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Minnesota Housing Partnership

MHP Awards \$210,000 in Grants to Address Emerging Housing Issues across State

St. Paul, Minn. (March 12, 2008) – Minnesota Housing Partnership is pleased to announce its 2007-2008 Organizational Investment Program (OIP) award winners. This round of awards total \$210,000, an investment provided primarily by the McKnight Foundation, and include five different organizations from across Minnesota.

MHP's 2007-2008 OIP funding is devoted to supporting organizations across Minnesota that face an emerging or identifiable affordable housing need requiring a new or unique solution. The program also supports organizations that require new internal capacity to execute a new or unique solution that address an emerging or identifiable issue. Since the program's inception in 1996 it has awarded over \$2.2 million in organization support throughout the state.

This year's award winners are as follows:

Clay County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), Moorhead

Clay County HRA will receive \$60,000 over two years to implement two strategies. The first will address workforce housing needs through the restructure of existing public housing (24 units) and the development of tax credit rental housing (30-64 units) plus homeownership (8-20 units). The second strategy will focus on supportive housing with the development of permanent supportive housing (24-36 units) and a homeless outreach program (4-12 units).

Headwaters Housing Development Corporation, Bemidji

Headwaters will receive \$60,000 over two years to expand Headwaters into new markets and develop new models serving a broader income niche. The OIP funds will be used to hire a development specialist to expand the scope and expertise of the organization in the Northwestern part of Minnesota.

Northern Communities Land Trust (NCLT), Duluth

NCLT will receive \$30,000 over two years to support a capacity building plan that will expand its service area from Duluth to include

the Northeast region of Minnesota (St. Louis, Cook, and Carlton Counties) and develop capacity around alternatives to the land trust model.

Semcac, Rushford

Semcac will receive \$60,000 over two years to address the impact of the August 2007 flood that caused significant damage in the area. Semcac staff and its offices were directly impacted and their existing programs are serving a critical need in the community. Semcac will use the money to increase its capacity to address the area's changing housing needs.

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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