

12.12.06

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Subject: **Out of Reach**

Every year it is becoming more difficult for low income families to find decent homes they can afford. A report released yesterday clearly illustrates the pressing need for affordable housing in California.

According to *Out of Reach 2006*, jointly released by the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) and The Non Profit Housing Association of Northern California, the Housing Wage for **Marin County** is \$29.83. The Housing Wage is the hourly wage a family must earn to be able to afford rent and utilities for a fair market two bedroom apartment (\$1551 a month). That is three people earning \$9.94 an hour, 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year. Or a couple would have to earn \$14.92 an hour each.

In Marin County, many retail and service positions pay wages between \$9 and \$15 an hour, most without benefits. Affordable rent and housing expenses for a household with an income of \$40,000 would be closer to \$1000 per month.

For further information about your county or municipality, please visit <http://www.nlihc.org/oor2006/> and www.nonprofithousing.org