



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

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Minnesota Housing Partnership Awards \$27,749 in Grants to Affordable Housing Organizations in Greater Minnesota

St. Paul, Minn. (June 21, 2006) – On June 6 the Minnesota Housing Partnership awarded seven affordable housing programs in Greater Minnesota grants totaling \$27,749 to support their efforts to create affordable housing.

The grant recipients include Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Central Minnesota Housing Partnership's City of Longville project, Central Minnesota Housing Partnership's City of Holdingford project, City of Lake City, City of Arlington, City of Wells, and Crosier Fathers of Onamia.

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (LLBO) says that their grant has come at a critical time—most tribally funded program budgets have been cut by 20% for fiscal year 2006 and 2007 and the infrastructure of the reservation is not growing at the same pace as the population.

"The growing gap between the number of affordable housing units and the number of people needing them is a continuing crisis for our very-low income Native American residents," said Gloria Dudley Director of the LLBO Planning Division.

LLBO plans to use their grant to build their capacity to provide supportive housing for some of their most vulnerable families. "The most effective strategy is to improve and build social infrastructure for people who are leaving corrections, mental health, foster care, or substance abuse facilities to help ease the transition back into society," explained Dudley. "Getting into safe and affordable housing can be the basis to build a sense of security that is necessary to deal with these very real obstacles."

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. MHP's capacity building work in Greater Minnesota is primarily supported by The McKnight Foundation. For more information go to www.mhponline.org and click on "Loans & Grants."

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