Help allievate Greater Minnesota’s HOUSING SHORTAGE

3 bills, 3 three ways to help bring more housing to Greater Minnesota

Last fall, the Greater Minnesota Partnership (GMNP) and Coalition Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) conducted a survey of their members in which nearly 87% of respondents said housing was a “very high” or “high” concern in their community. The partner organizations then held meetings in Greater Minnesota to learn more about the specific challenges local leaders face in regards to housing. High construction costs and aging housing stock were among the top barriers they cited. This legislative session, the GMNP and CGMC have teamed up to support three bills that aim to encourage construction and increase the availability of housing across Greater Minnesota.

**Greater Minnesota Fix-Up Fund**
SF 4102/HF 4166
Allocates $5 million in state funding to establish a new program to provide grants of up $200,000 to assist cities in rehabilitating dilapidated housing. Grants would help cities preserve their existing housing stock by renovating neglected or run-down houses or buildings.

**Greater Minnesota Workforce Housing Development Fund**
SF 3784/HF 3877
Allocates $2 million to this existing grant program administered by the Minnesota Housing Finance Authority and also makes the program more useable for Greater Minnesota communities by allowing grants of up to 50% of the project costs, as opposed to the current requirement that grants must not exceed 25% of the cost.

**Greater Minnesota Housing Public Infrastructure Grant Program**
SF 4103/HF 4165
Allocates $2.5 million in state bonding to create a grant program for public infrastructure needed to increase housing availability. Under the program, cities could receive a grant of up to $16,000 per single-family lot or $50,000 per multi-family lot to help provide sewer, water, roads or other critical infrastructure needed to expand or increase available housing lots.