



## MISSOURI HOUSING DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

*Strength, Dignity, Quality of Life*

3435 Broadway, Kansas City, MO 64111

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News Release/News Advisory/Request for Coverage – 07/01/2008

### **Homeless Count to Take Place on July 15th.**

The Governor's Committee to End Homelessness, Missouri Housing Development Commission, numerous not-for-profit and government agencies, and faith based organizations will partner to conduct a street count of homeless individuals throughout Missouri on July 15th as part of the 2008 Continuum of Care planning process.

The Continuum of Care concept is a community plan to organize and deliver housing services to meet the specific needs of people who are homeless as they move to stable housing and maximize self-sufficiency. The concept is designed to help communities develop the capacity to envision, organize and plan comprehensive and long-term solutions to address the problem of homelessness in the community. These steps aim to end homelessness and prevent individuals from returning to homelessness. The homeless count gives communities a better understanding of the scope of the homelessness problem in their areas. Based on the information collected, local organizations can better develop their Continuum of Care plans.

A homeless count was also conducted on January 30<sup>th</sup> of this year. The addition of a second count provides more comprehensive information as to the seasonal changes in the homeless population and insight into the continuing struggles homeless individuals face throughout the year.

Volunteers from across the state are needed to perform the count. Cash donations and food vouchers are also needed so when homeless families are found and counted, they can be provided a meal and alternative lodging. Those wishing to volunteer or donate should call the Community Initiatives Coordinators for their region.

- Jennifer Holtaway, South Region (816) 759-6614
- Mandy Fangmann, Central Region (816) 759-7203
- Nathan Stock, North Region (816) 759-7222

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Media representative questions can be directed to Brandon Laster, Public Information Officer, at 816-759-6692 or e-mail [blaster@mhdc.com](mailto:blaster@mhdc.com). If you would like to receive this release by e-mail in rich-text format, please email [blaster@mhdc.com](mailto:blaster@mhdc.com) and provide us with the appropriate e-mail address.

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MHDC is the state's housing finance agency. The Commission is dedicated to strengthening communities and the lives of Missourians through the financing, development and preservation of affordable housing. MHDC was created by the General Assembly in 1969 and since that time it has invested \$5 billion for the development of affordable rental housing and mortgages for first-time homebuyers in Missouri. MHDC functions much like a bank, providing financing directly to borrowers, developers or through a network of private lending institutions. MHDC is one of only three state housing agencies in the nation to receive an issuer credit rating of AA+ from Standard & Poor's.