



## Fact Sheet

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**Fact:** Based on estimates from the National Low Income Housing Coalition, **Alabama lacks over 90,000 affordable and available homes** for individuals and families living with extremely low incomes.

**Fact: 1 in 6 Alabamians Live Below Poverty Line.** Nearly one in six Alabamians live below the federal poverty line, which is \$21,954 in household earnings for a family of four. (*US Census Bureau*)

**Fact: 2nd Largest Income Gap in the Nation.** The gap between Alabama's richest and poorest families is the second largest in the nation. Our richest families' income increased 43.7 percent from the mid-1980s to the mid-2000s, while middle-class families' income only went up 25.3 percent, and the poorest families did not see a significant increase at all. (*Center on Budget and Policy Priorities*)

**Fact:** The Fair Market Rent for a 2-bedroom apartment in Alabama is \$664. Without paying more than 30% of income on housing, a household must earn \$2,213 monthly or \$26,554 per year to afford an apartment. (*NLIHC's 2011 Out of Reach*)

**Fact:** Minimum wage in Alabama is \$7.25 per hour. If an individual earns minimum wage, s/he must work 70 hours per week, 52 weeks per year to afford the 2-bedroom apartment at FMR.

**Fact:** If an Alabama resident's sole income is SSI, the benefit is \$698 per month. To afford the 1-bedroom apartment at FMR (\$571), one must pay 81% of that amount on rent!

**Fact:** Until recently, there has been no clear state policy or coalition created to address our State's lack of affordable housing.

### **WE ARE THE *LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION OF ALABAMA (LIHCA).***

**Who are we?** LIHCA is a statewide coalition consisting of housing advocates, elected officials, banking institutions, nonprofit service providers, legal services groups, and low income persons.

**What is our mission?** LIHCA's mission is to increase housing opportunities for Alabamians with the greatest financial need.