

Affordable Housing Resources

This is a list of resources from the [Mayors' Regional Housing Task Force](#), as well as some local examples of programs and precedents from around the country.

Design, management and siting

[Cyurbia - the urban planning portal](#)

Perhaps the single most valuable resource, abundant links on a wide variety of topics.
(www.cyurbia.org)

[Design Center for the American Urban Landscape](#)

A site produced by the at the U of M focused on issues related to first-ring suburbs in particular.
(www.thesuburbs.net)

[The Manufactured Housing Institute](#)

This site promotes off-site construction as a fast and affordable alternative.
(www.manufacturedhousing.org)

[Argonne National Laboratory](#)

A summary of research at on improving energy efficiency in affordable Midwestern homes.
(www.affordablehousing.anl.gov)

[Common Bond Communities](#)

A program run by the Archdiocese of Minneapolis and St. Paul that operates buildings throughout the area with a "more-than-housing" approach that incorporates support services.
(www.commonbond.org)

Creating greater public awareness

[HousingMinnesota](#)

A collaboration of about 50 organizations dedicated to affordable housing issues in the state; much recent work has been to increase awareness.
(www.housingminnesota.org)

[Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing](#)

A non-profit group that organizes and educates congregations and people of all faiths on issues of affordable housing.
(www.micah.org)

[Cyurbia - the urban planning portal](#)

Links to many programs and resources.
(www.cyurbia.org)

[The National Housing Institute](#)

A national organization that publishes and holds conferences on housing issues.
(www.nhi.org)

[The National Low-Income Housing Coalition](#)

A national education and advocacy group.
(www.nlihc.org)

[The National Housing Conference](#)

This site provides some valuable background information.
(www.nhc.org)

[The National Affordable Housing Management Association](#)

Advocates on behalf of operators of affordable housing including Section 8 and Low-Income Housing Tax Credit units.
(www.nahma.org)

[The Manufactured Housing Institute](#)

This site promotes off-site construction as a fast and affordable alternative
(www.manufacturedhousing.org)

Developing funding streams and partnerships

[The Minnesota Housing Finance Agency](#)

A variety of resources; of particular interest are the Minnesota Affordable Housing Directory and links to state housing agencies throughout the country.
(www.mhfa.state.mn.us)

[The Greater Minnesota Housing Fund](#)

This agency works on affordable housing outside of the metro area, providing financial assistance for homeowners and tenants and financial incentives for their employers.
(www.gmhf.com)

[The Department of Housing and Urban Development](#)

HUD's site includes Best Practices Award winners and links to potential financing streams.
(www.hud.gov)

[Fannie Mae](#)

A once public, now private company that works with lenders to provide mortgages to middle- to low-income homeowners.
(www.fanniemae.com)

[Freddie Mac](#)

A direct competitor to Fannie Mae.
(www.freddie.com)

[The Foundation Center](#)

A clearinghouse for philanthropic organizations across the country.
(www.fdncenter.org)

[The Minneapolis Foundation](#)

A local grant-giving foundation.
(www.mplsfoundation.org)

[The Enterprise Foundation](#)

A national group working at the community level to create housing options; it provides both economic and informational resources for non-profits; particular attention given to local connections in 17 cities, not including Minneapolis/St. Paul.

(www.enterprisefoundation.org)

[The National Multi Housing Council](#)

This group represents the apartment building industry.

(www.nmhc.org)

[The National Association of Home Builders](#)

NAHB, like NMHC, has primarily focused its activism on political lobbying; as you might guess, their interests are quite different.

(www.nahb.com)

[Novogradac & Company LLP](#)

This web site features many resources, including current tax credit percentages and programs from other states.

(www.taxcredithousing.com)

[The National Housing and Redevelopment Association's \(NHRA\)](#)

This site features descriptions of many federal programs and funding streams.

(www.housingonline.com)

Addressing land use rules and regulations

[Cyurbia - the urban planning portal](#)

Overall, one of the best resources on any of these topics;

(www.cyurbia.org)

[The Urban Land Institute](#)

A good resource, but most of the content is available only by paid subscription.

(www.uli.org)

[Municipal Code Corporation](#)

A private corporation that publishes and indexes codes from cities across the country (including Mpls, Eagan, Stillwater).

(www.municode.com)

[The Builders Association of the Twin Cities](#)

This group did an analysis of land use regulations in Twin Cities suburbs; their findings were as follows: (1) Infrastructure and regulatory costs decline as housing density increases, (2) Local zoning and subdivision regulations prevent communities from using land efficiently and providing enough life cycle housing through 2020, (3) Regulations increase housing costs.

(www.batconline.org)

[The National Multi Housing Council](#)

This group represents the apartment building industry, and its site includes industry positions on housing issues.

(www.nmhc.org)

Local examples and resources

[Metropolitan Council](#)

Access to statistics and GIS maps of the area.
(www.metrocouncil.org)

[The Family Housing Fund](#)

An intermediary - funding, educating, and convening on issues of affordable housing in the Twin Cities area.
(www.fhfund.org)

[HousingLink](#)

HousingLink is a non-profit organization focused on providing information about affordable rental housing options.
(www.housinglink.org)

[Homes Plus](#)

A state program that allows seniors to live in individual homes while receiving foster care; this is a web site for the Arrowhead's regional program.
(www.ardc.org/foster/overview.htm)

[Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity](#)

(www.tchabitat.org)

Other ideas from around the country

[Portland's Regional Affordable Housing Strategy](#)

This is a draft of land use strategies such as density bonuses and development fee waivers for inclusionary housing.
(www.metro-region.org/metro/growth/tfplan/affordstrategy.html)

[The Mid-Ohio \(Columbus\) Regional Planning Commission](#)

Information on housing, primarily dealing with home ownership; it bears some resemblance to Minneapolis' NRP.
(www.morpc.org/services/community.htm)

[Philadelphia area's planning commission](#)

The site has some information on housing programs and analysis, most of it available for purchase.
(www.dvrpc.org/planning.htm)

[New Jersey Housing and Community Resources](#)

New Jersey has a pilot program in conjunction with the local utility company to encourage sustainable affordable development. The state provides gap financing using funds from a realty transfer tax, the utility provides subsidies for energy-efficient improvements. Another program provides community development training to faith-based organizations through partnership with the same utility company and Chase Manhattan. The web site includes a Guide to Affordable Housing, which compiles state program information with available unit information and other resources.

(www.state.nj.us/dca/dhcr/dhcrhome.htm)

[The Michigan State Housing Development Authority](#)

Provides financial assistance for virtually every aspect of the housing industry, from renters to homeowners, landlords to contractors.

(www.mshda.org)

Other resources

[The University of Minnesota's Institute on Race and Poverty](#)

Research and publications, particularly on the connections among affordable housing, employment, racism and education.

(www.umn.edu/irp)

[British 'Social Housing'](#)

A guide to "social housing" in Britain featuring Internet forums on the topic.

(www.housingnet.co.uk)

[The Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing at the University of Florida](#)

(s14.cfaa.ufl.edu/centers/shimberg)