



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Sen. Jacque Applauds Selection of Door County for Initial WHEDA Rural Workforce Housing Grant

(Madison, WI) State Senator and Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) Board Member André Jacque (R – De Pere) hailed the impactful announcement of Door County as one of three recipients of WHEDA’s new highly competitive rural workforce housing development program that he championed.

Door County was one of 3 Wisconsin regions, joining Marinette County and the Chequamegon Bay area, to receive a pilot grant out of 13 total applicants. WHEDA has committed \$10 million to the rural affordable workforce housing initiative, with supplemental financing tools aimed toward closing existing gaps in housing availability in rural communities that threaten the ability to attract and retain employees.

The tools that will be implemented over time include:

- Closing cost assistance and rehabilitation financing for single family homebuyers in rural communities;
- Multifamily housing gap financing to make up for the difference between construction costs and affordable rents in rural areas;
- Small business and economic development loans; and
- Community grants and services.

“As a WHEDA Board member and Finance Committee member, I am pleased to have played a role in implementing this exciting program and am thrilled to see it take root right here in the 1st Senate District, where the critical shortage of housing stock for workforce and year round residents cannot be ignored. WHEDA works well to target assistance where it is needed most, and I was delighted to call Steve Jenkins at the Door County Economic Development Corporation to congratulate them for their outstanding efforts in attracting this vital support,” said Jacque.

Early this year, the Door County Board unanimously passed a resolution in support of the initiative as well. In order to be eligible for the pilot, communities must be within a county in which more than 25 percent of the county’s residents reside in a rural area under standards established by the United States Department of Agriculture.

“I look forward to seeing the positive impact this grant will have on the community, both with the economy and quality of life,” added Jacque.

WHEDA is a self-supporting public corporation with an outstanding track record of providing low cost financing for housing and small business development that operates without the use of taxpayer dollars. Senator Jacque has served as a member of WHEDA’s governing board and finance committee since his election to the State Senate.

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