MANDAN, HIDATSA AND ARIKARA NATION

“IAM HOME/I AM WHERE THE HOUSE IS”
Ma-Gidz (Hidatsa), Ma Ma Dish (Mandan), Tatii Nii Na Ka (Arikara)
Comprehensive 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness on
The Fort Berthold Indian Reservation

Prepared by the Fort Berthold Housing Authority
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Demographics: The Fort Berthold Indian Reservation is located in west-central North Dakota. The closest cities to the Reservation are Minot and Williston. Bismarck, the state capital of North Dakota is located approximately 160 miles to the south. According to 2007 Market Analysis by Vogt, Williams and Bowen, the Fort Berthold Reservation is made up of 1,000,000 acres or 1,562.5 square miles surrounding Lake Sakakawea (a man-made lake formed in the 1950’s by the damming of the Little Missouri River by the Garrison Dam). The reservation covers parts of six counties. These are Mountrail, McKenzie, Dunn, Mercer, McLean and Ward County (Appendix A – Regional Map).

Statistics: According to the 2007 Market Analysis, Primary Market Area (PMA) and the U.S. Census Bureau; North Dakota State Data Center, the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation’s growth far exceeds the overall growth in the state of North Dakota. During the 1990’s, the State grew by 0.5%, compared to the Reservation 9.6% growth rate. The market analysis projected the state to grow by 0.4%, compared to the Reservation 9.6 % rate. The 2007 PMA, according to the Market Analysis projected household trends to increase through 2011. It was projected that 11 households will be added to the market between 2006 and 2011.

The Market Analysis noted that many Native American households on the reservation live in overcrowded conditions within multi-generational households. In 1986 there were roughly 7,200 enrolled in the Three Affiliated Tribes of which approximately one-half of the members resided on the Reservation. In 2005 the enrollment was 9,861 translating to an increase of 1,584 people (19%) since 1993. The 2000 census shows the unemployment for the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation by county as, Mountrail County 4.3%, McKenzie 2.5%, Dunn 3.3% Mercer 4.1%, McLean 4.6% and Ward 3.2%.

Social and Economic Statistics:

Population Characteristics
The Fort Berthold Reservation population has increased by 5,395 people in 1990 to 5,915 2000. The percentage of the reservation’s population that was Native American increased from 56% in 1990 to 67% in 2000. Of the 5,915 tribal members living on the Ft. Berthold reservation 36% were under the age of 17, 8.7% were between the ages of 18 and 24, 10.8% were between the ages of 35 to 44, 12.1% between the ages 45 to 54, 7.7% between the ages of 55 to 64, 5.8% between the ages of 65 to 74 and 5.1% age 75 and higher. (Housing Market Analysis & Demand Estimates for the Ft. Berthold Reservation & Market feasibility Analysis)

Poverty, Unemployment and Income
In 1999, the poverty rate among Tribal members in the six counties on the Ft. Berthold Indian Reservation and off-Reservation lands was 38% more than three times the rates for North Dakota (10.2%) and the U.S. (11.3%). In 2001, the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Labor Market report found the unemployment rate on the Ft. Berthold reservation to be 44% compared to 2.8% in North Dakota and 4.8% in the U.S. as a whole. According to the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Labor Market the median household income on the Ft. Berthold reservation in the 2000 census was $26,977 – compared to $41,994 in the US as a whole. The average per capita income in 1999 was $8,855 – less than half the US average of $21,587.

Economic Analysis
According to the Voget, Williams, Bowen Market Analysis, the Fort Berthold Reservation’s economy is based primarily in Indian affairs government and services oriented jobs within the reservation. Tribal government is the largest employer in the area. Tourism jobs include the Four Bears Casino and others associated with services. These jobs are generally considered relatively
"recession resistant." Economic growth has been slow and this lack of growth has attributed to raising unemployment rates and decreased numbers of employment...

Unmet Need of Housing: The average household size (people per household) in the reservation varies greatly between Native American and non-Native Americans. The average household size for non-Native Americans was 2.57 people per household in 2000, down from 2.63 in 1990. This decline was largely the result of the aging population. Meanwhile, the average household size of Native Americans was 3.54 in 2000, down from 3.50 in 1990. Native Americans households average nearly one more person per household than non-Native Americans. The Market Analysis identified and personally surveyed eight rental housing projects containing a total of 427 units. These rentals have combined occupancy rate of 100% and a clear indication of the lack of available rental housing. The Housing Authority's rental waiting lists show 91 families on the rental wait list. Of the 91 families, 35 families have a household composition of Five (5) to eight (8) to a household. The Homeownership waiting list shows an additional 25 low income families seeking homeownership. Of the 116 families currently waiting for housing each family live with other families until adequate housing becomes available. On May 8, 2008 Proposed Amendment No. 1 changed the enrollment status on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation to “any person born to any member of the Three Affiliated Tribes shall be eligible to membership through lineal descendant”. The Fort Berthold Housing Authority forsees a serious ramification on supply and demand for housing. The demand for housing will increase with the change in the enrollment process.

Homeless Problem: The Fort Berthold Housing Authority plays a vital role in addressing the unmet need of overcrowding and homelessness through developing strategic development projects throughout the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation. The Housing Authority incorporated a long term development plan into the Five Year Indian Housing Plan for FY 2006-2007 to address future housing development. The development plans include 28 units in New Town, 12-plex buildings in Parshall, White Shield, and Twin Buttes as well as five duplexes (10) units in Mandaree and 5 homeownership units. The Fort Berthold Housing Authority has several subsidized rental projects proposed and in planning process that would add a total of 79 units on the reservation.

The Housing Authority has taken the lead by identifying the stakeholders in the community, hosting stakeholders meeting, gathering information, identifying and assessing the root causes of chronic homelessness in the community. The stakeholders group identified the following causes of chronic homelessness on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation:

- Lack of appropriate supportive services and permanent housing
- Difficulties in engaging the population on the issue of homelessness
- Inadequate service for chronic homelessness
- Fragmented systems of care
- Lack of knowledge of all available resources and
- Understanding the definition of overcrowded verses homelessness
- Lack of employment in the six districts, because there are no business established.
- Isolation

The stakeholders group acknowledged the two major categories of homelessness as prevention which is to reduce the number of people who become homeless and intervention which is to increase the supportive housing services. The Housing Authority has several subsidized rental projects planned and proposed that would add a total of 79 units on the reservation. The proposed 79 units will not address the immediate needs of the 116 families. The Housing Authority anticipates an increase in the waiting list over the next 10 years with the change in the Tribes enrollment regulations. The Housing Authority will join efforts with the Tribe to create a reservation wide development plan to address building affordable housing through out the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation.
GOALS IN PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION:

Identifying the problems to homelessness:

- Centralization of funding and increase coordination of efforts:
The Fort Berthold Housing Authority identified homelessness into the Five Year Indian Housing Plan for FY 2006-2007. Fort Berthold Housing Authority will create an internal program and set aside funds to address homelessness through the Affordable Housing Department.

- Establish a joint effort through the Fort Berthold Housing Authority and the Tribe to identify funds and a strategic development plan for future rental and homeownership projects throughout the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation.

- Identify funds and establish joint efforts to educate the public on homelessness and to educate individuals in homeownership by creating Homebuyer Education Program to educate individuals in homeownership and financial literacy. The joint effort will include the all social service agents located on and surrounding the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation.

- Identify and develop a joint development plan to address affordable housing projects throughout the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation. The plan would target various loan products and grant products to develop affordable housing project throughout the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation. The products will include funding sources such as the HUD Title VI program to create affordable homeownership and a lease purchase program. The Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program to create 42 low-income developments units throughout the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation.

- Identify and establish partnerships with local, state and federal programs on all available resources for developing affordable housing, permanent supported housing programs, transitional housing and to centralize homelessness with supportive services to address physical and mental issues surrounding homelessness. To develop a plan to have an office and eventually a transitional shelter to assist homeless tribal members with programs services information. Provide information to homeless clients as to what is available to them i.e., Food stamps, Health care, education, mental health, jobs and all other tribal and county resources.

Performance Activities and the implementation of the Plan

- Create a Task Force throughout the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation to include agencies such as social agents, job services, Fort Berthold Community College, Indian Health Service, project developers, community boards, Tribal Court, Tribal Finance, financial consultants, state agents, the FBHA and Tribal Business acknowledgement and approval of the plan.

- The Task Force will gather all statistical data, initiate surveys, identify outside potential agents both state and federal. The Task Forces will build partnerships with all federal and state programs funding and supportive services available to provide financial assistance to combat the problems of homelessness.

- The Task Force will establish collaborate efforts between the Fort Berthold Housing Authority and the Tribal Housing Program to address the needs for additional rental and homeownership projects on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation.
The Task Force will establish a collaborate effort between the Child Welfare Program, JTPA, Social Service Program, Court System, Food Program, Community Centers and provide public meetings, public announcements, conferences, maximize press coverage, promote the plan of action and enlist the support of community leaders and local celebrities to spread the word.

The Task Force will establish a centralized program staffed with individuals who will develop and distribute complete informational packets identifying available services available through: tribe, state, county, faith-based, and public agencies which will assist the homeless. Staff will monitor homeless individuals and families and those are at risk of becoming homeless ensuring their involvement with available programs.

The centralized program and the Task Force will identify and establish a community-based emergency shelter program. The Centralized Program will not only provide immediate shelter, but will focus and target the cause and effects leading to homelessness situations.

The Centralized Program and the Task Force will not only provide administrative services to end homeless, but will research the overall cause and effects of homeless on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation.

The projected number of units to be built is 300 to reduce and eliminate the homeless population on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation.

SUMMARY:

The mission of the Fort Berthold Housing Authority is to assist the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara people and their extended family to reside and/or acquire affordable homes that are safe, decent and sanitary. To achieve the mission the Fort Berthold Housing Authority will strive to maximize all resources human and natural in an efficient, reasonable and timely manner, within their ancestral lands. 116 families have been identified who are in need of emergency housing. The 116 families, FBHA has identified 61 of the 116 are in need of 3 to 4 bedroom units both rental and homeownership, today. The Fort Berthold Housing Authority operates under an approved Five Year Indian Housing Plan. The Five Year Plan is to implement an approved development plan to create 74 additional rental and homeownership units over the next 10 years.

To end homelessness the Fort Berthold Housing Authority and the Tribe plans to collaborate all efforts in developing to meet the in anticipate over the next 10 years the demand for affordable housing will increase with the rise in Tribal enrollment increasing the supply and unmet need of affordable housing. The 10 year comprehensive plan will be used to create, establish and strengthen partnerships among all government programs, service providers, faith-based organizations, and other homeless organizations. The plan will identify a Taskforce Group, establish a centralize office, build an emergency Shelter, establish partnerships with local, state and federal agencies and implement the 10 year plan of action.

The Centralized Program and the Task Force will not only provide administrative services to end homeless, but will research the overall social economic stresses, the historical impact of the flooding of the Garrison Dam, the cause and effects of Board Schools life in the 1950's, the generational cause and effects of alcoholism, and the cultural change from Native traditional life to assimilation into main stream society. The research findings will fortify the need for funding, the need to create a non-profit entity, the need to change the mind set of local, Tribal and State agencies view of homelessness on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation.