

# Institution/Community Work Crew Affordable Homes Program (ICWC/AHP)

## Background

- ✓ The ICWC/AHP began in April 1998 with a \$700,000 legislative appropriation to build affordable houses for low-income families. The appropriation is maintained in a revolving fund to provide construction loans to build houses. Loans are repaid as homes are sold.
- ✓ Carefully selected, non-dangerous, minimum-security inmates construct the homes under the supervision of a qualified construction foreman. Offenders are housed in local jails when not on the construction site.
- ✓ ICWC/AHP crew members are paid up to \$1.50 per hour for their labor, from which they must pay family support, restitution, and into a fund for victims.
- ✓ Partnerships have been formed with several community action agencies, housing and redevelopment authorities, and economic development agencies who develop projects, find construction sites, market the homes, and assist buyers in qualifying to purchase the homes.



## Benefits

- ✓ ICWC/AHP helps address a housing shortage for low-income families. It helps citizens realize the “American Dream” by providing a much-improved living setting for families who otherwise do not have resources to purchase a single-family home.
- ✓ New homes are targeted to sell to households earning 80 percent or less of the statewide median income adjusted for family size.
- ✓ The program creates a positive way for non-dangerous offenders to repay society for their crimes and learn skills that can help them become productive members of society. They learn the value of work and work ethics.
- ✓ A vocational training program for ICWC/AHP crews has been developed in consultation with Associated General Contractors of Minnesota. This partnership with the construction industry provides crew members with practical industry training and an opportunity for a career in construction upon release.



## Homes Completed

- ✓ Crews have completed 243 new homes in west central and northern Minnesota since the program began. All have been or are in the process of being sold to buyers who meet established income criteria. Construction funds came from the ICWC/AHP revolving fund, the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency and the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund.
- ✓ Six crews will construct approximately 35 new homes during the 2006-2007 season.
- ✓ Twenty-seven homes have been renovated under the Minnesota Urban Renewal Program and sold to low-income families.
- ✓ In northwestern Minnesota, nearly 40 homes have been repaired for senior citizens through the Area Agency on Aging Program, and over 20 flood-damaged homes have been repaired for low-income families in partnership with the Regional Development Commission.



## For Additional Information

Contact Ron Solheid, ICWC/AHP Program Director, 1450 Energy Park Drive, Suite 200, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108-5219, phone 651/361-7123, email [ron.solheid@state.mn.us](mailto:ron.solheid@state.mn.us), TTY 800/627-3529.