Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless

Working to ensure that everyone has a safe, decent, affordable place to call home

May 2013 Legislative Update

Homes for All

Housing and homeless services received a $33 million funding increase.

- **Minnesota Housing**—24 percent increase ($76 to $101.5 million)
  
  Family Homelessness Prevention ($790K); Challenge Fund ($14.5M); Housing Trust Fund ($4.8M); Housing Rehab ($10M); Capacity Building ($500K); Homebuyer Education and Homeowner Assistance ($146K); Grants ($889K); Preservation (federal funds offset $6M reduction).

- **Department of Human Services**—42 percent increase ($16.7 to $23.7 million)
  
  Long-term Homeless Supportive Services ($2M); Transitional Housing ($500K); Emergency Services Program ($500K); Homeless Youth Act ($4M).

  **Impact:** Prevent homelessness for 18,500 families; develop housing for 1,300 families; homebuyer counseling for 8,700 households; provide homeless services for 7,000 Minnesotans.

Affirmative Options for Families

Improvements to the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) will be implemented incrementally.

- **2014:** MFIP Earned Income Disregard increased to 50 percent (effectively changing the exit level from 115 to 140 percent of the federal poverty guideline).
  
  **Impact:** Raise assistance by $30/month for 6,200 working families in poverty.

- **2015:** Housing allowance added; family cap repealed (newborn baby penalty).
  
  **Impact:** $110/month increase for approximately 17,800 families; family cap repeal will raise assistance by $74/month for approximately 4,100 families.

- **2015-2017:** $2M for paid work experience; $250,000 for work study slots; $2M for racial disparities project; $200,000 for home visiting for MFIP teen parents; $1.5 million in bonus funds for counties with good MFIP outcomes.
  
  **Impact:** Approximately 640 working families would receive an additional $2,790 per year; 160 families would benefit from work study slots.

Special thanks to foundation partners and MCH members who make this work possible through their generous support.