



**MINNESOTA HOUSING PARTNERSHIP CONSORTIUM IS 1 OF 13
SELECTED BY HUD TO PROVIDE NEW “PLACE BASED ASSISTANCE”
--Will Help Communities with Integrated Approach to Revitalization—**

St. Paul, MN (May 4, 2011)-- This week the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded the Minnesota Housing Partnership (MHP) \$750,000 as lead-agency in a consortium established to assist communities under HUD's new integrated approach to community revitalization. MHP is one of 13 awardees nationwide to be so selected.

This award represents a change in how HUD works with states, communities, and nonprofit organizations. Rather than providing technical assistance for the administration of individual federal housing programs, HUD will rely on the 13 awardees to provide “place-based” assistance for more broadly-based integrated community development. HUD calls this approach “OneCPD” (for HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development).

MHP, a past provider of program-based technical assistance for HUD, expanded its technical assistance team to broaden its geographic scope and the skills needed to carry out HUD's new approach. MHP expects HUD to focus MHP's assistance activities on communities in the upper Midwest.

The MHP consortium includes the Wisconsin Partnership for Housing Development (Madison, WI), Great Lakes Capital Fund (Lansing, MI), Sound Thinking (Seattle, WA), and from the Twin Cities: Bonestroo Inc., the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers, and Affordable Housing Connections.

In addition to support with affordable housing, the MHP consortium will be able to help communities with business and community planning, economic development projects, infrastructure planning, construction management, sustainable design and natural resource protection, market research, financial management, and organizational development.

“HUD asked us to be able to deliver a broad array of services to assure comprehensive community impact,” said Chip Halbach, MHP Executive Director. “The tremendous diversity of expertise among our technical assistance partners enables us to support stronger and more resilient communities throughout our service area.”

MHP expects to be able to start delivering assistance under the HUD grant later this year.

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