Iskufilan Village Workforce Housing – A Project Summary

- St. Cloud is facing a serious workforce housing shortage—one that is forcing working families, and small business owners, to live in unstable or unaffordable conditions.
 Iskufilan Village is a direct response to this crisis.
- This project, led by the Center for African Immigrants and Refugees Organization (CAIRO), will provide 70 new, quality housing units for working families, building a stronger, more connected community where families can thrive.
- 10% percent of this will be allocated for affordable housing.

Why This Matters

- Nearly half of St. Cloud's renters are cost-burdened, meaning they spend more than 30% of their income on housing.
- Frontline workers—Manufacturing and production employees, Retail/Service employees, the people keeping our hospitals, schools, and businesses running—struggle to find homes they can afford.
- Stable housing leads to stable families, which strengthens the workforce, local economy, and community as a whole.

Project Details

- 70 units of workforce housing (2-, 3-, and 4-bedroom homes designed for families)
- Green spaces, playgrounds, and community spaces to foster connection.
- Energy-efficient design to keep long-term costs low.

Project Investment

- The total project cost is \$20 million. CAIRO has already purchased the land for \$1.2 million and is working to braid funding from multiple sources, including private investment, philanthropy, and other grants.
- This project is shovel-ready, with construction planned to start in late 2025 and completion by late 2026 or Early 2027.
- We are asking the state to invest \$5 million through \$F2503. This funding would play a
 critical role in moving the project forward and ensuring housing remains affordable for
 working families.
- Supporting SF2503 is about making sure our working families in Greater Minnesota have a place to live. It's about building a stronger Minnesota. We urge the committee's full support to make Iskufilan Village a reality.

