

Northeast Minnesota/ Hwy 169 Housing Readiness Planning Meeting Participants and other Interested Parties

We want to thank everyone for attending the Northeast Minnesota / Hwy 169 Housing Readiness Planning session. Over 70 people participated representing many sectors of the regional housing industry including builders, developers, housing organizations, realtors, banks, large-scale industrial employers, funders, and governmental officials. We feel the session provided the opportunity to share concerns and identify processes that moves housing planning and development efforts forward.

Linked are all the resources distributed and created at the meeting ([click here to view](#)).

My (Ellery's) initial thoughts are that the meeting demonstrated that a unified, collaborative regional; approach to housing planning and project implementation is ready to be put in place. There was consensus around a few items:

- Greater Minnesota Housing Fund (GMHF), Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), Blandin Foundation, Minnesota Housing, and Minnesota Housing Partnership underscored the importance of regional collaboration to help address short and long-term affordable housing needs through collaborative planning and project coordination.
- Greater Minnesota Housing Fund and Blandin Foundation committed \$1 million to support the development of planned affordable housing projects and to help create long-term housing solutions on the Iron Range.
- A dynamic region-wide market study, designed to be updated as economic and housing development projects occur, will begin in September with assistance from Greater Minnesota Housing Fund. This dynamic modeling tool requires substantial, in-kind participation from local housing officials and policy makers to ensure that the professional market research team can attain needed data, such as local vacancy rates, and private sector rental management contacts.
- Data collected from the market analysis and needs assessment projections will be used to create a regional Housing Action Plan(s). The Housing Action Plan will identify housing needs, available resources and housing production targets and strategies. The Housing Action Plan will address both regional and sub-regional components based on the large geographic region and logical sub division of Highway 169 corridor for planning purposes.
- A relationship between the Iron Range Large Scale Regional Response Team and regional housing strategy group will be established to ensure economic development and housing issues are considered together.

- Having someone who understands housing issues that assists with the coordination and implementation of housing efforts will create more efficiency in the system. This “project expeditor” would ensure faster and smoother housing creation across the region.

Next week a small group of dedicated people will debrief the meeting further and develop specific steps based on meeting discussions and survey results, you will be kept informed about the progress.

The following documents are in the [linked pdf](#) document.

Meeting Agenda and Objectives MHP	GMHF &
Coordinated Regional Response to Large Scale Development Paper Iron Range Large Scale Regional Response Team Lansky	Randy
NE Minnesota County Map Hwy 169 Large Scale Development Area Map List of Recent Northeast Minnesota Housing Studies Housing Studies Themes and Summary	MHP
Funders Summary Visual Report MHP	GMHF &
Market Plan and Housing Analysis	GMHF
Chart Information from Afternoon Session MHP	GMHF &
Afternoon Session Visual Summary MHP	GMHF &
Pre-registered Attendees MHP	GMHF &
Press Releases MHP	GMHF &

Again, thank you for your participation and ongoing support.