

## SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate  
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For more information contact:  
Your Name, Your Organization  
Phone Number

### Local Affordable Housing Month Activity Focuses On Awareness and Action

#### **[Describe Your Organization's Activity]**

Governor Blagojevich has declared November as Affordable Housing Month in Illinois in order to raise awareness about housing issues.

With the national economy teetering on the edge of recession for at least the past year and the foreclosure crisis continuing to deepen, the demand for affordable housing will only grow.

Foreclosures continue to rise in Illinois. From 2005 to 2007, the number of foreclosure filings in Illinois nearly doubled—to a total of almost 90,800.

1.5 million households in Illinois, more than one-quarter of all households, have a housing affordability problem because they spend more than 30% of their income on renting or owning their own home. **[Date for local areas is available at [www.dataplace.org](http://www.dataplace.org).]**

In Illinois, the Housing Wage is \$16.23 per hour. This is the average amount a household must earn to afford a two-bedroom apartment without having an affordability problem. **[Data for counties and metro areas is available at <http://www.nlihc.org/oor/oor2008>.]**

“The foreclosure crisis has refocused attention on the importance of affordable housing in people’s lives and to overall economic health,” said Sharon Legenza, Executive Director of Housing Action Illinois. “However, the foreclosure crisis is only making the affordability problem worse, as owners lose their homes and competition for affordable rental units increases.”

**[If you have a local story of someone experiencing the lack of affordable housing, you might insert it here and/or replace some of the data with the story.]**

**[Insert quote on what you hope the activity will accomplish.]**

ILLINOIS AFFORDABLE HOUSING MONTH is coordinated by Housing Action Illinois, a coalition of more than 150 organizations that works to increase resources to develop and preserve affordable housing.

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