



WRITTEN TESTIMONY PROVIDED TO  
**ND SENATE**  
**APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**  
DURING THE 68<sup>th</sup> LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
On March 1, 2023  
**IN SUPPORT OF**  
**HB 1014**  
REGARDING

**Appropriation for Defraying the Expenses of the Industrial Commission and the Agencies Under Its Control**

Chairman Bekkedahl  
Vice Chairman Krebsbach  
Members of the Appropriations Committee

I testify today in support of funding the Housing Incentive Fund but ask that consideration be given as to the amount of funding being proposed. Yes, \$12.5 million will begin to address some of the need for affordable housing in North Dakota. At this level, however, it will take years to truly make a difference, if at all. **A permanent funding level of \$50 million per biennium, as SB 2220 proposed, would certainly provide the opportunity for the needs of the state to truly be addressed.**

The need for affordable housing is definitely present and persistent in the State: The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) reports: “Across North Dakota, there is a shortage of rental homes affordable and available to extremely low-income households (ELI), whose incomes are at or below the poverty guideline or 30% of their area median income (AMI). Many of these households are severely cost burdened, spending more than half of their income on housing. Severely cost burdened poor households are more likely than other renters to sacrifice other necessities like healthy food and healthcare to pay the rent, and to experience unstable housing situations like evictions.”

Data from the 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) reports that 20,043 North Dakota Renter Households are Severely Cost Burdened, **paying more than 50% of the household’s income on housing costs**, to include utilities. Statistics developed by the NLIHC estimate a 15,271 unit deficit of Affordable Rental Units for ELI Households, a 17.6% increase from the 12,980 unit deficit reported just two years ago. Much, much need.



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**KEY FACTS**

**27,992**  
OR  
**24%**  
Renter households that are extremely low income

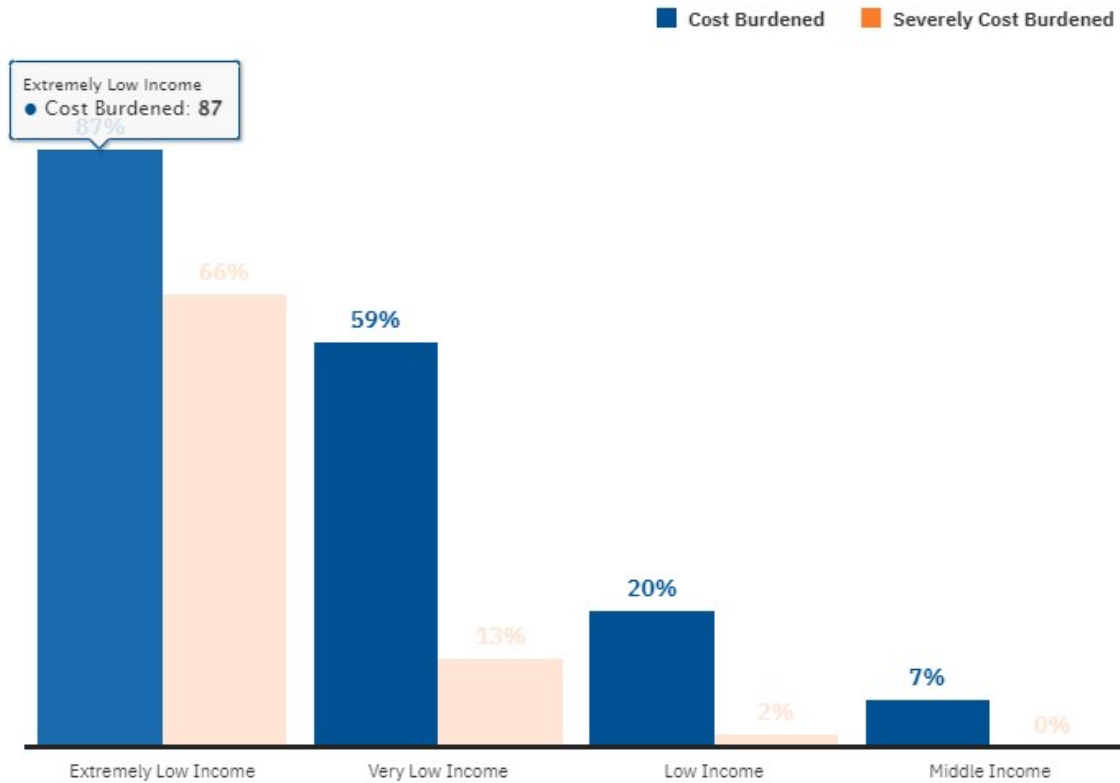
**-15,271**  
Shortage of rental homes affordable and available for extremely low income renters

**\$26,200**  
Maximum income for 4-person extremely low income household (state level)

**\$34,553**  
Annual household income needed to afford a two-bedroom rental home at HUD's Fair Market Rent.

**66%**  
Percent of extremely low income renter households with severe cost burden

### HOUSING COST BURDEN BY INCOME GROUP



**Note:** Renter households spending more than 30% of their income on housing costs and utilities are cost burdened; those spending more than half of their income are severely cost burdened.  
**Source:** NLIHC tabulations of 2020 5-Year ACS PUMS

Thank you in advance for your favorable consideration of increased and permanent funding for the Housing Incentive Fund and Thank You for all you do.

Respectfully submitted,  
Terry Hanson  
Executive Director