

# Strengthening Rural Communities Program

Building local capacity to advance housing and community development

**Rooted in Minnesota but recognized as a leader nationwide, Minnesota Housing Partnership specializes in working with rural communities and tribal entities to strengthen their communities.**

Through a competitive application process, the **Strengthening Rural Communities Program (SRC)** provides technical assistance to rural communities to overcome impediments to successful planning and implementation of affordable housing, economic and community development projects.

Through this program, MHP provides one-on-one technical assistance to eligible rural housing development organizations, including community development corporations, community housing development organizations, local governments and Native Indian tribes.

Our community development team has extensive experience working directly with communities, regions and organizations to achieve their housing and community development goals. From innovative planning practices to knowledge of complex federal housing programs, our proven track record of financial and technical expertise gives organizations the ability to build and preserve housing and community assets.



“Working with MHP has allowed our organization to tackle some really thorny problems in an intentional and thoughtful way. We are a small organization working on some really ambitious large-scale projects in an extremely rural community, so access to technical assistance has been a critical force multiplier for us. We have been able to take advantage of MHP's in-house expertise as well as work with some fantastic third parties that are authorities in their respective fields.”

Aaron Cooper | Executive Director  
International Sonoran Desert Alliance

Through SRC, MHP is working with stakeholders in Ajo, Arizona, to assess market demand for Ajo Plaza commercial spaces, and market them to small businesses.



Through the Strengthening Rural Communities program, MHP worked with stakeholders of the Lac du Flambeau Ojibwe in Wisconsin on the vision and implementation of a new Indian Bowl that will include exhibit space, a new performance arena and more. "Through the years, many families here have been a part of the Indian Bowl shows, sharing our culture and heritage for all to learn what we as Anishinaabeg are all about," said Georgine Brown, President of the Waaswaaganing Indian Bowl. "The rebuilding of the Indian Bowl will once again revitalize the community economically as tourists and visitors come to learn and share."

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Strengthening Rural Communities Program provides assistance for rural communities in:

- » Increasing affordable housing development and rehab capacity, including multi-family housing development to address the needs of the lowest-income residents
- » Increasing capacity to access program funding (particularly HUD programs) and layer subsidies, and related need for early-stage project financial assistance
- » Increasing project and program capacity to develop supportive housing and deliver supportive services, particularly for growing senior populations in rural areas
- » Increasing the capacity of program participants in comprehensive sustainable community and economic development projects

To apply, beneficiaries must be

- » located in a rural community and
- » focused on addressing affordable housing and/or community or economic development issues

Projects must

- » Articulate a compelling need for technical assistance in an underserved community;
- » include credible plan to address a compelling need;
- » have staff and organizational leadership to undertake the proposed work;
- » align with other organizational work and community efforts; exhibit sound financial capacity;
- » and demonstrate clear, measurable outcomes



**Learn more and apply at [mhponline.org/SRC](https://mhponline.org/SRC)**

For additional program information, please reach out to Sarah Belleful, Community Development Director at 651-952-5558 or [sarah.belleful@mhponline.org](mailto:sarah.belleful@mhponline.org)

**MHP is an equal opportunity provider.**