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## **WITH DAMPENED HOUSING MARKET, DEMAND FOR AFFORDABLE HOMES REMAINS**

**— MHP Awards \$70,500 to 4 Greater Minnesota Organizations  
to Meet Housing Needs —**

**St. Paul, MN (August 14, 2009)** – To meet Minnesota's continued need for affordable homes, at its August meeting the Minnesota Housing Partnership's (MHP) Loan and Grant Committee awarded grants in Clay County, Montevideo, and Hibbing totaling \$20,500, plus a \$50,000 loan in Bemidji:

- **Bemidji Supportive Housing–Headwaters Housing Development Corporation** received a \$50,000 Predevelopment Loan toward the Bemidji Supportive/Transitional Housing Project— five newly constructed 4-plexes for Bemidji families. The project addresses Bemidji's significant supportive housing needs for families. The completed development will include ten 3-bedroom units, five 2-bedroom units, and five 1-bedroom units.
- **Montevideo Economic Development Authority (EDA)** will use its \$7,500 Community Building Grant to commission an updated housing study: the new market data will focus the EDA's activities and limited resources to ensure housing development and funding partners meet Montevideo community needs.
- **Hibbing Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA)** will use its \$10,000 Community Building Grant to commission an updated housing study. Besides an overall market analysis, the City is requesting a site-specific study for the proposed Hibbing Woods development, a 478-acre vacant parcel near the Hibbing airport.
- **Clay County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA)** received a \$3,000 Capacity Building Grant, for training its commissioners at the NAHRO 2009 Annual Conference (National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials) in Duluth. In the past two years, Clay County HRA created a number of housing programs and initiatives that are just beginning implementation, while its board membership changed significantly.

MHP's executive director, Chip Halbach, said people across Minnesota need a variety of housing choices they can afford: "We know too many families are having to choose between paying for their housing and paying for their food or health care. This much-needed funding will help meet the range of housing needs for communities in the northern and western parts of our state."

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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.