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Minnesota Housing Announces Affordable Housing Investments of \$126 Million
State and Federal resources will leverage \$346 million in private and local funding to create and preserve 1,823 affordable housing opportunities across Minnesota

Governor Dayton worked with the Legislature to secure more than \$42 million in Housing Infrastructure Bonds and \$25 million in State Appropriations for projects

ST. PAUL, MN – Minnesota Housing Commissioner Mary Tingerthal, Congresswoman Betty McCollum and other community leaders gathered today at an emergency shelter for Native American families to announce funding to create and preserve over 1,800 affordable housing opportunities throughout the state. The investments in 60 developments support more than 3,400 jobs and will leverage additional private and local resources that will result in nearly \$350 million in total development costs.

“This funding will stimulate jobs and economic development across our state, while providing housing for Minnesotans in need,” said Governor Mark Dayton. “I thank Minnesota Housing for their work in securing these new investments, and putting these funds to good use in our communities. I look forward to working with the Legislature to make additional investments next session.”

The announcement today also signaled hope for one young person, Norma Jean, who joined housing leaders to talk about the new Ain Dah Yung Center and the promise it brings for her. Ain Dah Yung is a joint project with Project for Pride in Living designed to meet the specific cultural needs of Native youth ages 18-24 who have left the foster care system. The new development to be constructed on University Avenue will provide 42 young people like Norma Jean a safe and stable place to call home.

“The Ain Dah Yung Center was a stepping stone for me to becoming more empowered as a young Native person. The emergency shelter staff embraced me when I needed them and taught me a lot of things, but none of it would have mattered if I didn’t have a safe place to live. I am so excited about the new permanent supportive housing project...if this would have been available when I was exiting out of transitional housing, I might have been able to continue my education. This project is going to will give so many young people a chance to have even more opportunities to be successful and stop homelessness,” said Norma Jean, a former Ain Dah Yung Center participant.

“As we hear more every day about the rising rents, the loss of low-cost rental units and the shortage of lower cost single family homes, we know that more people are having trouble finding a place they can afford to live,” said Mary Tingerthal, Commissioner of Minnesota Housing. “These investments will make an important difference in communities across the state.”

“The Ain Dah Yung Center is a great example of public and private investors working together to ensure stable, affordable housing in our communities,” said Congresswoman Betty McCollum. “As Congress finalizes fiscal year 2018 funding levels and deliberates potential tax reform, we must protect the federal housing tax credit that helps us build more affordable housing for Minnesota families.”

Each of the 60 projects announced today was selected through one common application process with Minnesota Housing and its funding partners the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, and the Metropolitan Council.

“As Minnesota prospers, every region of the state has a growing demand for more workforce housing that is affordable, and at the same time there is a persistent need for more supportive housing for homeless families,” said Warren Hanson, President & CEO of Greater Minnesota Housing Fund. “To address these urgent needs, we are proud to partner with Minnesota Housing to fund these developments, each of which will provide stable homes and a foundation for better health and educational outcomes.”

These awards include more than \$25 million in state appropriations and \$42 million in funding from Housing Infrastructure Bonds that were part of the 2017 state capital investment bill, and \$4.5 million from funding partners. Highlights of the funding awards and the people and places impacted through these resources include:

- **Ending homelessness and serving people with disabilities:** Twenty-one projects include more than 400 units for people who have experienced homelessness – from Ain Dah Yung to Garfield Square, a new 50-unit rental development in Duluth and the Dorothy Day Residence in St. Paul with 177 units of permanent supportive housing on the former site of the Dorothy Day Center. These developments also represent an increase in housing choices for people with disabilities, more than doubling the number of apartments serving this important need since last year.
- **Housing for workers:** With estimated growth of more than 27,000 new households in Scott County by the year 2040 and current demand for affordable housing opportunities to meet the need of employees at business like Amazon and Shutterfly, these investments add 111 new places to call home in Savage and Shakopee. This will help Scott County move closer to their vision to create housing options that give people in all life stages and of all economic means viable choices for safe, stable and affordable homes. Similar projects in greater Minnesota, including 224 units in North Branch, Willmar, and Detroit Lakes will create housing that supports businesses large and small.
- **Investing in what works:** In addition to finding new solutions to housing challenges, Minnesota Housing invests in trusted partners who achieve results. Funding awarded today will help construct 54 new Habitat for Humanity homes across the state, preserve 271 aging rental units, and build more than 1,100 new rental apartments with housing partners who build high quality affordable housing and understand the needs of communities.
- **Innovative homeownership options along the entire housing continuum:** From the construction of manufactured homes in Southern Minnesota, to the innovative House3 concept in Duluth that creates affordable and energy efficient homeownership options, to the development of new affordable single family homes in the City of Baudette, investments in 264 single family homes will expand successful homeownership opportunities and develop of new housing units.
- **Adaptive reuse underutilized buildings across Minnesota:** The City of New Ulm lost more than 250 affordable housing opportunities since 2000 and the last affordable rental housing was added in 1994. Funding announced today will both meet the needs of a changing and growing population and lay the groundwork for the adaptive reuse of the State Street Middle School to create 55 new housing opportunities in the heart of downtown New Ulm.

The awards announced today for limited competitive resources are part of a larger set of housing investments. Minnesota Housing will invest more than \$1 billion this year as outlined in its annual Affordable Housing Plan, and is on pace for near historic production of more than \$600 million in mortgages for new homeowners, a third of which are households of color.

Minnesota Housing awarded \$79.9 million in 2016, \$92 million in 2015, and \$161.6 million in 2014. Financing sources include deferred loans, amortizing loans and tax credits. You can view a catalog of funded developments, maps and a detailed breakdown of all funding awards at mnhousing.gov.

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