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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Michael J. Murphy
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Homeless vets, children would get boost from Housing Trust Fund awards

Housing Trust Fund grants totaling \$600,000 will help the homeless, create jobs and boost neighborhoods affected by foreclosures

The **Milwaukee Housing Trust Fund (HTF) Advisory Board** is recommending \$600,000 in funding for six projects that will construct new homes for those in need, rehabilitate existing housing stock and make foreclosed homes more attractive to new buyers.

The projects will leverage an investment of more than \$4.03 million in local construction and rehabilitation work over the next year, said **Common Council President Michael J. Murphy**, chair of the advisory board. All of the projects will be reviewed by the Common Council's **Zoning, Neighborhoods & Development Committee** next month.

President Murphy said the largest 2014 project would fund the Center for Veterans Issues, Ltd. **Veterans Gardens Project**, an initiative to create permanent supportive housing for homeless veterans and homeless veterans with children. "The men and women who have given of themselves and served our nation deserve respect and should not suffer the indignity of homelessness," President Murphy said.

"And this project not only provides housing for the veterans in need, it also makes sure that their children have housing and it restores vacant and foreclosed homes in a city neighborhood," he said.

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Housing Trust Fund awards/ADD ONE

President Murphy said the six 2014 projects selected by the advisory board for funding will also create jobs and valuable opportunities for construction workers, carpenters, and those in the trades. “The board takes its work very seriously and is cognizant that the projects selected are healthy investments for Milwaukee that bring critical economic activity and dollars into local businesses and into the lives of workers and their families,” he said.

This year, a total of 11 requestors proposed projects seeking \$1.48 million in HTF funding. Alderman Murphy said that, if they had been fully funded, all projects would have leveraged approximately \$7.67 million.

The 2014 HTF awards include:

- \$360,000 to the Center for Veterans Issues, Ltd. for the construction/rehabilitation of 30 permanent supportive housing units for homeless veterans and homeless veterans with children (Veterans Gardens Project).
- \$94,500 to Milwaukee Christian Center-NIP for interior and exterior code-compliance repairs (roofing, painting, porch repair/replacement, gutter replacement, electrical, plumbing, furnace replacement, etc.), and for lead hazard reduction, security enhancements, and accessibility modifications.
- \$51,200 to WestCare Wisconsin Foundation for construction related supplies and materials to rehabilitate and resell units in the Woodlands condominium complex.
- \$50,000 to Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity for the rehabilitation of five properties in the Washington Park neighborhood.
- \$40,000 to Layton Boulevard West Neighbors, Inc. for the acquisition, renovation, and sale of four blighted and foreclosed properties through LBWN's Turnkey Renovation Program.
- \$25,000 for the Sherman Park Community Association to replace deteriorating roofs on several homes.