

## Gimaajii Mino-Bimaadiziyaan – Duluth, MN Supportive Housing and an American Indian Center



### Gimaajii Mino-Bimaadiziyaan

Gimaajii will create 27 units of permanent supportive housing for families, single individuals and elders, and will create an American Indian center with services, cultural and recreational opportunities.

**Owner/Sponsor:** American Indian Community Housing Organization

**Tenant Profile:** Native American families and single people who are experiencing long-term homelessness, earn less than 60 percent of Area Median Income (less than 30 percent of AMI if long-term homeless), are fleeing domestic violence, are precariously housed or are elders.

**Service Approach:** Gimaajii's services will be designed to meet the housing and cultural needs of Native Americans, with the goal of helping participants change their lives and end generational poverty.

### Key Features and Innovations:

- Gimaajii Mino-Bimaadiziyaan is an Ojibwe phrase that means, "Together we are beginning a good life."
- Gimaajii is the first project of its kind in the nation, combining permanent supportive housing with an American Indian center.
- Gimaajii will provide residents with counseling, case management services, advocacy, support services and cultural activities.
- Based on an understanding of multi-generational family structure and recognizing the isolation from family, friends, culture and spiritual support systems that many homeless Native people experience, Gimaajii will create a safe place in which families can interact with others who share similar traditions, histories and common issues.

### Financing Information

#### Capital

Affordable Housing Program	\$319,000	Grand Portage Band of Ojibwe	\$20,000
Historic Tax Credits	\$932,055	Dr. Robert Powless	\$50,000
Housing Investment Fund	\$600,000	MN Tribal Governments Foundation	\$75,000
MHFA	\$3,000,000	Otto Bremer	\$100,000
HOME 2007	\$75,000	Greater Minnesota Housing Fund	\$100,000
HOME 2008	\$162,000	Urban Indian Funds	\$400,000
Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation	\$25,000	AICHO Development Fee	\$188,426
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,046,481</b>

#### Operating (Annual)

Rents	\$154,443
Other income	\$2,411
Operating reserve	\$7,072
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$163,926</b>

## About the American Indian Community Housing Organization

The American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO), the developer of this project, is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization established in Duluth in 1994. AICHO serves the most vulnerable of populations: survivors of domestic violence and those who have experienced homelessness and poverty. AICHO's vision is to honor the resiliency of Native American people by strengthening communities and centering indigenous values in all aspects their work. AICHO's operating philosophy is that every Native American person deserves to live in a non-violent and non-threatening environment and has the right to be treated with dignity and respect. AICHO's current programs include:

- Oshki Odaadiziwini Waaka'Igan ("a place where we dream of new beginnings"), a 10-unit transitional housing program serving homeless single mothers
- Dabinoo'Igan ("a place where you are safe, comforted and sheltered"), an emergency shelter for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking and dating violence
- Dabinoo'Igan Legal Advocacy Project, which provides free legal assistance, including attorney representation, for women trying to end the cycle of violence
- Giawe Mobile Team ("he or she comes home"), an interagency collaborative that provides intense services, including advocacy and rental assistance, to individuals and families who have experienced long-term homelessness.

Since its inception, AICHO has provided safe, decent, affordable housing as well as emergency shelter, advocacy and culturally appropriate services to more than 1,500 women and children in need. AICHO incorporates traditional Native American values and beliefs into its programming. It allows Native American women who have been victimized to come together to find strength and comfort in the company of others who share similar traditions, histories and common issues. AICHO's staff and board are comprised almost entirely of Native women, many of whom are themselves survivors of domestic violence and homelessness. Although Native women and children are its target, AICHO serves all women and children in need.

## CSH and the Sponsor

In 2005, CSH's Minnesota Program began working with AICHO to develop this project concept. It was generated from a 2002 study of American Indians in Duluth, which revealed that while Native Americans represent only 3 percent to 4 percent of the population, they make up nearly a third of Duluth's homeless. In Duluth, 49 percent of Native Americans live in poverty—the highest of any other ethnic group; by comparison, less than 20 percent of African-Americans in Duluth live in poverty. CSH provided predevelopment funding, technical assistance, training and assistance with securing funding. CSH was an advocate for this project by helping non-native funders better understand the needs of this population and the solution—supportive housing—that best addresses those needs.

## About CSH

CSH transforms how communities use housing solutions to improve the lives of the most vulnerable people. We offer capital, expertise, information and innovation that allow our partners to use supportive housing to achieve stability, strength and success for the people in most need. CSH blends over 20 years of experience and dedication with a practical and entrepreneurial spirit, making us the source for housing solutions. CSH is an industry leader with national influence and deep connections in a growing number local communities. We are headquartered in New York City with staff stationed in more than 20 locations around the country. Visit [csh.org](http://csh.org) to learn how CSH has and can make a difference where you live.



CSH  
50 Broadway  
17th Floor  
New York, NY 10004  
T: 212.986.2966  
E: [info@csh.org](mailto:info@csh.org)