

Hilltop Square Housing Project Supporters,

We will be applying for Funding from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA). The application is due Jul 10, 2025, and we again are working closely with Central MN Housing Partnership to prepare and submit the application.

We are exploring Federal Funding opportunities in addition to the Federal Funding allocated through the Minnesota Housing application.

In past attempts we achieved the highest number of points possible for the project. However, in 2024 we were told there was simply a 70% increase in applications and the State ran out of money. In other words? **We are not the priority.** The biggest problem we are facing is not having strong Legislative support & power to help be our voice for rural Minnesota.

We need to rally together, start reaching out to our Legislators.

- A letter writing campaign will begin with letters you can sign, or write your own asking Legislators to put this project at the forefront.
- Remind legislators we campaigned for, voted for and expected our voices to be spoken through, we need their support.
- There are a few key Legislators' who helped last year, but we need more.
- **Handwritten** letters speak volumes, as do phone calls, emails, etc.
- Remind Legislators we have a waiting list for Hilltop Square
 - Future age 55+ tenants will sell their homes, farms, and new people will have access to purchasing affordable property in rural Minnesota.
 - This will then support the economy & businesses & schools of rural Minnesota.
 - A campus with access to Hilltop Kitchen, activities, physical fitness, resources.

We need to continue to fundraise, show efforts of financial match support towards this project.

- We have updated our Pledge & Donation form.
- Consider donating as a tax write-off contribution.
- Lakeland Public TV is willing to run another story.
- We are planning a Day at the Capital, interested?

Key legislators to contact. Explain your story, your loved ones, priority given to Hilltop Square funding:

- *Rep. Mike Wiener* (R) District: 05B 2nd Floor, 658 Cedar St. Centennial Office Building * St. Paul, MN 55155 651-296-4293 Toll Free: 800-914-3172 E
- Senator John A. Hoffman, Capitol Office, 95 University Avenue W., Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2111, St. Paul, MN 55155, 651-296-4154.
- Senator Amy Klobuchar 425 Dirksen Senate Building Washington, DC 20510 phone: 202-224-3244 fax: 202-228-2186 Metro Office 1200 Washington Avenue South, Room 250
- Senator Paul J. Utke (05, R). 2403 Minnesota Senate Bldg. Room 2403, St. Paul, MN 55155 651-296-9651.
sen.paul.utke@mnsenate.gov
- Representative Michelle Fischbach, 2229 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC, 20515-2307, Phone: (202) 225-2165, Website: <https://fischbach.house.gov>
- Senator Tina Smith, 60 Plato Blvd. East Suite 220. Saint Paul, MN 55107; 218-284-8721;
mnscheduling@smith.senate.gov
- DFL Erik Osberg, PO Box 550, Wadena MN 56482 (campaign address. He is running for Congress)

For more information contact Eagle Bend City Hall, 218-738-5982

Thank you,

Hilltop Square Committee