



News Alert



CommonBond Communities Expands to Rapid City, SD

Rapid City Collective Impact to partner on much-needed affordable housing with services

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Rapid City, SD and Saint Paul, MN – CommonBond Communities, a nonprofit developer and manager of affordable housing with onsite services, has announced it will expand its service area to provide affordable housing with services to the Rapid City community this year. This new effort to help meet the housing needs of the Rapid City area was developed in partnership with local community leaders from the Rapid City Collective Impact initiative.

In late 2018, CommonBond Communities initiated a feasibility study around housing needs and worked to determine the most likely path for a nonprofit affordable housing provider to enter the market. Through an extensive review of available data, and dozens of interviews with local leaders, it became clear the necessary resources and community leadership were available.

“We are pleased to expand our work to the Rapid City community,” said Deidre Schmidt, President and CEO of CommonBond Communities. “During our conversations with leaders in Rapid City, it became abundantly clear that this community can positively impact pressing housing needs through collaboration.”

CommonBond staff, with advice from Rapid City leaders, will begin real estate acquisition and development activities in this calendar year. This work is anticipated to complement existing efforts of the Rapid City Collective Impact initiative’s work on housing and homelessness issues.

“We are excited to partner with CommonBond Communities because of the organization’s approach in both preserving and creating new affordable housing, and by providing resident-focused property management and services,” said Liz Hamburg, Executive Director of the Black Hills Area Community Foundation, the home of Rapid City Collective Impact.

A housing study conducted by the Black Hills Knowledge Network and released in June 2018 revealed that the Rapid City area is short nearly 3,500 housing units for residents whose average median household income is less than \$35,000 per year. In response to that study, Rapid City Collective Impact set several short-term goals, including plans to create a nonprofit development corporation or partner with an existing organization, like CommonBond, to build and manage affordable housing properties. One of the long-term goals is that, through resident-focused property management and community connections, Rapid City will see a reduction in the hopelessness of many of the community's working poor by allowing more people the ability have a place to call "home."

"In addition to increasing the amount of affordable housing available in Rapid City, we are pleased that CommonBond brings with it an array of support services that assists tenants in maintaining successful housing," said Alan Solano, CEO of the John T. Vucurevich Foundation.

This expansion was made possible by the generous support of the Black Hills Area Community Foundation and the John T. Vucurevich Foundation.

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CommonBond Communities believes a home is the foundation for everything in life. Our mission is to build stable homes, strong futures, and vibrant communities. Currently working in Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin, with a planned expansion to South Dakota, CommonBond has built and sustained homes and provided services for families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities since 1971. CommonBond combines affordable housing with services to help residents achieve their goals tied to stability, advancement, and independence.

Rapid City Collective Impact is a community-supported initiative involving members of local government, nonprofits, faith-based communities, business, grassroots citizens and a backbone organization who share the common goal of improving quality of life in Rapid City. RCCI is a program of the Black Hills Area Community Foundation.