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## Conifer Estates Helps Fill Wide Gap in Affordable Rental in Beltrami County

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In Beltrami County, for every 100 extremely low-income renters there are only 55 units that are affordable and available to them, according to the 2012 County Profiles released this week from the Minnesota Housing Partnership. Conifer Estates, an affordable housing project developed by Headwaters Housing Development Corporation, recently opened in Bemidji to help ensure that there is housing options for even the poorest families in the county.



Once fully occupied, Conifer Estates will house 19 homeless families. Ten of the units are set aside for tribal members. Residents will have access to supportive services such as life-skills training, money management, employment referrals, counseling, and crisis intervention. Tribal members will have access to additional services provided by their tribe.

Conifer Estates is a collaborative effort between Headwaters Housing Development Corporation, Beltrami County HRA, Red Lake Nation, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, and Bi-County Community Action Programs, Inc. (Bi-CAP).

Conifer Estates offers families a fresh start, where their children can grow and play and where additional support is only a phone call away. One of the first residents-to-be approached Bi-CAP for assistance when the ceiling in his dilapidated mobile home was falling down and he and his family were without running water. He later told program staff that Conifer Estates "will be the nicest place we have ever lived. Our luck has been bad for years and now I feel that things have turned around."

**About HHDC:** The Headwaters Housing Development Corporation (HHDC) is a nonprofit subsidiary corporation of Headwaters Regional Development Commission. Its mission is to develop affordable housing and home ownership opportunities for low and moderate income households in the Headwaters Region.

**About MHP:** The Minnesota Housing Partnership ([www.mhponline.org](http://www.mhponline.org)) supports affordable housing development for low- and moderate-income people to strengthen Minnesota communities and families. MHP provides information, consulting, training, resources and advocacy for communities to bolster options for safe and affordable housing.

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