Access to safe, affordable homes builds a strong foundation for families and communities. But too many Minnesotans lack good housing options.

Mirroring the state trend, the cost of rent continues to rise much faster than renter income, making it increasingly challenging for renters to make ends meet.

Income for families who own their homes is also on the decline while home values are rising, making it more difficult for families to purchase and own a home.

Countywide, 371 households pay more than 30 percent of their income toward housing costs, putting them at risk of being unable to afford basic needs like groceries, clothes, prescriptions and transportation. This includes 62% of seniors who rent and more than 94% of owners and 68% of renters who earn less than $20,000 per year.

### RENTER HOUSEHOLDS

- Median rent, 2000: $465
- Median rent, 2015: $634
- Median renter income, 2000: $22,175
- Median renter income, 2015: $23,125

Fair market rent for 2-bedroom apartment: $658

Median-income renter can afford: $578

### OWNER HOUSEHOLDS

- Median home value, 2000: $86,300
- Median home value, 2015: $117,000
- Median owner income, 2000: $51,033
- Median owner income, 2015: $47,446

Change in homeownership rate for households younger than 35 years old, 2000-2015: -53%

### COST BURDEN

- Percentage of households paying more than 30% of their income toward housing
  - Renters: 68%
  - Owners: 66%
  - Less than $20,000: 38%
  - $20,000-$34,999: 23%
  - $35,000-$49,999: 8%
  - More than $50,000: 0%
  - Seniors: 41%

COUNTYWIDE

- Total cost burdened households: 371
- Renters: 95
- Owners: 276
- Seniors: 233
WAGES: Housing remains a challenge even for workers who are fully employed. The median earnings for most of the top in-demand and high-growth jobs do not cover housing costs at an affordable level. Those working at the median wage – and especially those earning the minimum wage – cannot afford a two-bedroom apartment or the mortgage for a median-value home.

HOMESTEADING: Across the state, homelessness has declined since 2012, but too many families, seniors and children in the Northwest region are still suffering the devastating consequences of having no place to call home.

Wages & housing affordability for top in-demand jobs in Lake of the Woods County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual median income</th>
<th>Food prep &amp; serving</th>
<th>Cashier</th>
<th>Nursing assistant</th>
<th>Teacher assistant</th>
<th>Registered nurse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$20K</td>
<td>$19,281</td>
<td>$20,076</td>
<td>$24,659</td>
<td>$30,155</td>
<td>$64,479</td>
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<tr>
<td>$40K</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$35,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>$60K</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$23,688</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New job openings in Northwest Planning Area by 2024: 74,670

County median household income: $42,263

Hours / week minimum wage employee must work to afford a one-bedroom apartment: 48

HOMELESSNESS: Across the state, homelessness has declined since 2012, but too many families, seniors and children in the Northwest region are still suffering the devastating consequences of having no place to call home.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of homeless on given night in 2015</th>
<th>% change in homelessness 2012-2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>420</td>
<td>-37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of homeless CHILDREN: 155

Number of homeless SENIORS: 30