South Central Regional Housing Forum

June 10th, 2026, 9:30am to 3:30pm
Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center,
1 Civic Center Plaza, Mankato, MN 56001

(Event Page Link)

9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.	**Coffee, Light Breakfast and Check In**
10:00 a.m. to 10:10 a.m.	**Welcome** *Mayor Najwa Massad, City of Mankato* *Region 9 Economic Development Commission* *Ryan Baumtrog, Deputy Commissioner, Minnesota Housing*
10:10 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.	**Regional Housing Data and Housing Research Presentation**
Regional Housing Data paints a picture of housing affordability in the South Central Region. From home costs and rental rates to average wages, this key data will help us identify regional housing needs to inform solutions. ***Jill Henricksen,*** *Community Development Manager, Minnesota Housing Partnership*	
10:20 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	**Community Voices, Community Solutions: Addressing Housing Together**
This panel will highlight local efforts to meet housing needs in the community. Panelists will emphasize the importance of collaboration and including the perspectives of lived experience of housing instability in planning and decision-making. **Panelists:** ***Shameka (Meme) Simpson,*** *Advising Member of the River Valleys Continuum of Care* ***Devan Mortwedt****, Community Resource Coordinator, City of Mankato* ***Lourdes Menjivar****, South Central MN Regional Director COPAL* ***Trisha Anderson****, Executive Director, Partners for Housing* **Moderator:** ***Jennifer Prins****, River Valleys Continuum of Care Coordinator*	
11:00am to 11:10am	**Break**
11:10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	**Pre-Development & Technical Assistance**
Learn about the first steps your community can take to get started on your community housing goals. Find out about available technical assistance and community planning support, as well as the financing options to cover pre-development expenses. ***Irene Ruiz-Briseño****, Senior Program Manager, Greater MN Housing Fund* ***Jill Henricksen****, Community Development Manager, Minnesota Housing Partnership*	
11:30 a.m. to Noon	**Minnesota Housing Agency Updates and Overview** ***Ryan Baumtrog****, Deputy Commissioner, Minnesota Housing*
12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.	**Lunch – Lunch Remarks 12:35p.m. to 12:45p.m.** ***Andrea Brennan*****,** CEO & President, GMHF in celebration of 30 years

South Central Regional Housing Forum

June 10th, 2026, 9:30am to 3:30pm
Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center,
1 Civic Center Plaza, Mankato, MN 56001

(Event Page Link)

12:45 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.	**Discussion: Housing Priorities and the Future of Housing in the Region**
An interactive conversation to identify housing needs, development barriers, and emerging opportunities that can help guide the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and broader economic and community development efforts across South Central Minnesota.	
1:15 p.m. to 1:55 p.m.	**Multifamily Development Panel**
Communities need all types of housing from supportive housing to workforce housing. Learn how developers and local partners are leveraging multifamily financing to expand housing options in their communities. **Panelists:** ***Chris Dalton****, City Manager, City of New Ulm* ***Timothy Pautsch****, City Administrator, City of Henderson* ***Nancy Bokelmann****, Assoc. Director of Housing & Economic Development, City of Mankato* ***Dan Walsh****, Vice President of Housing Development, Trellis* **Moderator:** ***Sara Bunn****, Workforce Housing & Engagement Manager, Minnesota Housing*	
1:55 p.m. to 2:35 p.m.	**Homeownership Development and Opportunities Panel**
Discover how communities are using a variety of approaches to increase single family development, preserve manufactured housing and expand homeownership opportunities in their community. Panelists will highlight how they used a variety of funding sources and strategies to increase the supply of and affordability of homeownership. **Panelists:** ***Laura Helle,*** *Housing & Homeownership Director, Three Rivers Community Action* ***Mary Grack,*** *Senior Lending Specialist, Partnership Community Land Trust* ***Staci Thompson,*** *Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity Martin-Faribault Counties* ***Celia Simpson Viesselman****, Community & Business Development Specialist, City of Madelia* **Moderator:** ***Tal Anderson****, Community Initiatives Manager, Minnesota Housing*	
2:35 p.m. to 2:50 p.m.	**BREAK**
2:50 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	**Moving the Needle Together: A Cross-Sector Housing Conversation**
In this final panel, we look tie it all together and move the needle. Developers, local governments, lenders, and community organizations discuss how different parts of the community can come together to make it easier to make progress towards housing development and housing solutions. **Panelists:** ***Chad Adams****, Executive Director, Southwest MN Housing Partnership* ***Todd Prafke****, City Administrator, City of St. Peter* ***Dave Berglund****, Real Estate Development Director, CoNorth* ***Kris Heichel****, Branch Manager, Fairway Home Mortgage* **Moderator:** ***Nancy Bokelmann****, Assoc. Director of Housing & Economic Development, City of Mankato*	

MINNESOTA HOUSING · REGION NINE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION · GREATER MINNESOTA HOUSING FUND · CELEBRATING 30 years · mhp community development