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Minnesota Awarded Nearly \$1 Million for Rural Development, Highest in the Nation
-MHP One of Five Recipients-

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Five Minnesota organizations have been selected to receive nearly \$1 million in funding to help rural communities create jobs and improve infrastructure and housing. The awards are made by the USDA Rural Development Department. Minnesota received the most funding of any state.

The Minnesota organizations selected to receive funding will work in rural communities spread throughout the state. Award recipients include [Region Five Development Corporation](#), [Greater Minnesota Housing Fund](#), [The Initiative Foundation](#), the [Minnesota Homeownership Center](#) and the [Minnesota Housing Partnership](#).

In total, Minnesota will benefit from a \$943,421 investment. Receiving this competitive award will enable rural Minnesotan communities to access technical assistance and services tailored to meet local needs. Some of the proposed activities will:

- Strengthen the capacity of nonprofit agencies in Brainerd and five counties in central Minnesota to rehab and create housing called for in a recent two-year regional planning effort.
- Help immigrant families purchase homes in Southern Minnesota, and expand this program to other parts of the state.

The USDA's Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) program helps community-based development organizations, federally recognized Indian tribes and other groups promote economic growth in low-income, rural communities. Recipients are required to obtain matching funds, which increases the value of the grants.

The Minnesota Housing Partnership will use its \$200,000 RCDI grant for collaborative planning to ensure that communities can meet changing housing needs and increase economic stability. For example, MHP will help communities north of the Twin Cities respond to vacancies and uncompleted subdivisions, outgrowths of the foreclosure crisis.

To learn more about the other Minnesota recipients, [click here](#).

About MHP: The Minnesota Housing Partnership (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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