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DEMAND FOR AFFORDABLE HOMES REMAINS, DESPITE HOUSING MARKET DOWNTURN

— *MHP Awards \$52,500 to 3 Greater Minnesota Organizations
to Meet Housing Needs* —

St. Paul, MN (May 1, 2009) – To meet Minnesota’s continued need for affordable homes, at its April meeting the Minnesota Housing Partnership’s Loan and Grant Committee awarded one grant each in Lincoln County and Southwest Minnesota, totaling \$12,500, plus one loan for \$40,000 in the Fargo-Moorhead community:

- **Lincoln County Enterprise Development Corporation (LCEDC)** will use its \$2,500 community-building grant toward strategic planning as it develops long-term sustainable housing in Lincoln County’s rural communities. In 2008, the communities of Lake Benton and Hendricks completed studies identifying housing needs in their towns and surrounding areas.
- **Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership (SWMHP)** was awarded a \$10,000 community building recoverable grant to evaluate three acquisition and renovation possibilities—in Worthington, New Prague, and Hutchinson—for a Low Income Housing Tax Credit multifamily project. Rehabilitation projects like this ultimately not only maintain much-needed housing while improving a neighborhood’s appearance, but also increase energy efficiency, thus reducing area energy demands.
- And **Clay County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA)** received a \$40,000 Predevelopment Loan, at 0% interest, to move ahead with Gateway Gardens—a 24-unit building to meet a serious homeless housing shortage in the Fargo-Moorhead community. Clay County HRA will be working with Beyond Shelter, Inc. as a co-developer, and Creative Care for Reaching Independence (CCRI) will provide on-site supportive services.

MHP’s executive director, Chip Halbach, said that people across Minnesota need a variety of housing choices they can afford: “These three awards will help meet a range of housing needs for communities in the western third 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.

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