**Fiscal Facts: Median rents exceed affordability in 16 Wisconsin counties**

Based on 2016 U.S. Census Bureau estimates, 16 counties in Wisconsin had gaps between the county’s median renter household income and the county’s median rent. The data represent five-year averages (2012-16) and are the most recent figures available for all Wisconsin counties.

Kenosha County, which had a median rent of $865 in 2016, had the largest gap in the state. The county’s median monthly income among renter households was $93 short of being able to afford the county’s median rent without exceeding the recommended standard of 30 percent of household income. Milwaukee County had a similar gap of $91 per month.

The counties with the largest gaps are scattered across the state. In addition to Kenosha and Milwaukee counties, Adams County in central Wisconsin ($67) and Iron County in northern Wisconsin ($60) had the largest gaps. Eight of the 16 counties with gaps have populations under 50,000, meaning rental affordability challenges are not unique to urban counties.

This information is a service of the Wisconsin Policy Forum, the state’s leading resource for nonpartisan state and local government research and civic education.