

**Affordable Housing Report submitted: January 15, 2025**

## **Middle Rio Grande Housing Collaborative (MRGHC)**

The MRGHC met at 3:00 pm, Thursday, December 19, 2024 at the MRCOG Board Room. These MRGHC commissioners were present at the meeting: Talia Friedman, Dan Majewski, Lawrence Rael, and Steve Anaya. Commissioner Ian Robertson was absent. Also in attendance was County Commissioner Barbara Baca and County Manager Cindy Chavez from Bernalillo County.

Agenda Item Updates: The minutes for November 14 and November 25 were reviewed and approved. The Chair presented for Action an MOU between MRGHC and Bernalillo County to adhere to quarterly reporting requirements for the County's \$500,000 appropriation to MRGHC. A similar MOU will be drafted between MRGHC and the City of Albuquerque for their \$500,000 appropriation which will be presented for action at the January meeting.

MRGHC Chair Friedman said that two applicants for the MRGHC Executive Director position were interviewed in November. She stated that an offer of employment was extended to one of the candidates, however, the candidate's current employer countered that offer with a raise. The candidate therefore declined the MRGHC offer. The Executive Director position will thus be posted again to receive new applications.

The MRGHC members received a presentation on the Affordable Housing Act (AHA) by Joseph Montoya, Deputy Director of Housing at the City of Albuquerque. The presentation focused on the AHA, the anti-donation clause of the New Mexico State Constitution and their impact on the creation of affordable housing. The AHA allows authorized entities (municipalities, counties, State of New Mexico or school districts) to donate or make contributions towards acquisition, development, financing, operating and managing affordable housing. By subsidizing various housing development costs these donations allow housing projects to have lower rents and thus become more affordable to low to moderate income populations. MFA/Housing New Mexico administers the AHA by reviewing all applications for compliance with the AHA; ensures that entities are 'qualifying grantees'; and, that an open RFP (Request for Proposals) or NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability) process if followed by the granting entity.

MRGHC members were briefed regarding Bernalillo County's 2025 NM Legislative priorities and funding requests that prioritized two housing related items: 1) support a request of \$500 million to the NM Housing Trust Fund with a 20% set aside for local governments to produce and/or rehabilitate affordable housing; and, 2) the MRGHC request for \$100 million for affordable housing in all four quadrants of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County to fund the development of 2,000 new housing units and the rehabilitation of 800 housing units.

The next MRGHC meeting date will be Thursday, January 23, 2025 @ 3pm at MRCOG Board room.

\*\*\*\*