

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Alfred C. West Jr., 989.464.1003 cell, office 989.356.9090**

**NEMAH awarded \$404,000 for Drinking Water Well Loans**

ALPENA—Northeast Michigan Affordable Housing, Inc. (NEMAH) today announced the availability of low interest loans to qualified individuals and families specifically to drill drinking water wells in its eleven county service region. NEMAH has been awarded \$404,000 from the United States Department of Agriculture to operate a revolving loan fund specifically for the use of drilling drinking water wells.

“We are pleased to announce the availability of these funds,” said Al West, NEMAH chief executive officer. “With these funds, families or individual homeowners can access a low interest loan product to drill their well and preserve their cash for other home costs.”

NEMAH is the recipient of a grant from USDA to develop such a loan fund. The funds are granted to NEMAH and then are turned out into loans with the following terms. The loan term will be 20 years or less, 1 % interest rate and is available for up to 90% of the project costs or \$7,500. NEMAH is working in partnership with the county home improvement offices and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority.

Working to bring federal and state programs to rural counties in northeast Michigan is a high priority for NEMAH. Mr. West has been working in this field for almost 9 years locally and 16 years total. NEMAH founded in 1999 has been developing homeownership opportunities and homeowner rehabilitation opportunities for some time. This new program offers something a little different, but still related to keeping housing costs affordable.

NEMAH's service area includes the counties of: Arenac, Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego and Presque Isle. For an application on this program or to discuss any affordable housing issue, contact NEMAH staff toll free at 866-229-6471, additional information can be found at [www.nemah.org](http://www.nemah.org)

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