



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### —BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA TO BENEFIT FROM \$10,000 GRANT TO PLAN FOR HOUSING IMPROVEMENT—

**St. Paul, MN (May 25, 2012)** – A \$10,000 grant to revitalize core Bemidji neighborhoods was recently awarded to Headwaters Regional Development Commission (HRDC). The grant will invest in areas of Bemidji where services and jobs are close at hand, by making blighted city lots available for the development of new affordable housing.

Through a planning process funded by the grant, foreclosed and/or vacant properties that are not practical for rehabilitation will be purchased and demolished so that lots can be made ready for redevelopment. HRDC will partner with other organizations to build new, affordable homes on each lot.

The \$10,000 grant was made through MHP's Sustainable Community Engagement Fund. This fund assists nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and communities outside of the seven-county Twin Cities metro area and Duluth, in becoming strong, successful affordable housing providers. Through financial and technical support from MHP, the Sustainable Community Engagement Fund promotes community efforts to build housing development capacity and integrate affordable housing with transportation, jobs, schools, and family services.

"We really appreciate the support of the Minnesota Housing Partnership through this grant, and the financial support of the Northwest Minnesota Foundation. With funding now in place, the HRDC will be able to create an effective strategy to improve neighborhoods by removing severely deficient structures and replacing them with new affordable family homes," said Aaron Chirpich, of the HRDC.

The Minnesota Housing Partnership, a statewide nonprofit, advances the preservation and creation of housing affordable to low- and moderate-income people as a means of strengthening communities and families. MHP provides local governments and nonprofit housing organizations access to loans, grants, and technical expertise to plan and construct housing; it also advocates for and educates people on sound housing policies. MHP's work in Greater Minnesota is primarily supported by **The McKnight Foundation** and **Minnesota Housing**.

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