



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

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Report Ranks Minnesota Behind 30 States in Rental Housing Affordability

St. Paul, Minn. (Dec. 12, 2006) – On December 12, the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) released their annual *Out of Reach* report, detailing the nation's rental housing situation. In the report, more than 30 states were ranked “more affordable” than Minnesota on the basis of prevailing wages and rents.

Data revealed that an average renter in Minnesota earns \$11.07 per hour and needs to work 52 hours per week, 52 weeks a year to afford an average two bedroom apartment.

“This report provides a good reminder that many working families in Minnesota are not bringing in enough income to pay for basic needs,” said Chip Halbach, NLIHC board member and Minnesota Housing Partnership (MHP) executive director.

This year's *Out of Reach* corroborates a report MHP released last week, showing that nearly 48,000 (47,876) individuals and families in Minnesota were on waiting lists for public housing and the Section 8 Housing Choice voucher program in the first half of 2006. Many people on these waiting lists are either spending a disproportionate amount of their income on housing, or they are homeless. Results were obtained from a questionnaire completed by 89 housing agencies across the state.

“With the new year bringing new leadership, it's time for both Congress and the State Legislature to get serious about housing,” continued Halbach. “It's critical for children to have stable homes in order to succeed in school and for workers to be able to live near their jobs.”

More information about housing affordability and affordability indicators can be found at www.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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