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SWK555/SWK355: Social Welfare Policy and Services
Lesson 5: Activity Journal 3

As a 37-year-old single mom living in New York City, finding an affordable apartment on a minimum wage income is a constant struggle. I recently spent hours scouring the internet and local newspapers in search of a single occupancy apartment that would fit my budget.

After hours of searching, I finally found an apartment in a less desirable neighborhood that was listed for \$1,200 per month. Based on the HUD guidelines, I would need to make \$4,000 per month in order to afford this apartment without being rent-burdened. This translates to an hourly wage of \$25, which is significantly higher than the current minimum wage in New York State.

As a single mom, I work 40 hours per week at a job that pays minimum wage, which currently stands at \$15 per hour in New York State. This means that even if I worked full-time, I would only be able to afford an apartment that costs around \$500 per month.

It's frustrating to realize that even with a full-time job, finding an affordable place to live is almost impossible in New York City. The cost of living is simply too high, and the minimum wage hasn't kept up with the rising cost of rent.

As a single mom, I am constantly worried about providing a safe and stable home for my children. It's disheartening to think that many families like mine are forced to live in overcrowded or unsafe conditions simply because they cannot afford to pay the high rent prices in the city.

Overall, the experience of trying to find an affordable apartment in New York City has been a frustrating one. As a single mom working on minimum wage, I am left with very few options and limited resources. It's clear that something needs to be done to address the affordable housing crisis in the city, and I hope that policymakers will take action to provide more affordable housing options for low-income families like mine.