



# FY 2021 FAIR MARKET RENT DOCUMENTATION SYSTEM

## The FY 2021 Bellingham, WA MSA FMRs for All Bedroom Sizes

### Final FY 2021 & Final FY 2020 FMRs By Unit Bedrooms

Year	<a href="#">Efficiency</a>	<a href="#">One-Bedroom</a>	<a href="#">Two-Bedroom</a>	<a href="#">Three-Bedroom</a>	<a href="#">Four-Bedroom</a>
FY 2021 FMR	\$907	\$972	\$1,245	\$1,782	\$2,156
<a href="#">FY 2020 FMR</a>	\$846	\$905	\$1,175	\$1,695	\$2,063

Whatcom County, WA is part of the Bellingham, WA MSA, which consists of the following counties: Whatcom County, WA. All information here applies to the entirety of the Bellingham, WA MSA.

### Fair Market Rent Calculation Methodology

[Show/Hide Methodology Narrative](#)

Fair Market Rents for metropolitan areas and non-metropolitan FMR areas are developed as follows:

1. 2014-2018 5-year American Community Survey (ACS) estimates of 2-bedroom adjusted standard quality gross rents calculated for each FMR area are used as the new basis for FY2021 provided the estimate is statistically reliable. For FY2021, the test for reliability is whether the margin of error for the estimate is less than 50% of the estimate itself and whether the ACS estimate is based on at least 100 survey cases. HUD does not receive the exact number of survey cases, but rather a categorical variable known as the count indicator indicating a range of cases. An estimate based on at least 100 cases corresponds to a count indicator of 4 or higher.

If an area does not have a reliable 2014-2018 5-year, HUD checks whether the area has had at least minimally reliable estimate in any of the past 3 years, or estimates that meet the 50% margin of error test described above. If so, the FY2021 base rent is the average of the inflated ACS estimates.

If an area has not had a minimally reliable estimate in the past 3 years, the estimate State for the area's corresponding metropolitan area (if applicable) or

State non-metropolitan area is used as the basis for FY2021.

2. HUD calculates a recent mover adjustment factor by comparing a 2018 1-year 40th percentile recent mover 2-bedroom rent to the 2014-2018 5-year 40th percentile adjusted standard quality gross rent. If either the recent mover and non-recent mover rent estimates are not reliable, HUD uses the recent mover adjustment for a larger geography. For metropolitan areas, the order of geographies examined is: FMR Area, Entire Metropolitan Area (for Metropolitan Sub-Areas), State Metropolitan Portion, Entire State, and Entire US; for non-metropolitan areas, the order of geographies examined is: FMR Area, State Non-Metropolitan Portion, Entire State, and Entire US. The recent mover adjustment factor is floored at one.
3. HUD calculates the appropriate recent mover adjustment factor between the 5-year data and the 1-year data and applies this to the 5-year base rent estimate.
4. Rents are calculated as of 2019 using the relevant (regional or local) change in gross rent Consumer Price Index (CPI) from annual 2018 to annual 2019.
5. All estimates are then inflated from 2019 to FY2021 using a trend factor based on the forecast of gross rent changes through FY2021.
6. FY2021 FMRs are then compared to a State minimum rent, and any area whose preliminary FMR falls below this value is raised to the level of the State minimum.
7. FY2021 FMRs may not be less than 90% of FY2020 FMRs.

### **The results of the Fair Market Rent Step-by-Step Process**

1. The following are the 2018 American Community Survey 5-year 2-Bedroom Adjusted Standard Quality Gross Rent estimate and margin of error for Bellingham, WA MSA.

<b>Area</b>	<b>ACS<sub>2018</sub> 5-Year 2-Bedroom Adjusted Standard Quality Gross Rent</b>	<b>ACS<sub>2018</sub> 5-Year 2-Bedroom Adjusted Standard Quality Gross Rent Margin of Error</b>	<b>Ratio</b>	<b>Sample Size Category</b>	<b>Result</b>
Bellingham, WA MSA	<a href="#"><u>\$964</u></a>	\$14	\$14 / \$964=0.015	6	0.015 < .5 6 ≥ 4 Use ACS <sub>2018</sub> 5-Year

Bellingham,  
WA MSA 2-  
Bedroom  
Adjusted  
Standard  
Quality  
Gross Rent

Since the ACS<sub>2018</sub> Margin of Error Ratio is less than .5, the ACS<sub>2018</sub> Bellingham, WA MSA value is used for the estimate of 2-Bedroom Adjusted Standard Quality Gross Rent:

Area	FY2021 Base Rent
Bellingham, WA MSA	\$964

2. A recent mover adjustment factor is applied based on the smallest area of geography which contains Bellingham, WA MSA and has an ACS<sub>2018</sub> 1-year Adjusted Standard Quality Recent-Mover estimate with a Margin of Error Ratio that is less than .5.

Area	ACS <sub>2018</sub> 1-Year Adjusted Standard Quality Recent-Mover Gross Rent	ACS <sub>2018</sub> 1-Year Adjusted Standard Quality Recent-Mover Gross Rent Margin of Error	Ratio	Sample Size Category	Result
Bellingham, WA MSA – 2 Bedroom	<a href="#">\$1,153</a>	\$129	0.112	2	2 < 4 Do Not Use ACS <sub>2018</sub> 1-Year Bellingham, WA MSA 2-Bedroom Adjusted Standard Quality Recent-Mover Gross Rent

Area	ACS <sub>2018</sub> 1-Year Adjusted Standard Quality Recent-Mover Gross Rent	ACS <sub>2018</sub> 1-Year Adjusted Standard Quality Recent-Mover Gross Rent Margin of Error	Ratio	Sample Size Category	Result
Bellingham, WA MSA – All Bedroom	<u>\$1,148</u>	\$70	0.061	4	0.061 < .5 4 ≥ 4 Use ACS <sub>2018</sub> 1-Year Bellingham, WA MSA All Bedroom Adjusted Standard Quality Recent-Mover Gross Rent

The smallest area of geography which contains Bellingham, WA MSA and has an ACS<sub>2018</sub> 1-year Adjusted Standard Quality Recent-Mover estimate with a Margin of Error Ratio that is less than .5 and with a sufficient number of sample cases is Bellingham, WA MSA.

- The calculation of the relevant Recent-Mover Adjustment Factor for Bellingham, WA MSA is as follows:

ACS <sub>2018</sub> 5-Year Area	ACS <sub>2018</sub> 5-Year 40th Percentile Adjusted Standard Quality Gross Rent	ACS <sub>2018</sub> 1-Year 40th Percentile Adjusted Standard Quality Recent-Mover Gross Rent
Bellingham, WA MSA – All Bedroom	<u>\$969</u>	<u>\$1,148</u>

Area	Ratio	Recent-Mover Adjustment Factor
Bellingham, WA MSA	\$1,148 / \$969 = 1.185	1.1847 ≥ 1.0 Use calculated Recent-Mover Adjustment Factor of 1.1847

- The calculation of the relevant CPI Update Factors for Bellingham, WA MSA is as follows: HUD updates the 2018 intermediate rent with the ratio of the annual 2019 local or regional CPI to the annual 2018 local or regional CPI to establish rents as of 2019.

	<b>Update Factor</b>	<b>Type</b>
CPI Update Factor	<a href="#">1.0491</a>	Region CPI

5. The calculation of the Trend Factor is as follows: HUD forecasts the change in national gross rents from 2019 to 2021 for each CPI area and Census Region. This makes Fair Market Rents "as of" FY2021.

<b>Trend Factor</b>	<b>Trend Factor Type</b>
<a href="#">1.0392</a>	Region

6. The FY 2021 2-Bedroom Fair Market Rent for Bellingham, WA MSA is calculated as follows:

<b>Area</b>	<b><a href="#">ACS<sub>2018</sub> 5-Year Estimate</a></b>	<b><a href="#">Recent- Mover Adjustment Factor</a></b>	<b><a href="#">Annual 2018 to 2019 CPI Adjustment</a></b>	<b><a href="#">Trending 1.0392 to FY2021</a></b>	<b>FY 2021 2- Bedroom FMR</b>
Bellingham, WA MSA	\$964	1.1847	1.0491	1.0392	$  \begin{aligned}  &\$964 * 1.185 * \\  &\quad 1.0491 * \\  &\quad 1.0392 = \$1,245  \end{aligned}  $

7. In keeping with HUD policy, the preliminary FY 2021 FMR is checked to ensure that it does not fall below the state minimum.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Preliminary FY2021 2- Bedroom FMR</b>	<b>FY 2021 Washington State Minimum</b>	<b>Final FY2021 2-Bedroom FMR</b>
Bellingham, WA MSA	\$1,245	<a href="#">\$734</a>	$  \begin{aligned}  &\$1,245 \geq \$734 \text{ Use} \\  &\text{Bellingham, WA MSA FMR of} \\  &\quad \$1,245  \end{aligned}  $

8. Bedroom ratios are applied to calculate FMRs for unit sizes other than two bedrooms.

Click on the links in the table to see how the bedroom ratios are calculated.

<b>FY 2021 FMRs By Unit Bedrooms</b>					
	<b><a href="#">Efficiency</a></b>	<b><a href="#">One- Bedroom</a></b>	<b>Two- Bedroom</b>	<b><a href="#">Three- Bedroom</a></b>	<b><a href="#">Four- Bedroom</a></b>
FY 2021 FMR	\$907	\$972	\$1,245	\$1,782	\$2,156

9. The FY2021 FMR must not be below 90% of the FY2020 FMR.

	<b>Efficiency</b>	<b>One-Bedroom</b>	<b>Two-Bedroom</b>	<b>Three-Bedroom</b>	<b>Four-Bedroom</b>
FY2020 FMR	\$846	\$905	\$1,175	\$1,695	\$2,063
FY2020 floor	\$762	\$815	\$1,058	\$1,526	\$1,857
FY 2021 FMR	\$907	\$972	\$1,245	\$1,782	\$2,156
Use FY2020 floor for FY2021?	No	No	No	No	No

### **Final FY2021 Rents for All Bedroom Sizes for Bellingham, WA MSA**

The following table shows the Final FY 2021 FMRs by bedroom sizes.

<b>Final FY 2021 FMRs By Unit Bedrooms</b>					
	<b>Efficiency</b>	<b>One-Bedroom</b>	<b>Two-Bedroom</b>	<b>Three-Bedroom</b>	<b>Four-Bedroom</b>
Final FY 2021 FMR	\$907	\$972	\$1,245	\$1,782	\$2,156

The FMRs for unit sizes larger than four bedrooms are calculated by adding 15 percent to the four bedroom FMR, for each extra bedroom. For example, the FMR for a five bedroom unit is 1.15 times the four bedroom FMR, and the FMR for a six bedroom unit is 1.30 times the four bedroom FMR. FMRs for single-room occupancy units are 0.75 times the zero bedroom (efficiency) FMR.

Permanent link to this page:

[http://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr/fmrs/FY2021\\_code/2021summary.odn?&year=2021&fmrtype=Final&selection\\_type=county&fips=5307399999](http://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr/fmrs/FY2021_code/2021summary.odn?&year=2021&fmrtype=Final&selection_type=county&fips=5307399999)

### **Select a different area**

Press below to select a different county within the same state (same primary state for metropolitan areas):

Adams County, WA  
Asotin County, WA  
Benton County, WA  
Chelan County, WA  
Clallam County, WA



Select a new county

Press below to select a different state:

Select a new state

Select a Final FY 2021 Metropolitan FMR Area:

Bellingham, WA MSA



Select Metropolitan FMR Area

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