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Minnesota Housing Announces Investment of \$254 Million in Housing
State and Federal resources will leverage \$572 million in private and local funding to create and preserve more than 2,665 homes across Minnesota

ST. PAUL, MN – Governor Tim Walz and Minnesota Housing Commissioner Jennifer Leimaile Ho joined community leaders at Sabathani Community Center in Minneapolis today to announce \$254 million in funding to create and preserve more than 2,665 homes throughout the state, including rental units and single-family homes.

The announcement outlined funding for 74 developments that support more than 5,025 jobs and will leverage additional private and local resources for more than \$572 million in total development costs. Each of the projects announced today was selected through a single common application process with funding from Minnesota Housing, Greater Minnesota Housing Fund and the Metropolitan Council.

“This investment means more Minnesota families will be able to live in a home they can afford in a community of their choice, and more businesses will be able to attract and retain the employees they need to thrive,” said Governor Walz. “While this funding puts us on the right path forward, we still have work to do. I look forward to our continued conversation on how to provide housing options that meet the full spectrum of needs of Minnesota’s growing population.”

Minnesota continues to face a significant housing shortage, especially for low- and moderate-income residents. Nearly half a million households in Minnesota spend more than 30% of their income on housing.

“Housing is foundational to everything we do. It’s how children succeed, it’s how families build wealth, it’s how we age well, it’s how communities thrive,” says Commissioner Ho. “To meet the needs of Minnesotans, we need more than 300,000 homes in the next decade to keep pace with growth.”

One of the projects selected this year is the new Sabathani Senior Homes apartment building in Minneapolis, which will provide 48 seniors with an affordable place to call home.

“It’s almost impossible to find an affordable housing option here,” said Mamie Favor, Sabathani Senior Center volunteer. “We’re looking forward to having a place that meets our mobility needs and fits our budget.”

This year’s selections also prioritize closing the homeownership gap for households of color and indigenous communities. A \$1.5 million investment in Lower Sioux Indian Community will fund first mortgage financing for 10 households to purchase single-family homes in the Lower Sioux Indian Community and 10-mile service area.

“I think our housing would be at a loss without these funds from Minnesota Housing,” said Larry Swann, Housing Director at Lower Sioux Indian Community. “We’ve been able to step in and change a lot of lives within our community.”

“Having an opportunity to have our own house is a wonderful thing,” said Stephen Davis, a new homeowner in the Lower Sioux Indian Community. “It’s a miracle. Without it I’m not sure where we would be.”

The projects selected today strengthen Minnesota’s communities and meet our growing housing needs by:

- **Providing more housing for workers.** More than half of the projects announced today will fund new construction rental homes that will provide critical housing for workers and maintain economic competitiveness for employers. New housing will support businesses large and small in Greater Minnesota communities like Hackensack, Elk River, Duluth and Rochester, as well as the Twin Cities metro area.
- **Creating more affordable housing in suburban areas.** Many suburban communities understand that a mix of housing options is essential to a thriving community for all residents. This year, 14 selected developments will create and preserve more than 500 housing opportunities in high opportunity areas like Edina, White Bear Lake, Plymouth, Roseville and Prior Lake.
- **Preventing and ending homelessness.** These selections support the *Heading Home Together: Minnesota’s 2018-2020 Action Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness* by investing in 556 units for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. An example is Anishinabe III in Minneapolis, which will provide 34 units of low-barrier, long-term permanent supportive housing offering culturally specific services for people living with chronic addictions.
- **Expanding opportunities for homeownership.** Minnesota Housing invests in a range of ways to bring homeownership opportunities to more Minnesotans, recognizing that homeownership is the primary way that most families build wealth. We help drive down the cost of single-family homes by financing first mortgages, providing downpayment assistance, and helping acquire, rehabilitate and construct high quality homes. This year we’ll invest \$16 million to support the creation and preservation of 509 single-family homes.
- **Investing in what works.** For more than a decade, Minnesota Housing has partnered with Three Rivers Community Action Inc. to help households of color and indigenous communities achieve and succeed in homeownership. Since 2009, Three Rivers has assisted 147 households with affordability gap assistance totaling more than \$1.3 million. This year, Three Rivers will receive \$200,000 to assist 20 more households in southeast Minnesota.

View a catalog of funded developments, maps and a detailed breakdown of all funding awards at mnhousing.gov.

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