



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Bill Vanderwall
Minnesota Housing Partnership
(651) 925-5541 or
Bill.vanderwall@mhponline.org

Todd Peterson
City of Roseau
(218) 463-5003 or
tpetersn@mncable.net

—ROSEAU, MINNESOTA TO BENEFIT FROM \$10,000 GRANT TO PLAN FOR REGIONAL GROWTH—

St. Paul, MN (September 4, 2012) – The City of Roseau, on behalf of the Roseau County Affordable Housing Fund Committee (RCAHF), was recently awarded a \$10,000 grant to conduct a county-wide housing study – the first step in creating more housing choices for this growing region.

Since the last housing study was completed, the region has experienced significant changes in the housing stock and the population demographics. Polaris Industries, one of the area's major employers is expanding, drawing new workers to the region and creating the need for more affordable housing options.

The completion of a housing market study is the first step in a broader planning process intended to make sure that housing is affordable and well-located near jobs. The median commuting distance for Roseau County workers is 68 miles. Todd Peterson, the Community Development Coordinator at the City of Roseau noted the study will help the RCAHF understand how to best use local resources to meet the housing needs of the community.

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.

About RCAHF: The Roseau County Affordable Housing Fund was created to address affordable housing issues in the county. The group administers a \$500,000 revolving down payment assistance program for local residents to purchase housing in the county.

About MHP: 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**.

###