

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NEWBERG WORKFORCE HOUSING CONSORTIUM (NWHC) AND
MISSING MIDDLE HOUSING FUND (MMHF) ANNOUNCE REQUEST FOR
PROPOSALS FOR INNOVATIVE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT MODELS**

**UP TO \$3M IN STATE FUNDING TO BE COMMITTED TO LEADING SOLUTION(S) THAT ADDRESS
WORKFORCE HOUSING UNDERPRODUCTION CRISIS**

NEWBERG, Oregon – March 2, 2023 – Today, the Newberg Workforce Housing Consortium (NWHC), Strategic Economic Development Corporation (SEDCOR) and Missing Middle Housing Fund (MMHF) announced an initiative to seek innovative workforce housing development models and partnerships to serve the needs of the City of Newberg and Yamhill County.

The NWHC has included public and private sector organizations including A-dec, Friendsview, George Fox University, Newberg Public Schools, Providence Newberg Medical Center and SEDCOR, working collaboratively since 2019 to solve Newberg’s workforce housing shortage.

According to various estimates, Newberg needs between 600 and 1,000 new units of housing over the next 15-20 years to serve residents making 80%-120% of Area Median Income (AMI).

“The question I keep thinking is, how does someone just get established in our town?” asked Todd Engle, Executive Director of Friendsview. “My hope is that we will gain some inventory in Newberg that we can use specifically for our healthcare staff who can't currently find affordable housing in the region. We need to be asking ourselves how we can keep our graduating high school and college students in our communities.”

“Recruiting new staff is always a challenge; this challenge is made more difficult due to the housing shortage in Newberg,” said Dr. Stephen Phillips, Superintendent of Newberg Public Schools. “Our students need quality educators now, this need will not go away on its own. We need to act quickly.”

The NWHC’s work garnered the attention of Oregon State Representative Anna Scharf, who supported a legislative funding request to support the creation of new workforce housing. The bill passed both Oregon houses, and was signed by then Governor Kate Brown in April 2022, allocating \$3M in funding for a Newberg project. Several months ago, the consortium partnered with MMHF, a nonprofit workforce housing innovation fund and incubator, to develop a strategy for attracting innovative solutions that meet the consortium’s goals and requirements for funding.

Today's RFP announcement seeks innovative partners and strategies that reduce the cost and time to build housing in replicable, scalable ways, both in Yamhill County and beyond. Proposals will suggest innovative ways to use and reuse up to \$3 million in state grant support and invite creative ways for NWHC members to participate in the development.

The entire RFP announcement, including details for proposal requirements and important dates, can be read [HERE](#).

"MMHF is proud to partner with SEDCOR and the NWHC on this important initiative to connect housing innovators and development leaders with the Newberg community," said Nathan Wildfire, CEO of MMHF. "There is no silver bullet to address the housing underproduction crisis; but we believe creative and nontraditional partnerships will lead to outcomes more powerful than individual efforts alone."

Potential partners do not have to be property developers. Product manufacturers, architects, landowners, financiers, entrepreneurs, and more are encouraged to submit their scalable workforce housing cost-reduction strategies for consideration. Teams from multiple disciplines that combine multiple innovations are particularly encouraged to propose.

An in-person, all day workshop will be hosted in Newberg on April 5 to provide opportunities for potential partners and thought leaders to connect with members of the NWHC and MMHF, and get a jump start on working together to address workforce housing challenges.

Interested applicants should submit an "email of interest" prior to applying by April 15, 2023 to nathan.wildfire@missingmiddlehousing.fund.

"We are excited to come together with other major employers in Newberg across manufacturing, healthcare, and education to form this Workforce Housing Consortium to encourage development of affordable housing options," said Erik Andersson, President of SEDCOR. "Having this diverse group of like-minded employers at the table helped us secure \$3 million in state funding to identify innovative solutions in Newberg, and ultimately provide a model for workforce housing around the Willamette Valley and throughout the State."

Proposal teams can contact Nathan Wildfire at MMHF for assistance building response teams at nathan.wildfire@missingmiddlehousing.fund.

Proposal teams can contact Doug Rux at the City of Newberg to discuss potential land for development at doug.rux@newbergoregon.gov.

Proposal teams can contact Abisha Stone at SEDCOR for more information about the history of the NWHC, its goals, and its members at AStone@sedcor.com.

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