



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

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Communities in Southwest Minnesota Receive Over \$16,000 in Grants to Address Significant Workforce Housing Shortage

Area Employers Identifying Housing Shortages as a Local Concern

St. Paul, Minn. (June 7, 2007) – On June 5th, Minnesota Housing Partnership awarded two grants totaling \$16,987 to help Murray County and the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership to address area workforce housing shortage. With its \$9,987 award, Murray County will complete a housing study identifying the type and amount of housing they need to meet area job growth. Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership will use their \$7,000 grant towards predevelopment costs of approximately 24 multi-family and 15 single-family units in Worthington.

Southwestern Minnesota is experiencing significant job growth with Monogram Foods in Murray County adding 53 new jobs and Suzlon Energy in Pipestone County adding over 200 new jobs. Additionally, Swift & Company, one of the area's largest employers, is expanding their business and replacing the roughly 230 workers lost in December's federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids.

Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership, which is involved with Murray housing study as well as the Worthington project, says these funds are critical in addressing the areas' changing workforce housing needs. "While it was believed that the raids would open up some housing units in the local market, this has not been the case," explained Rick Goodemann, executive director of Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership. "We are finding the demand for housing continues to be strong and this can create strain for area employers when their prospective and new employees are unable to find housing."

"Housing has become an issue, not just in Murray County, but in surrounding communities as well," said Amy Hoglin, economic development director for the Murray County Economic Development Authority (EDA). MHP's grant will allow the EDA to assess the county's evolving affordable housing needs. "With Minnesota Housing Partnership's grant we will be able to identify the types and amounts of housing we need to strengthen our community."

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, in addition to educating people on sound housing policies.

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