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## **Cass County Nebraska Economic Development Council Announces NIFA Housing Study Grant Award for County-wide Housing Study**

**Cass County, Neb., April 1, 2024** - Cass County Nebraska Economic Development (CCNEDC) announced the successful award of the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority's Housing Study Grant Program in the amount of \$12,800. In addition to the grant award, CCNEDC has raised private and public funds to fund a County-Wide Housing Study which will be completed by Hanna Keelan Associates out of Lincoln, NE.

In pursuing the funds Executive Director Josh Charvat noted that the lack of housing was identified as a major obstacle to growth from nearly all communities and businesses. The housing study will identify the demand for housing in each community and provide a target for new housing over the next five years. Additionally, through a public input process, the study will provide data on the size, price point, and amenities that are most in demand.

Charvat shared, "This study is step one in the process to address the lack of available housing throughout Cass County. It will enable us to be more competitive in applying for funds to attract additional investment. Furthermore, it should give developers and builders the confidence to move forward with projects by illustrating the demand."

As for why CCNEDC, which historically has focused on site development and business attraction, is prioritizing housing, Charvat stated, "The number one concern for business across the County, State, and Country, is access to a qualified workforce. Increasing our housing stock will add to our local labor force making our communities more attractive for local businesses to grow and new businesses to start up. On top of that, it will provide new revenues to our communities and the County can reinvest that in infrastructure and services and keep the cycle of growth moving forward"

Charvat anticipates the study will be completed by the end of this year.

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### **About Cass County Nebraska Economic Development Council (CCNEDC)**

[CCNEDC](#) is a nonprofit business organization and is part of the Greater Omaha Economic Development Partnership. The mission of CCNEDC is to attract, retain, and grow business and jobs for all of Cass County.

### **About the Greater Omaha Chamber Economic Development Partnership**

The [Greater Omaha Chamber Economic Development Partnership](#) represents an eight-county area from two states (Nebraska and Iowa) that includes Cass, Dodge, Douglas, Mills, Otoe, Pottawattamie, Sarpy and Washington Counties. The regionalized partnership operates as a comprehensive resource, driving growth and championing collaboration.