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## **MINNESOTA HOUSING PARTNERSHIP AWARDED \$773K FROM HUD FOR MIDWEST TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONSORTIUM**

**— Experts to assist communities managing backlog of foreclosed homes —**

**St. Paul, MN (August 27, 2009)** – The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) awarded the [Minnesota Housing Partnership \(MHP\)](#) \$773,000 as lead-agency in a Midwest consortium to provide [Neighborhood Stabilization Program \(NSP\)](#) technical assistance. MHP is to coordinate and work with the [Greater Minnesota Housing Fund \(GMHF\)](#) and the [Wisconsin Partnership for Housing Development \(WPHD\)](#) in four states—Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Nebraska.

The regional consortium is among recipients of \$50 million in recovery act funds to assist local communities in stabilizing neighborhoods hard hit by foreclosure. HUD awarded \$44.5 million to nine national organizations and another \$5.5 million to help local communities purchase, rehabilitate, and resell foreclosed properties. MHP executive director Chip Halbach commented on the consortium's unique plan to meet unique regional challenges: "We appreciate the opportunity to join with the Housing Fund and the Wisconsin Partnership to collectively offer Midwestern communities an experienced support team to help put families back into foreclosed properties."

As part of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009, the money is a second round of [NSP](#) grants, through which HUD seeks to improve program effectiveness—particularly in communities with few staff and technical expertise. HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan said the awards are one more resource neighborhoods and communities need: "Thanks to the Recovery Act, we are able to dispatch experts into these communities to help them better manage their neighborhood stabilization programs so that small problems don't become big ones."

Warren Hanson, president of Midwest consortium partner [GMHF](#), says their organization will work outside the Twin Cities metro with an emphasis on Green rehabilitation: "It is GMHF's mission to address the urgent need for safe, decent, affordable housing in Greater Minnesota and this work will support local efforts to spur sustainable neighborhood revitalization."

[WPHD](#)'s executive director, Bill Perkins, says that their organization will take on technical assistance for Wisconsin, Iowa, and Nebraska: "The Wisconsin Partnership is very excited about being part of this innovative regional approach to addressing the foreclosure crisis in the Midwest."

State and local governments use NSP funding mainly to purchase foreclosed properties and rehabilitate them. Grantees can also offer down payment and closing cost assistance to low- to moderate-income homebuyers—or create "land banks" to assemble, temporarily manage, and dispose of vacant land for the purpose of stabilizing neighborhoods.

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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.