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## **MHP Awards \$31,000 to Four Greater Minnesota Organizations to Assist Affordable Housing Efforts**

**St. Paul, Minn. (December 8, 2008)** – At its December meeting, Minnesota Housing Partnership’s Loan and Grant Committee awarded four grants totaling \$31,000. Recipients include Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership (SWMHP), Albert Lea HRA, Red Wing HRA, and Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC).

SWMHP will use its \$3,000 grant to increase its financial tracking capacity. The \$5,600 award to Albert Lea HRA will go towards updating the county-wide housing study and comprehensive plan. Red Wing HRA’s \$10,000 grant is slated to fund a new housing needs assessment. Five cities in Itasca County will utilize ARDC’s \$12,500 grant to create community/comprehensive plans. Notably, all recipients of funding for housing studies, assessments, and planning will be coordinated with new Minnesota Housing and Department of Employment and Economic Development requirements.

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 advocating and educating people on sound housing policies. MHP’s work in Greater Minnesota is primarily supported by The McKnight Foundation.

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