

Karen Schlueter Joins Southwest Iowa Housing Trust Fund Board

Southwest Iowa Planning Council operates the Southwest Iowa Housing Trust Fund which was created in 2006 with a mission to improve affordable housing options in Southwest Iowa. SWIHTF currently assists over 100 homes each year with over \$1.5 million in funding. That assistance comes in the form of housing repair, homeownership assistance, and demolition of blighted properties.

The SWIHTF is guided by a Board of Directors with housing and community development backgrounds from across the counties served of Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Page, and Shelby.

SWIHTF is happy to welcome a new board member, Karen Schlueter from Shelby. Karen has been actively involved in the community of Shelby for over 30 years; serving on the City Council, City of Shelby Economic Development, Vice President of Shelby Fire and Rescue, Shelby County Emergency Management Executive Board, Shelby County Emergency Services Association, and Shelby County EMS Essential Services Advisory Board. Karen also has gained valuable experience during thirty plus years of previous employment with West Central Community Action in the Fiscal Department.

“Communication between the government and the people is important to me. Strategic planning for the future of the citizens in our community and generations to come needs to be a priority, whether it be the planning of infrastructure, housing, economic development, recreational and growth to our community as well as ensuring all citizens an affordable and safe community with opportunities and services for all,” Schlueter said.

Two members recently departed the SWIHTF board, Stephanie Bowden and Sherri Clark. We thank Stephanie and Sherri for their service, and Schlueter’s addition is a step in filling their shoes. Schlueter is anxious to contribute, “I think promoting positive community and economic growth in our neighborhoods for the citizens of Shelby and surrounding communities is a worthwhile goal and look forward to being able to represent the Southwest Iowa Housing Trust Fund.”

There is still one vacancy to fill on the SWIHTF Board, which consists of 9 members including 1 designee from the SWIPCO Policy Council. Board members serve terms of 3 years, and no more than 6 consecutive years. Each member of the board shall be a person whose experience in housing, community development, or economic development broadly represents the region and falls within one or more of the following categories:

- Real estate brokers or agents, private developers, and appraisers.
- Attorneys, accountants, and bankers.
- Community or economic development representatives.
- Government representatives.*
- At-Large representatives.

There will be at least one representative from each of the above categories. Geographic distribution will be considered when selecting board members. A majority of the seats on the board consist of persons who are NOT local government, public officials, or employees of city or county government.

If you or someone you know would be a good fit for serving on the SWIHTF Board, please contact Erin Hudson or Nicole Rhodes at SWIPCO.

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