

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, all citizens require stable and affordable housing in order to achieve individual and family success, and it is essential that we have a full range of quality housing options available and accessible to meet the needs of all income groups and special needs populations in communities across the state; and,

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

WHEREAS, a full-time worker in Illinois must earn \$17.38 per hour in order to afford the cost of an average two bedroom apartment (\$907) without paying more than 30 percent of income on housing; and,

WHEREAS, in 2011, 103,003 homes in Illinois received a foreclosure filing, or, one in every 51 homes; and,

WHEREAS, the supply of affordable rental housing is inadequate. For every 100 extremely low-income renter households, Illinois has only 53 existing affordable rental units. Sixty-three percent of extremely low-income renter households spend more than 50 percent of their income on housing; and,

WHEREAS, seniors, people with disabilities, and others with limited incomes need affordable places to live. In 2010, a person with a disability receiving monthly SSI payments needed to spend 115% of their monthly income in order to rent an average one bedroom unit; and,

WHEREAS, this lack of affordable housing for people with disabilities cause many to live in nursing homes and other institutions than necessary; and,

WHEREAS, the number of people Illinois Homeless Service Providers have turned away has greatly increased within recent years. During FY10, Illinois agencies provided comprehensive shelter and transitional housing to 42,068 people, but had to turn away 36,983 requests due to a lack of space. In Chicago, providers had to turn away 4,775 requests for services for homeless youth due to a lack of resources; and,

WHEREAS, there has been a significant increase in homeless school children in Illinois. During the 2009-2010 school year, there were 33,367 students defined as homeless enrolled in Illinois public schools; and,

WHEREAS, recognizing that housing is not just about bricks and mortar, it is crucial that grassroots organizations, non-profit housing professionals, financial institutions, elected officials, government and others join forces to guide and promote affordable housing as fundamental to community and economic health; and,

THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim March 2012 as **AFFORDABLE HOUSING MONTH** in Illinois, and encourage all citizens to recognize and appreciate the importance of ensuring that every person in Illinois has access to affordable housing.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,
this THIRD *day of* FEBRUARY, *in*
the Year of Our Lord two thousand and
TWELVE, *and of the State of Illinois*
the one hundred and NINETY-THIRD



Deese White
SECRETARY OF STATE

Pat Quinn
GOVERNOR