

### **Facts on Homelessness in Siouxland:**

- Approximately 100 to 140 individuals on any given night in Siouxland are staying in an emergency shelter.
- Approximately 20 individuals on any given night in Siouxland are living on the streets in Siouxland.
- More than 10,033 of Iowa's children experience homelessness each year according to the data collected by the McKinney-Vento Educational Programs.<sup>1</sup> Iowa ranks 20th in the number of homeless children and 31st in the percentage of children who are homeless.<sup>1</sup> Of the 142,000 children living in poverty in Iowa, seven out of every one hundred (7%) are homeless.<sup>2</sup>

### **Facts on Housing & Income in Iowa:**

Housing is a basic right and essential for the healthy growth and development of children. However, in every state, housing costs outpace wages and public assistance for low-income citizens.

- A two-bedroom unit priced at the Fair Market Rent (FMR) falls outside of the financial reach of a full-time worker earning minimum wage in Iowa.<sup>6</sup> One wage earner earning the state's minimum wage (\$7.25) would need to work 66 hours per week for 52 weeks per year to afford a two-bedroom apartment at FMR.<sup>7</sup>
- Even with two full-time minimum-wage earners, decent housing is just barely attainable in most places in Iowa.
- The average wage earner in Iowa fares slightly better. One wage earner earning the state's average wage for renters (\$10.51/ hour) would need to work 45 hours per week for 52 weeks per year to afford a two-bedroom apartment at FMR.<sup>7</sup> For a typical homeless family, which consists of a single mother with two children, housing is even more difficult to attain:
- The average monthly income for a single mother in Iowa

who receives public assistance is less than \$631, or roughly 50% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). 9

- This family can afford to pay \$189 per month in rent, leaving a deficit of \$429 from the amount needed to rent a two-bedroom apartment at the state's average FMR. For families in this situation, even a seemingly minor event can trigger a catastrophic outcome, pushing a family onto the streets.

### **Iowa's Housing and Income Gap**

Minimum hourly wage: . . . . .	\$7.258
Average hourly wage for renters: . . . . .	\$10.517
Hourly wage needed to afford 2-BR apartment: . . . .	\$11.887
Fair Market Rent for 2-BR apartment: . . . . .	\$6187

(Data from:

[http://www.homelesschildrenamerica.org/pdf/report\\_cards/long/ia\\_long.pdf](http://www.homelesschildrenamerica.org/pdf/report_cards/long/ia_long.pdf))

### **The Facts On: Food & Nutrition**

Access to healthy food is the basis for successful living.

50% Percentage of Woodbury County school children enrolled in the free or reduced lunch program

19% Percentage of Iowans receiving Food Assistance from SNAP.

1312 Number of Woodbury County families helped by Community Action with food in 2014

### **The Facts On: Weatherization and Energy Assistance**

Community Action Agency of Siouxland's weatherization and energy assistance services ensures low-income household's save energy and stay warm in cold weather.

2452 Number of households assisted with energy costs in

Woodbury County in 2014

79 Number of households benefitting from weatherization services in Woodbury County in 2014

### **The Facts On: Children and Families**

Low-income families need assistance with preparing their preschool children for school.

80,000 Number of low income families in Iowa with children

42% Percentage of children in Woodbury County attending pre-school in 2013

20,000 Number of children in Iowa at or below 200% of poverty not in pre-school in 2013

### **The Facts On: Seniors**

Seniors in crisis commonly need employment re-training.

\$15,528 Average social security annual income

\$15,754 135% of 2014 Federal poverty level