

SAMPLE 2008 AFFORDABLE HOUSING MONTH PROCLAMATION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

WHEREAS, housing is a human right and owning and affording a home is part of the American Dream; and

WHEREAS, 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.

WHEREAS, the foreclosure crisis is hurting communities. In Illinois, 61% of all homeowners will likely feel the ripple effects of foreclosures from subprime loans due to an overall decline in property values and the resulting impact on the property tax base.

WHEREAS, workers struggle to afford the rent. A full-time worker in Illinois must earn \$16.23 per hour in order to afford the cost of an average two-bedroom apartment (\$844) without paying more than 30% of income on housing.

WHEREAS, seniors, people with disabilities and others with limited incomes need affordable places to live. Monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments for an individual are \$637. If SSI represents an individual's sole source of income, \$191 in monthly rent is affordable, while the average rent for a one-bedroom apartment is \$733.

WHEREAS, there is a shortage of rental units for those with the lowest incomes. In Chicago, there is a shortage of nearly 85,000 affordable rental units for extremely low-income households.

WHEREAS, there are long waiting lists to access housing subsidies. There are currently 92,521 Housing Choice Vouchers approved for use in Illinois but another 52,969 households are on waiting lists for these vouchers.

WHEREAS, 63,000 public housing units available in Illinois but approximately 5,000 units have been lost to demolition, conversion or abandonment since 2003. 65,184 Illinois households are on waiting lists for public housing.

WHEREAS, subsidized rental units are at risk of conversion to market-rate housing. Since 2000, more than 10,000 units of subsidized affordable housing in Illinois have been lost to market-rate conversions. Another 330,000 subsidized units are at risk of being lost in the next few years.

WHEREAS, Illinois homeless service providers are serving more people. In fiscal year 2007, state-funded homeless shelters and transitional housing programs served 47,697, a 23% increase since fiscal year 2004.

Illinois Department of Human Services, 2007. This figure does not include the City of Chicago, which does not keep track of the number of people turned away.

WHEREAS, lack of affordable housing exposes women and children to violence.

WHEREAS, fully accessible housing for people with disabilities is in short supply.

WHEREAS, many more people live in nursing homes and other institutions than necessary.

WHEREAS, the talents of grassroots organizations, non-profit housing professionals, financial institutions, elected officials, and government must be combined to address the immense challenge of ensuring that every person in Illinois has access to affordable housing.

THEREFORE, XXXXX proclaim the month of November 2008, as AFFORDABLE HOUSING WEEK/MONTH in XXXXX.