



INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF NORTH DAKOTA

Jack Dalrymple
Governor

Wayne Stenehjem
Attorney General

Doug Goehring
Agriculture Commissioner

For Immediate Release

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MERCER COUNTY INCLUDED IN HOUSING INCENTIVE FUND SET-ASIDE

BISMARCK, ND – Affordable housing development in Mercer County is now a Housing Incentive Fund (HIF) priority. The Industrial Commission has approved an amendment to the state program's allocation plan, adding Mercer County to a list of counties eligible for set-aside dollars.

"Through the state's new Housing Incentive Fund we are providing more affordable housing in North Dakota," Gov. Jack Dalrymple said. "The North Dakota Housing Finance Agency has already put these dollars to work in 11 new multi-family housing projects in areas where affordable rents are most needed."

To date, NDHFA has allocated \$4.3 million for the development of 316 new rental units. The agency set aside 90 percent of its HIF dollars for use in disaster- and energy-impacted counties. Ten of the 11 projects that have received funding commitments from NDHFA are in those prioritized areas.

"NDHFA is committed to supporting the state's affordable housing needs," said Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem. "Mercer County's community leaders approached the Agency staff indicating that the county was impacted by the energy boom as well and asked to be considered for prioritized funding."

The North Dakota Department of Mineral Resources has identified Mercer County as being an oil producing county. The county is also a member of the North Dakota Association of Oil and Gas Producing Counties.

"The projects that previously received HIF allocations and new projects being developed need the continued support of North Dakota taxpayers to remain on track," said Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. HIF is capitalized by contributions from individuals, businesses or financial institutions with a potential state tax liability.

"North Dakotans can have a say in how some of their state tax dollars are spent by contributing to the Housing Incentive Fund," said Mike Anderson, NDHFA executive director. "Through their continued support of HIF, taxpayers can help create affordable rental housing where it's most needed in our state."

Taxpayers supporting the incentive fund can target their dollars to a specific project or ask that their contribution be designated for use in a specific community. Contributors receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit against their state income or financial institution taxes. NDHFA will continue to issue the tax credits to contributors on a first-come, first-served basis until HIF's \$15 million maximum authority is reached.

Projects supported by HIF in development funding rounds ended Sept. 30 and Dec. 31, 2011, are located in Beach, Belfield, Crosby (2), Grand Forks, Kenmare (2), Minot and Williston (3). The next quarterly development application round ends March 30.

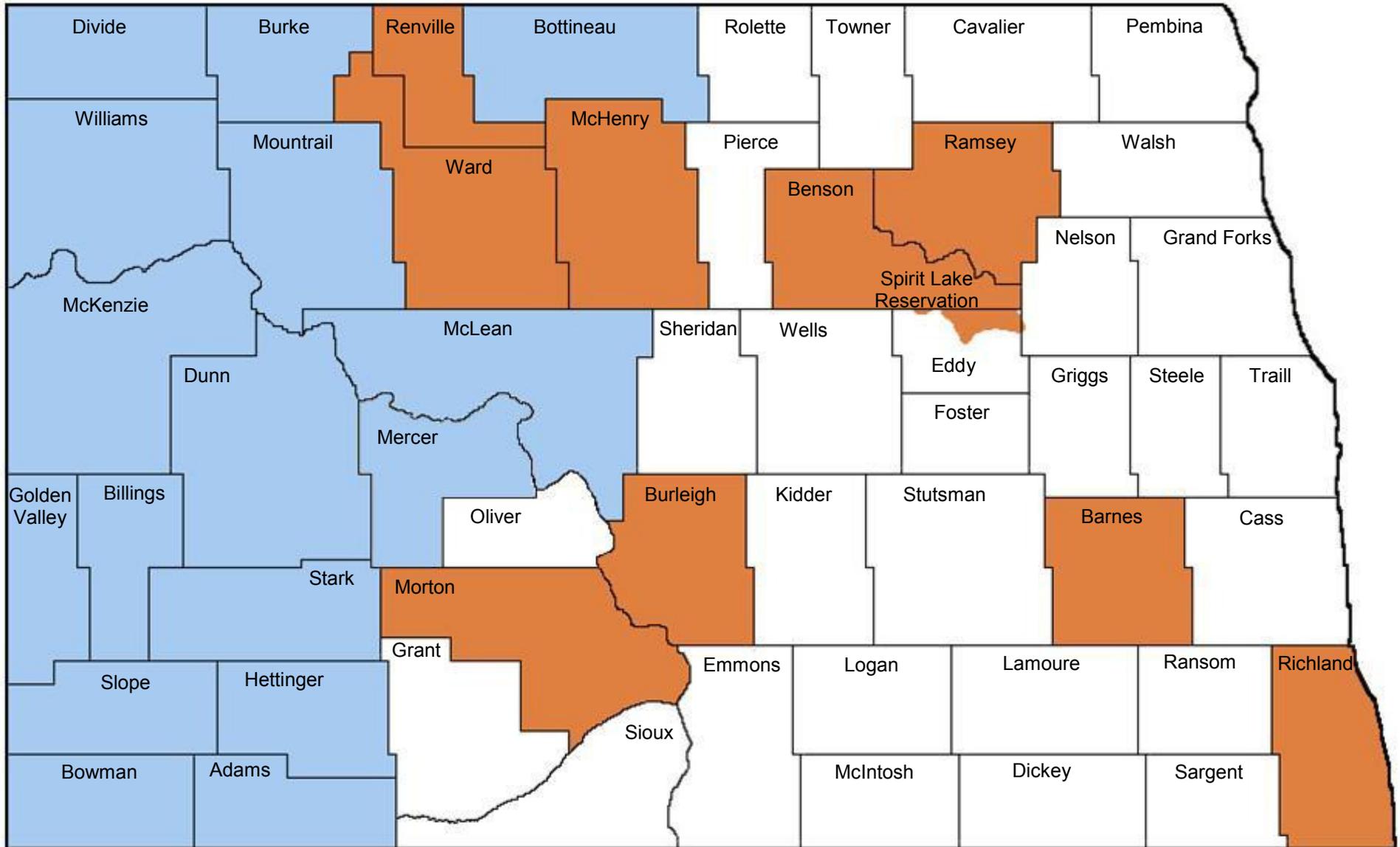
More information on HIF is available at www.ndhousingincentivefund.org or by contacting Jolene Kline or Bill Hourigan at info@ndhfa.org, (701) 328-8080, (800) 292-8621, or (800) 366-6888 (TTY).

The Industrial Commission of North Dakota, consisting of Gov. Jack Dalrymple, as chairman, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem and Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, oversees NDHFA.

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Individual Assistance Disaster Areas

Oil and Gas Impacted Counties