

## **HFA AWARDS FIRST MARKET SURVEY GRANT TO CITY OF WILLISTON**

BISMARCK – The North Dakota Housing Finance Agency (NDHFA) presented the City of Williston with a \$5,000 Housing Market Survey Grant during the Statewide Housing Conference.

“Williston is the first community in North Dakota to successfully complete a survey using grant dollars provided by North Dakota Housing Finance Agency’s new program,” said Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, who presented the funds on behalf of the Agency.

The Housing Market Survey Grants help pay for an analysis of a community’s current and future housing needs. The grants are equal to 50 percent of the cost of a survey not to exceed \$5,000.

“We were thrilled to be able to receive support from the State, and commend NDHFA for making the grant application process so simple,” Mark Sovig, executive director of the Tri-County Regional Development Council.

“Although we have zero vacancies in the community, we have had a difficult time convincing developers to invest in new rental housing,” said Ward Koeser, mayor of Williston. “We are hoping that the study findings will convince builders and investors that our community is ripe for development.”

Koeser and Sovig accepted the check on behalf of the City of Williston.

To meet the changing housing needs of rural communities, last fall NDHFA began offering technical assistance along with much needed rehabilitation and development programs to rural communities across the state.

“Local governments often lack the resources necessary to be able to define specific housing needs, develop necessary projects and see them through to completion,” said Stenehjem. “With the assistance offered by the NDHFA, communities can better position themselves for growth.”

In addition to the market study grants, the Agency will aid in the renovation of existing single and multifamily housing with low-interest loans, and provide short-term, low-cost financing for predevelopment soft costs, land acquisition, site development and construction financing. All of the programs are targeted to communities of less than 20,000 population.

For more information on the community development programs, contact Jolene Kline at (701) 328-8080, (800) 292-8621 or (800) 366 6888 (TTY).

The Industrial Commission of North Dakota, consisting of Governor John Hoeven, as chairman, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem and Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson, oversees the NDHFA.



From left to right: Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem; Ward Koeser, City of Williston; and Mark Sovig, Tri-County Regional Development Council.