



Minnesota **H O U S I N G** Partnership

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## **Minnesota Housing Partnership Supports Affordable Housing Development in Greater MN with \$124,965 in Loans and Grants**

**St. Paul, Minn. (August 21, 2006)** – On August 16, the Minnesota Housing Partnership awarded \$124,965 in loans and grants to support affordable housing development in Greater Minnesota. Grant funds will be used to do predevelopment planning for a variety of projects from upgrading existing housing facilities for energy efficiency, to creating a low cost, low maintenance storm water infiltration system compatible with adjacent wetlands.

The award recipients include Pequot Lakes Housing and Redevelopment Authority; Crookston Housing and Redevelopment Authority; Central Minnesota Housing Partnership; West Central Minnesota Communities Action; Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership; Northern Communities Land Trust; Ottertail Wadena Community Action Council; Three Rivers Community Action; Becker County Housing and Economic Development Authority; and Morris Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

Representative of these awards is MHP's grant for a market study and architectural work in Morris, MN. There, city officials and the University of Minnesota are collaborating to convert the old Morris Elementary School, a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places, into affordable housing for the area's growing workforce and student population.

"The school project is the single largest redevelopment within central Morris, and the school is Morris's largest historic building," says Morris Housing and Redevelopment Executive Director Melanie Fohl. "Successful redevelopment will allow Morris residents to adaptively reuse a valued historic building that contributes to community character and identity."

This round of grants offered by MHP also included \$26,000 in awards specifically earmarked for green predevelopment planning.

"We are very excited about furthering green and sustainable development in smaller communities. We need to know what technologies make sense there to ensure healthy,

environmentally sound homes for generations of residents,” said Chip Halbach, Executive Director of Minnesota Housing Partnership.

The Minnesota Housing Partnership is a statewide nonprofit organization that 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. MHP’s capacity building work in Greater Minnesota is primarily supported by The McKnight Foundation. For more information go to [www.mhponline.org](http://www.mhponline.org) and click on “Loans & Grants.”

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