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CUPPAD and Community Action Alger-Marquette to Co-Lead Regional Housing Partnership to Address Housing Needs in the Central Upper Peninsula

CUPPAD and CAAM are two of 25 housing agencies leading efforts in 15 regions around the state

ESCANABA, MICH. – The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) recently announced the Central UP Planning and Development Regional Commission (CUPPAD) and Community Action Alger-Marquette co-lead the Regional Housing Partnership (RHP) in the Central Upper Peninsula. CUPPAD and CAAM, selected by peers within the region, will partner with local governments, developers, nonprofits, businesses, local health departments, grassroots organizations, philanthropic organizations and other partners in the Central UP to address specific housing needs and implement strategies from the Statewide Housing Plan.

“Like a lot of other regions of the state, there are a wide range of housing issues we face in the Central UP, such as homelessness prevention, quality affordable housing, and the construction of new workforce housing stock.” says Ryan Soucy, Senior Planner at CUPPAD. “There have been a lot of decentralized discussions and strategizing going on across various topics and communities, and they all interrelate. This partnership will serve to bring together the broad ecosystem of housing-focused organizations that represent these interests to confirm our region’s top priorities, so we can collectively advocate them to MSHDA in the form of a regional housing action plan. Aligning our action plan with the Statewide Housing Plan’s goals will assist MSHDA in providing our region with the needed resources for accomplishing these actions.”

CUPPAD and CAAM will work with community leaders and housing developers to address local and regional barriers to affordable and attainable housing, including communications, local policy, equity, development financing and more. These collaborative efforts will result in a regional action plan that outlines strategies on how to address local housing issues.

As part of the selection, MSHDA will send \$175,000 in grant funding to both organizations to coordinate a regional action plan, identify its goals and name its objectives. The regional action plan will be shared with MSHDA by Fall 2023.

The Statewide Housing Plan, launched in 2022, is a strategic planning process aimed at increasing the accessibility of housing in Michigan by addressing racial housing disparities, increasing the stock of affordable housing and more. The plan highlights the need to engage with local housing agencies to ensure all Michigan residents can secure safe and affordable housing.

“The Statewide Housing Plan is meant to make a difference for all Michiganders, and we’re confident that CUPPAD, CAAM, and partnerships with community leaders, nonprofits and developers will help us better serve the Central UP,” said Tiffany King, equity and inclusion officer at MSHDA. “By actively

gathering insights and information from our regional housing partnership leads, we aim to ensure that every corner of the state receives the specific aid they require. Together, we can empower individuals in the Central UP with the housing support they deserve."

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About CUPPAD

The Central UP Planning and Development Regional Commission (CUPPAD) is dedicated to fostering collaborative growth, strategic innovation, and inclusive prosperity in our region. Our mission is to provide leading-edge, data-driven planning, development resources, and professional expertise to create sustainable communities. We believe in partnering with local governments, businesses, non-profits, and citizens to facilitate well-rounded development and optimize the use of our natural and human resources.

CUPPAD is committed to advancing equity, resiliency, and quality of life for all residents, prioritizing environmental stewardship and economic vitality. Through active engagement and continuous learning, we aim to empower our communities to meet the evolving challenges of the 21st century and beyond. Together, we build a better, stronger Central UP region – today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.

About MSHDA

The [Michigan State Housing Development Authority](#) (MSHDA), established in 1966, provides financial and technical assistance through public and private partnerships to create and preserve safe and decent affordable housing, engage in community economic development activities, develop vibrant cities, towns and villages, and address homeless issues.