



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TRIBE AWARDED GRANTS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

BAY MILLS — Bay Mills Indian Community will develop approximately 90 new home sites, thanks to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s decision to award the tribe grants totaling \$4 million to develop water and sewer systems.

Two separate grants, totaling \$2 million each, will fund the construction of water and sewer infrastructure for the tribe’s planned Plantation Hills Housing Development, which is located on the Bay Mills Indian Reservation near Brimley. Completion of the housing development had been stalled for nearly a decade, due to lack of funding for critical infrastructure.

There is a high demand for single-family homes within the boundaries of the Bay Mills Indian Reservation, and many community members living outside of community wish to return to Bay Mills to live and work.

“These grants will help Bay Mills put more tribal members on the path to homeownership. With utilities in place, tribal members may soon apply to banks for construction/mortgage loans,” said Bay Mills Indian Community Chairman Bryan Newland. “This project will create jobs and meet the demand for local housing in our community.”

The grants were awarded by the USDA Office of Rural Development. U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-MI – Ranking Member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, which oversees rural development funding – was instrumental in assisting the tribe with acquiring the funds.

“There is a critical need for investments in water and sewer systems across Michigan, including our Upper Peninsula, and Rural Development is an important partner in meeting these needs,” said Senator Stabenow. “This investment will provide an economic boost to the community, create jobs and provide affordable housing for tribal members.”

“We are grateful to Sen. Stabenow and USDA Rural Development for their support. This project had been stalled for many years. But, their hard work has made jobs and housing a reality for our community,” added Newland.

The tribe expects to begin construction on the water and sewer systems in 2018. After receiving notice that the infrastructure grants were awarded, Bay Mills Indian Community authorized the use of tribal funds to install electric service for the Plantation Hills Housing Development.

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