

# 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.



*MAC-V Veterans' supportive housing  
Duluth 2010*

## 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.
- ✓ Offenders learn construction skills through on-the-job training, under the direction of a skilled carpenter and working alongside local subcontractors.



*Newly constructed house in Perham, 2013*

## Homes Completed

- ✓ In spring 2013, crews will have completed over 300 new homes in southwestern, west central and northern Minnesota. Houses are 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.
- ✓ Crews are also building transitional and supportive housing units with local government and non-profit agencies.
- ✓ Crews completed 16 units of supportive housing for veterans in Duluth
- ✓ Over 100 existing homes have been renovated and sold to low-income families.
- ✓ In 2013, crews are building new housing in the cities of Worthington, Perham and Breckenridge.



*Siding installation on 8-plex in Detroit Lakes*

## For Additional Information

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