



Shelter Is a Basic Need: Preserve \$1 Billion for Affordable Places to Live

Next to food, adequate shelter is the most fundamental of human needs. In California, however, rising rents and job losses have made families the fastest growing segment of our homeless population. As well, foreclosures are forcing more families into the rental market, further reducing the available supply of affordable rentals and driving rents even higher.

These facts highlight the most valuable role of redevelopment funds in our communities: The production of affordable places to live. On its own, the private market does not build enough apartments with rents Californians can afford. Public investment is crucial to providing these choices in the market.

Redevelopment is the second largest source of public investment behind the federal government. **Each year, redevelopment's**

Low and Moderate Income Housing Funds generate more than \$1 billion that prevents homelessness by building affordable apartments. Since 1993, these funds have built 98,000 affordable places to live for families like Alissa and her son (above).



The governor's proposal to wipe-out this production pipeline is particularly frightening right now, because state housing-bond funds are running dry, and there is no identified replacement. California still has no dedicated funding for the state housing trust fund.

The legislature is faced with many tough decisions to balance the budget in 2011. **But eliminating redevelopment agencies without preserving the \$1 billion will make it even more difficult for California families to find affordable places to live.**

We urge legislators to stand up for the idea that a core function of government is preventing homelessness among people with disabilities, seniors, and other vulnerable Californians. Preserve \$1 billion for this most basic of human needs.



Mutual Housing at Norwood, Sacramento



Paseo Santa Clara, Oxnard



Washington Square, Sacramento