

New housing study to spur development

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DAD study to be done in February

Dawson Area Development (DAD) is preparing a new housing study for the region, with the assistance of Hanna:Keelan Associates, P.C., a Nebraska based community planning and research consulting firm.

The housing study, scheduled for completion in February 2014, is being funded by a Housing Study Program Grant provided by the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority, with matching funds from DAD.

The current Dawson County Area Housing Study was completed by Hanna:Keelan in 2008. DAD, in partnership with its communities, Dawson County and a host of other public and private entities, has kept the facilitation and implementation of new housing and the improvement of the existing housing stock at the forefront of DAD's community and economic development programs.

"A new housing study will be very important in keeping pace with the community and economic development goals and priorities of DAD," according to Jennifer Wolf, executive director of DAD. "The current housing study has been extremely helpful in attracting new housing stock to the area, but it is time for a new study to match the future economic initiatives of our communities."

The new Dawson County Area Housing Study will include important population, income and economic data, a housing stock analysis, strategies for affordable housing development, a five-year housing action plan and funding options for future owner and rental housing development and housing rehabilitation projects.

Area residents will have the opportunity to participate directly in the preparation of the new housing study, by completing opinion surveys and attending housing informational meetings.

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“The new housing study will address the housing needs and wants of the residents of the Dawson County area, including all age and income household sectors,” Wolf said. “Special attention will be given to the determination of the need for varied housing types for the area workforce, elderly households and the potential for downtown upper-story housing in DAD communities.

“Housing is economic development and DAD wants to match housing opportunities with those of business recruitment and expansion.”

Any questions and/or comments regarding the new Dawson County Area Housing Study can be directed to Jennifer Wolf, 308.217.0004, jen@dawsonareadevelopment.com.