506**

homeless school children



**\$23.56** PER HOUR

income needed to afford a 1-bedroom rental, \$29.29 per hour to afford a 2-bedroom



**80,450**

families who are severely cost burdened and need access to affordable homes



**\$494,500**

median home price