

Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency (HHCDA)

Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency is the Tribally Designated Housing Entity (TDHE) for the Ho-Chunk Nation. We receive annual funding from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Native American Programs.

We have long been a part of the Ho-Chunk community, helping to meet the affordable housing needs of the Ho-Chunk Nation community members. The HHCDA service area includes the Wisconsin counties of Adams, Clark, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Eau Claire, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Marathon, Monroe, Sauk, Shawano, Trempealeau, Vernon, and Wood; Houston County, Minnesota; the Chicago, Minneapolis and Milwaukee metro areas; and all Ho-Chunk Nation households nationwide.

Mission Statement: To foster a strong, healthy community, of which Ho-Chunk Nation members can be proud—through providing members with quality, affordable housing and programs that help meet social, cultural, and community needs.

All HHCDA departmental directors are Ho-Chunk Nation community members, as are all members of the policymaking HHCDA Board of Commissioners. Our board reflects the diverse backgrounds of Nation members:

- District 1: Lori Pettibone, HCN Social Services, Youth Services Director, and Former HCN Legislator, Tribal Collaboration Committee member.
- District 1: Kelly Jo Funmaker, Independent Living Director, and Former Executive Administrative Officer for Office of the HCN President, Tribal Collaboration Committee Member.
- District 2: Adam Kruse, HCN Community Member.
- District 2: Francis Decorah, Former Executive Director, HCN Department of Housing, Ho-Chunk Elder.
- District 2: Lucinda Lonetree, HHCDA Community Member.
- District 2: Marlys White Eagle, Former HCN Legislator, Ho-Chunk Elder.
- District 3: Lawrence Walker, a Former HCN Legislator, HCN Community Member.
- District 3: Bonnie Smith, HHCDA Chakh-Hah-Chee Community Member, Ho-Chunk Elder.
- District 3: Cheri Byhre, Milwaukee Area Community Member.
- District 4: Chairman, Mike Goze, Executive Director, American Indian Community Development Corporation (Minneapolis), and Former HCN Legislator.
- District 4: Ben Krause Decorah, Chicago Community Member, Former Executive Director of Administration.

Covid-19 Assistance Resources

This past year HHCDA administered Covid-19 assistance programs to tribal members. During the past year HHCDA processed approximately 2,500 applications for covid assistance. HHCDA was able to successfully apply for and receive Federal CARES and ARP grants, these included:

- Emergency Rental Assistance US Department of Treasury, \$5.3 million. This program was used to assist tribal members with rental and utility assistance. This program was closed out in March of 2022.
- ICDBG CARES, US Department of Housing and Urban Development, \$1.5 million. Used to provide rental, mortgage, and utility assistance. This program was closed out in April of 2022.
- Homeowners Assistance Fund, US Department of Treasury, \$3.4 million dollars. Used to assist tribal-member homeowners with mortgage , tax, utility, and other homeownership costs. This program is still assisting tribal members.
- IDCBG ARP, US Department of Housing and Urban Development, \$1.72 million. Used to provide rental, mortgage, and utility assistance. This program is still assisting tribal members.
- State of Wisconsin, Neighborhood Investment Fund, \$11.8 million. This grant will be used to construct 38 rental units of housing for Ho-Chunk Nation members. This project will be starting in July of 2022.
- IHBG ARP, US Department of Housing and Urban Development, \$3.2 million. Used to purchase supplies for Covid prevention, Heating (Utility) Assistance, additional rental units, community resource warehouse, and supplies.

Operations - Tenant Services/ Maintenance, Raven Rosin, Director

The Tenant Services (TS) Department manages and administers 279 affordable rental and Mutual Help units and also provides rental assistance, in addition to homeownership training, to Nation members. TS takes rental applications, screens applicants, compiles applicant waiting lists, performs preoccupancy training, performs annual renter re-certifications, and provides daily assistance to tenants and potential applicants. HHCDA also provides property management of Ho-Chunk Nation rental units that are not under HUD rental income requirements. These 62 rental units are in Milwaukee, Chakh-Hah-Chee Village, Potch-Chee-Nunk, Indian Heights Village, and Minneapolis.

Tenant Services Programs:

- Post-Secondary Education Rental Assistance. Provides up to \$300/month for eligible HCN recipients and a maximum of \$2,400/year.
- Rental Assistance Program. Provides rental assistance of up to \$700 to low-income HCN applicants for one month's rent. Assistance is limited to once per year for any eligible tenant.
- Metro Rent Subsidy Program. This program provides ongoing rental assistance to Nation members in the Nation's large urban areas, with assistance based upon income and family size. The pilot program was later expanded to the Minneapolis, Chicago, Dane County and Milwaukee metro areas, and was expanded to Eau Claire County this year. The HHCDA Board is currently considering expansion of this program in Brown County.
- New this year, is the creation of the Veterans Rental Subsidy Program to include all formula counties of HHCDA. 5 vouchers were set aside for Low-income Ho-Chunk Nation Veterans.
- Tenant Services (TS) continued to provide preoccupancy training to new tenants, educating them on their responsibilities as tenants and HHCDA's as landlord.

Maintenance

The HHCDCA Maintenance Department's skilled workers provide routine and non-routine repairs to our housing stock of 279 units. Our workers jumped in to help get food to Hocak families during the pandemic by assisting the HCN Health Department with the Farm to Families project.

Modernization and Development Division, Jeff Hendricks, Modernization and Development Director

HHCDCA's Tribal Repair & Improvement Program (TRIP). Administered by the Development Division, the TRIP program provides grants for rehab work on homes owned by low-income Nation members. The TRIP-funded projects must be for necessary repairs, and cannot be for cosmetic repairs or homeowner neglect.

Necessary repairs and replacements to each TRIP home were identified by inspection. Eligible repairs ranged from minor repairs to ones needed to bring homes up to housing standards. These repairs included window, door, siding, drywall, and roof replacement.

Community Projects

HHCDCA parks and green spaces were maintained by the Modernization and Development Department.

HHCDCA continued to maintain its community centers, which are available for rental for various tribal functions. These centers are located in Indian Mission, Indian Heights, Chakh-Hah-Chee, and Blue Wing.

The HHCDCA Garden project worked to have 10' X 10' plots tilled for Ho-Chunk families that were interested in growing vegetables in their yards during the Covid-19 pandemic. HHCDCA distributed plants and seeds to tribal members.

Projects

- Two new rental units in Winnebago Heights near Wisconsin Dells
- Development of "solar" rental unit in Wazee Sub-division, near Black River Falls
- Blue Wing Community Center Renovation
- Purchase of four rental units in La Crosse County
- Foundation and dewatering project on five basements in Chakh-ha-Chee Village, near Nekoosa

Up Coming Projects

- ICDBG Solar Grant, 700,000 dollars. This grant will fund the installation of 80 photo voltaic solar panel systems on HHCDCA low-rent units within HHCDCA communities of; La Crosse County, Blue Wing Village, Indian Mission Village, Dane County Rentals, Chakh-Ha Chee Village Rentals.
- Installation of Splash Pad near HCN Madison Branch Office
- Park Shelter, Wittenberg
- Kids Playground, Indian Mission
- Toddler Playground, Sand Pillow Village
- Supportive Housing Apartments, Wazee Sub-Division