



NEWS RELEASE

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Nearly 28,000 Iowans Served by Homeless Service Providers in 2007

Iowa Council on Homelessness Releases 2007 Annual Report

Des Moines – The Iowa Council on Homelessness (ICH) reports that 27,571 homeless or near homeless Iowans were served by service providers throughout the state in 2007. This was an overall decrease of 1,325 from 2006 with 27 fewer agencies reporting, due to regulatory changes relating to domestic violence. Further study and review of 2008 data will indicate trends in Iowa's homeless and near homeless population.

Key findings of the 2007 report include:

- Service agencies assisted 8,534 homeless Iowa families and 9,822 individuals in 2007
- 47,498 unique people have been served during 2006 and 2007
- 56% of homeless families experienced homelessness for the first time in 2007
- 64% of homeless families cited economic/housing issues as the primary reason
- 10,206 of 27,571 people served in 2007 were under 18
- 12% of homeless individuals served in the Armed Forces
- 4 out of 10 homeless Iowans are children

“The state, through ICH is committed to ensuring that all Iowans have access to safe, decent and affordable housing. Clearly identifying Iowa's homeless population is part of Iowa's strategy to meet the needs of our most vulnerable citizens, especially crucial in the present economic environment,” said Governor Culver.

The ICH and its 38-member council work to identify issues, increase understanding, raise awareness and secure resources that will allow all homeless Iowans to become self-sufficient. The council works to cultivate resources to develop more emergency shelters and transitional housing facilities, ensure access to healthcare, as well as support efforts to create additional affordable housing units and work to improving the economy.

The 2007 Annual Iowa Homeless Report was prepared by the Iowa Institute for Community Alliances and is available at:

<http://www.iowafinanceauthority.gov/documents/filelibrary/ich/2007AnnualHomelessReport.pdf>

The Iowa Council on Homelessness was created in 2003 by Executive Order Number 33, and codified in 2008 by Senate File 2161. The state of Iowa recognizes that public and private efforts to address and prevent homelessness are in the best interests of all Iowans, and the State of Iowa is committed to ensuring all Iowans have access to safe, decent and affordable housing, health care and education. The Council is made up of 38 voting members from across the state and includes representatives of state and local governments, nonprofits, advocates and homeless or formerly homeless individuals.