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**Date:** January 11, 2018

**To:** Representative Pat Garofalo , Chair, Job Growth and Energy Affordability  
Representative Karen Clark, DFL Co-Lead, Job Growth and Energy Affordability  
Representative Greg Davids, Chair, Taxes  
Representative Paul Marquart, DFL Lead, Taxes  
Senator Torrey Westrom, Chair, Agriculture, Rural Development and Housing Finance  
Senator Kari Dziedzic, DFL Lead, Rural Development and Housing Finance  
Senator Jeremy Miller, Chair, Jobs and Economic Growth  
Senator Bobby Joe Champion, DFL Lead, Jobs and Economic Growth  
Senator Roger Chamberlain, Chair, Taxes  
Senator Ann Rest, DFL Lead, Taxes

**From:** Mary Tingerthal, Commissioner, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency

**Subject:** Workforce Housing Development Program

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 462A.39, Subdivision 6, Minnesota Housing is required to report on the projects that receive grants or deferred loans under the Workforce Housing Development Program. While we are still receiving applications for the first round of funding, we wanted to provide an update on the program.

### **Summary of Program**

In 2017 the Legislature authorized Minnesota Housing to establish the Workforce Housing Development Program, which was previously administered by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). The program will award funds to small and mid-sized Greater Minnesota communities with workforce rental housing needs. Applicants will request funds in the form of a grant or a deferred loan. Once awarded, communities will administer the funds during project construction.

### **Timeline**

The application for funds was released on October 31, 2017 and applications are due on January 25, 2018. Funding recommendations will be presented at Minnesota Housing's March 2018 board meeting. The timeline for this round of funding was consistent with the program when it was administered by DEED.

## Program Resources and Outreach

Minnesota Housing staff has made several program resources available to applicants on the Workforce Housing Development Program [webpage](#), including:

- [Program Guide](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)
- [Application Checklist](#) that includes help text with guidance on individual application items
- A live webinar. The [recorded version](#) is available to watch on the webpage. The [presentation slides](#) are also available for reference.

Minnesota Housing has provided several outreach opportunities, including:

- Minnesota Housing has also partnered with the League of Minnesota Cities to market the program to interested communities.
- In-person information sessions in Thief River Falls and Melrose at an event co-sponsored by the League of Minnesota Cities
- In-person information session in Windom
- Phone call technical assistance
- Three eNews communications which were sent to a distribution list of over 1,400 individuals. A [link](#) is posted on the webpage to sign up for future Workforce Housing Development Program eNews communications.

If you have any questions, please contact Ryan Baumtrog, Assistant Commissioner for Policy at 651-296-9820 or [ryan.baumtrog@state.mn.us](mailto:ryan.baumtrog@state.mn.us)