Thank you for your continued partnership during this time. Please see below for the latest round-up of Multifamily news and updates as well as information about Minnesota Housing’s Capacity Building Initiative.

In this eNews:

COVID-19 Signage for Multifamily Properties

Governor Walz issued Executive Order 20-81 on July 25, 2020, requiring people in Minnesota to wear a face covering in all indoor businesses and public indoor spaces. While people are not required to wear a face covering in their private living unit, face covering is required in all common areas of a multi-unit residential building. For people who are unable to wear a face covering due to a medical or mental health condition or disability, landlords, property managers, and homeowners associations must provide a clear way to request a reasonable accommodation to face covering requirements in common areas.

We have some graphics that you can post in your common areas to help spread the word. Post these signs (color or black and white) in your hallways and other shared spaces to remind your residents to wear their masks.

For more information on the state of Minnesota’s face covering requirements, please see information provided by the Minnesota Department of Health.

Thank you for doing your part in keeping your residents safe.

End of Construction Punch List and Warranty Inspection for Occupied Buildings during COVID-19

Minnesota Housing understands inspecting occupied units for end of construction punch inspections or for 11 month warranty walk-throughs may not be safe during COVID-19 for development teams so entering occupied units is not required for either inspection at this time. Here is what development teams can do instead:

- If it can be done safely while maintaining physical distancing, it is acceptable to inspect building common areas and exteriors.
- Development teams can interview management staff and maintenance staff to assess occupied unit conditions.
- Development teams can survey their tenants and comments and photos received from them may also be used.

If you have any questions about how to complete end of construction punch inspections or 11 month warranty walk-throughs, please contact your assigned Minnesota Housing staff architect.

As a reminder, Minnesota Housing staff cannot attend either of these inspections at this time.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Evictions Moratorium

On September 4, 2020, the federal government through the Centers for Disease Control released a policy for protecting renters and providing housing stability by halting evictions related to nonpayment of rent through December, 2020 if individuals and families meet certain requirements. Good news for Minnesota renters: they currently have protections that have broader coverage. At this time, landlords may not evict tenants for nonpayment of rent or breach of lease or terminate leases, except in the limited circumstances set out in the Governor’s Executive Order 20-79. Read our Frequently Asked Questions about the Executive Order to learn more.

Available Funding: Capacity Building Initiative

Minnesota Housing’s Capacity Building Initiative is intended to build organizational capacity to address housing disparities, build power in communities most impacted by housing challenges and disparities, pilot innovative solutions to housing challenges, and support inclusive and equitable communities. We want organizations and communities to use their knowledge and creativity to develop strategies that work for them.

Applications are due by noon on Monday, September, 28. Read this eNews to learn more about the initiative and how to apply.

www.mnhousing.gov