

PROCLAMATION ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING MONTH

March 2012

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

WHEREAS, 14,055 people experience homelessness each night in Illinois.

WHEREAS, foreclosures continue to rise in Illinois. In 2010, there were 151,304 foreclosure filings in Illinois- a 52.08% increase compared to 2008.

WHEREAS, renters are one the many hidden victims of the foreclosure crisis. In 2010, there were 5,904 apartment building foreclosures containing a total loss of 17,467 units in the City of Chicago.

WHEREAS, workers struggle to afford the rent. A full-time worker in Illinois must earn \$17.38 per hour in order to afford the cost of an average two-bedroom apartment (\$904) without paying more than 30% of income on housing.

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—an impossibility—in order to rent an average one-bedroom unit.

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 pay more than 50% of their income on housing.

WHEREAS, the number of people Illinois Homeless Service Providers have had to turn away has greatly increased within recent years. During FY11, 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.

WHEREAS, homelessness among school age children is on the rise. During the 2009-10 school year, there were 33,367 students defined as homeless enrolled in Illinois public schools, representing a 27% increase over three years.

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, I, Patrick Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim the month of March 2012, as AFFORDABLE HOUSING MONTH in Illinois.