



Coalition on Homelessness
and Housing in Ohio
COHHIO

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Recession may be Over, But Ohio Renters Still Waiting for Recovery *Ohio's high cost of housing highlighted in 2011 Out of Reach report*

Washington, D.C. – Working at the minimum wage in Ohio, a family must have 1.8 wage earners working full-time – or one full-time earner working 73 hours per week – to afford a modest two-bedroom apartment, according to a national report released today.

The report, *Out of Reach 2011*, was jointly released by the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC), a Washington, D.C.-based housing policy organization, and the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO). The report provides the Housing Wage and other housing affordability data for every state, metropolitan area, combined non metropolitan area, and county in the country.

“Data from *Out of Reach* supports what we know about Ohio: low-income families are still struggling to find decent and affordable housing in communities across the state,” said Bill Faith, COHHIO executive director. “The ‘perfect storm’ of housing instability is forming in Ohio and it impacts everyone. Our foreclosure crisis continues to push troubled homeowners and tenants out of stable housing environments. At the same time, while rent and utility costs are increasing, the supply of affordable housing stock is shrinking due to demolition or a change in subsidy status.”

Another report released last week by the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University (see link below) found that nationally, one in four renters – approximately 10 million -- were spending more than half their income on rent and utilities.

In Ohio, the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment is \$704. In order to afford this level of rent and utilities – without paying more than the accepted standard of 30 percent of income on housing – a household must earn \$2,346 monthly or \$28,150 annually. Assuming a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year, this level of income translates into a Housing Wage of \$13.53, slightly higher than last year’s Housing Wage of \$13.39.

The typical renter in Ohio earns an hourly wage of \$10.76, which is \$2.77 per hour less than the hourly wage needed to afford a modest unit. An estimated 53 percent of renters in Ohio do not earn enough to afford a two-bedroom unit at the Fair Market Rent.

“While we work to rebuild our economy, our state must do everything it can to meet the basic housing needs of increasing numbers of struggling Ohio families,” Faith said.

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For additional information on the *Out of Reach* report, visit <http://www.nlihc.org/oor/oor2011/>

For information on the Harvard Study (*America's Rental Housing: Meeting Challenges, Building on*

Opportunities), visit http://www.jchs.harvard.edu/publications/rental/rh11_americas_rental_housing/index.html

COHHIO is a coalition of organizations and individuals committed to ending homelessness and to promoting decent, safe, fair, affordable housing for all, with a focus on assisting low-income people and those with special needs. Visit www.cohhio.org.