



## Southwest Regional Housing Forum

August 11, 2026, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Prairie's Edge Casino Resort, Granite Falls



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**9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**      **Coffee, Light Breakfast and Check In**

**10:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.**      **Welcome Remarks**

*Tribal Chairman Kevin Jensvold, Upper Sioux Community*  
*John DeCramer, Board Chair, Minnesota Housing*  
*Commissioner Jennifer Ho, Minnesota Housing*

**10:15 a.m. to 10:35 a.m.**      **Regional Housing Data and Housing Research Presentation**

This session will set the stage with an overview of housing conditions and key data in Southwestern Minnesota. It will outline strategies for how communities can identify and elevate their local housing needs and the critical role local leaders play in investing time and resources to build the homes communities need to thrive

**Presenter:**      *Anne Mavity, Executive Director, Minnesota Housing Partnership*

**10:35 a.m. to 11:05 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:**      *Angela Larson, Director of Family Services, United Community Action Partnership*  
*Stephanie Blue Arm, Lived Experienced Speaker with United Community Action Partnership*  
*Tanya Ostensen, Emergency Services Director, Prairie Five Community Action Council, Inc.*

**Moderator:**      *Alyssa Wetzels-Moore, Community Development Director, Minnesota Housing*

**11:05 a.m. to 11:20 a.m.**      **Pre-Development & Technical Assistance**

Greater Minnesota Housing Fund (GMHF) staff will share 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.

**Presenters:**      *Nate Dorr, Senior Program Manager – Rural and Tribal Capacity Building, GMHF*  
*Irene Ruiz-Briseño, Senior Program Manager – Emerging Developers, GMHF*

## **11:20 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.      Southwest Minnesota Housing Institute – Minnesota Housing Partnership**

Learn how communities participating in the Housing Institute and Emerging Developer Initiative are turning local housing goals into action. Through project examples and discussion, panelists will share experiences, lessons learned, and strategies for advancing housing development in rural communities.

**Panelists:**      *Tom Dobson, Community Development Director/EDA Director, City of Tracy*  
*Shane Hagstrom, City Councilmember, City of Atwater*  
*Leanna Larson, Executive Director, Swift County HRA/RDA*

**Presenter/Moderator:** *Leah Hall, Community Development Director, Minnesota Housing Partnership*

## **12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.      Lunch**

**Lunch remarks:** 12:35p.m. to 12:45 p.m.: Andrea Brennan, CEO & President, GMHF in celebration of 30 years

## **12:45 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.      Minnesota Housing Agency Updates and Overview**

**Presenter:**      *Commissioner Jennifer Ho, Minnesota Housing*

## **1:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.      Table Discussion: Housing Opportunities & Challenges in Region**

An interactive discussion to source insights from participants in the room on their local housing challenges and opportunities.

**Facilitators:**      *Anne Mavity, Executive Director, Minnesota Housing Partnership*  
*Leah Hall, Community Development Director, Minnesota Housing Partnership*

## **1:45 p.m. to 2:30 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:**      *Leah Petricka, Real Estate Development Manager, Southwest MN Housing Partnership*  
*Carrie Trutna, Vice Chair, Upper Sioux Community*  
*Stefanie Ryan, Communications & Grants Coordinator, Renville County*  
*Neil Schlagel, City Administrator, City of Winsted*

**Moderator:**      *Sara Bunn, Workforce Housing and Engagement Manager, Minnesota Housing*

## **2:30 p.m. to 2:40 p.m.      Break**

## **2:40 p.m. to 3:30 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 funding sources and strategies they used to increase the supply and affordability of homeownership.

**Panelists:**      *Dave Berglund, Real Estate Development Director, CoNorth*  
*Valerie Halvorson, City Manager, City of Madison*  
*Jen Theneman, Director of Real Estate & Community Development, SWMHP*  
*Danny Desjarlais, Industrial Hemp Construction Project Manager*  
*Grady Holtberg, Economic Development Coordinator, Redwood County*

**Moderator:**      *Tal Anderson, Community Initiative Manager, Minnesota Housing*