

HOUSING

THE SITUATION

A SNAPSHOT

Can you change it?

In our community, individuals and families are struggling to pay for their current housing and then for others, affordable home ownership may be out of their reach. Without permanent housing for themselves or their families, how will they ever succeed?

Being rural works against when it comes to immediate housing.

Currently, there is only 1 homeless shelter for the EUP, located in Sault Ste. Marie, MI.

While agencies utilize their local motels, there is a real struggle to house and mentor our homeless population. While the 2014 HMIS (Housing Management Information Systems) numbers are currently being put together, the 2013 report from the MI Coalition Against Homeless, shows an increase in cases from 2012. In 2013 local EUP housing agencies reported 313 unduplicated homeless which included 9 chronically homeless. 169 of those were adults and there were 9 unaccompanied youth. 75 families reported being homeless and accessed services

through local homeless agents in the EUP.

Of these clients, 16% had some technical school or training, 22% had dropped out of high school and 62% graduated high school, but had no other training.

Fair market rent for a 2 bedroom in Luce County is \$637, \$653 in Mackinac and \$544 in Chippewa. In



order to afford housing and basic needs one must clear an annual income of \$25,000.

Then we have a population that are close to losing their homes to

foreclosure. Statistics pulled from MI Foreclosure Taskforce show that 32 (Luce) as high as 151 (Chippewa) homeowners are more than 90 days later in paying their mortgages. The average foreclosure rate for our 3 county area ranges from 10 (Luce) and 39 (Chippewa) homes per month.

So how can we improve affordable housing in our region and keep people in their homes? Think outside the box! Community Impact means going to the root of the problem.

SOME STATISTICS

Total Population

Luce	6,522
Mackinac	11,137
Chippewa	38,917

Total Poverty

Luce	21.1%
Mackinac	16%
Chippewa	19.1%
State of MI	17.4%

Vacant Housing Units

Luce	1,931 up 26%
Mackinac	5,986 up 37%
Chippewa	5,956 up 16%

For 2013:

- 59% of homeless females
- 67% 1st time homeless
- 66% doubled up w friends
- 58 homeless EUP families
- Average age of homeless child in the EUP is 5 years
- Average age of a homeless adults in EUP is 31 years
- 41% were homeless more than 1 occurrence