



Polk County Housing Trust Fund Newsletter

Issue 1

June 1st, 2005

Recent News:

10th Anniversary

A celebration for the Polk County Housing Trust Fund's 10th anniversary was held on May 12, 2005 to recognize a decade of commitment to providing affordable housing for low-income families.

The event included a bus tour of housing units that utilized funds from the Trust Fund. The tour was followed by a reception that included a presentation by the Executive Director, Sheila Lumley, on the future path of the organization.

\$100,000 Grant Recipient

Wells Fargo chose The Polk County Housing Trust Fund as one of five organizations across the country to receive a grant for \$100,000. The challenge grant gives the Trust Fund six months, beginning May 13, 2005, to coordinate donations to match the \$100,000. The grant provided by Wells Fargo, and additional matching funds, will be used to purchase over 200 housing units.

[Back to top](#)

What We Are Working On:

Mini Grants for Operations and Support Services

This new expanded program awards up to \$15,000 for operating expenses and supportive services. Applications are accepted from any non-profit organization providing operational or support services to low-income families.

Organizations should only apply if they provide transitional, rental or homeownership housing that is affordable to persons with incomes of 80% or below the Median Family Income. The housing and supportive services should compliment, but not duplicate the services of the Trust Fund's Non-profit affiliates; Anawim Housing, Community Housing Development Corporation, The Home Connection, Des Moines Habitat for Humanity and Home Opportunities Made Easy.

Renewable Source of Funding

Sheila Lumley and Pam Carmichael have diligently been working with other housing advocates from across the state to develop a renewable source of funding for local trust funds and housing programs. They are focusing their efforts on opportunities within the state legislature. The 2006 session, while encouraging, did not result in an appropriation or a long term solution. Advocates will meet in June to develop a plan for legislative educational strategies that will be implemented over the next several months.

Strategic Plan

The Board met at Murray Conference Center at Living History Farms on May 6th to begin the new strategic planning process. The agenda included:

-Assisting non-profit developers with the purchase of over 200 public housing units

Discussion of the Trust Fund's mission statement and its areas of focus.

-A prioritization of funding over the next three to five years.

-The Board also approved awarding funds for operational and supportive services to:

Hope Ministries, for their family center, \$15,000

YWCA of Greater Des Moines, for transitional housing for women, \$15,000

Oakridge Neighborhood, for the case-management of their Sudanese population, \$15,000

Elsie Mason Manor, for their meal program, \$5,000.

[Back to top](#)

Things You Need To Know:

The deadline for this round of Operational and Supportive Services mini grant applications is June 17, 2005 by noon.

Any further questions regarding mini grant applications may be directed to Sheila Lumley.

Annual Funding

The Trust Fund staff will prepare applications for the 2005-2006 funding cycle once the board completes its strategic planning process.

Updated information regarding application deadlines and annual funding can be found on the Trust Fund website after July 1st.

[Back to top](#)

Whats New:

Introducing the Polk County Housing Trust Fund's New Staff

There are two new additions to the Trust Fund's staff.

Carol Duncan is the new Administrative Coordinator. She comes to the Trust Fund with years of office administrative experience.

Jim Plorins is the new Associate Director who most recently worked with a Non-profit organization that serves adult individuals with disabilities. He has seen the first hand value of stable, affordable housing.

Erin O'Hern has also returned for a second summer intern program.

[Back to top](#)

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