



Minnesota **H O U S I N G** Partnership

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Minnesota Housing Partnership Shows That Minnesotans Are Paying Increasingly Burdensome Amount for Housing

St. Paul, Minn. (October 3, 2006) -Minnesota Housing Partnership (MHP) trend data released today indicates that Minnesotans are increasingly paying too much for their housing.

In an effort to inform Minnesota's statewide and local leadership, MHP has constructed a set of graphs identifying key housing trends for the state and metro centers. These housing indicators, which can be found at www.mhponline.org, draw information from the Wilder Research Center, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and three Minnesota state agencies in addition to the American Community Survey, the census data released today.

"MHP is providing community leaders a comprehensive look at housing affordability," says Chip Halbach, executive director of the Minnesota Housing Partnership. "We hope our housing trend charts will remind policy makers and candidates alike that, in spite of recent leveling off of home prices, substantial problems exist for home buyers and renters. Minnesota needs to make housing a priority."

MHP's indicators show that Minnesotans paying more than 50 percent of their income on housing has more than doubled since 2000. The widely accepted benchmark for housing affordability is 30 percent of income—someone spending 50 percent of income on housing is considered severely cost burdened. In addition, the indicators illustrate the growing gap in Minnesota between the four largest occupations' wages and the income needed to afford rent for a typical apartment and mortgage for a median-priced house.

"It is troubling that for many workers a full time job does not bring enough income to afford a home or apartment," continues Halbach. "This is not good for families or the state's economy."

MHP also produced indicators that focus on Minnesota's largest metropolitan areas: Twin Cities, St. Cloud, Rochester and Duluth. All the localized indicators show data

consistent with the statewide data—housing cost is growing considerably faster than wages in all four metro areas.

The housing indicators are one in a series of MHP reports and data compilations that will be utilized on December 7th at the Homes for All! 2006 Convention. The non-partisan convention will allow Minnesota agencies, corporations, and citizens to come together, review housing trends facing the state, and take action on solutions to close the housing gap. For more information about Homes for All! 2006, visit www.homes-for-all.org.

To view the housing indicators, please visit mhponline.org.

The Minnesota Housing Partnership is a statewide nonprofit organization that advances the preservation and creation of housing affordable to low- and moderate-income people as a means of strengthening communities and families. MHP provides local governments and nonprofit housing organizations access to loans, grants and technical expertise to plan and construct housing, in addition to educating people on sound housing policies.

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