

**Shelter saves lives. Housing ends homelessness.**

**H.F. 315 | S.F. 455**

# **EMERGENCY SERVICES PROGRAM (ESP)**

## **\$15 Million Investment**

*Emergency shelters are the starting point to gaining long-term stability.*

- The Emergency Services Program allows organizations and local communities to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness by providing funding that supports the operations, staffing, and resources to support families, individuals, and seniors.
- Institute for Community Alliance's research stated that children under 18 make up a larger share of the population in a shelter in rural areas (35%), compared to suburban or urban areas (28% and 14%), and 63% of the total persons in shelter in the report period were people of color.
- Star from MPLS shares why we need investments to ESP:
  - "Shelter beds help people stay safe - helps me go day to day living life. People at [the shelter] help us get our ID, get our Social Security cards all during a pandemic. These are things we need and we need help to get them." - Star, MPLS

**Statewide, the average number of days spent in shelter is**

**74 DAYS**

**The proportion of people staying on the street, rather than in shelters, increased by approximately 5% from 2019 to 2020. According to the Wilder Homeless Study, 36% increase in Greater MN and a 92% increase in the Twin Cities Metro**

**Minnesotans of Color are approximately**

**10X**

**more likely to experience homelessness than white Minnesotans**

- An increase to ESP will impact every region in the State. With the influx of federal and state CARES dollars, we will have ramped up the shelter system to react to COVID-19 but lack the resources for long-term solutions.
- All across Minnesota, shelters and homeless service providers desperately need the funds to provide critical services to save lives. Strengthening the statewide Emergency Services Program with an increase of \$15M per biennium will empower communities across the state to find creative, flexible solutions that address homelessness in our Minnesota communities.

Data provided by the Institute for Community Alliances while utilizing the Point in Time Count, Housing Inventory Count, & Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

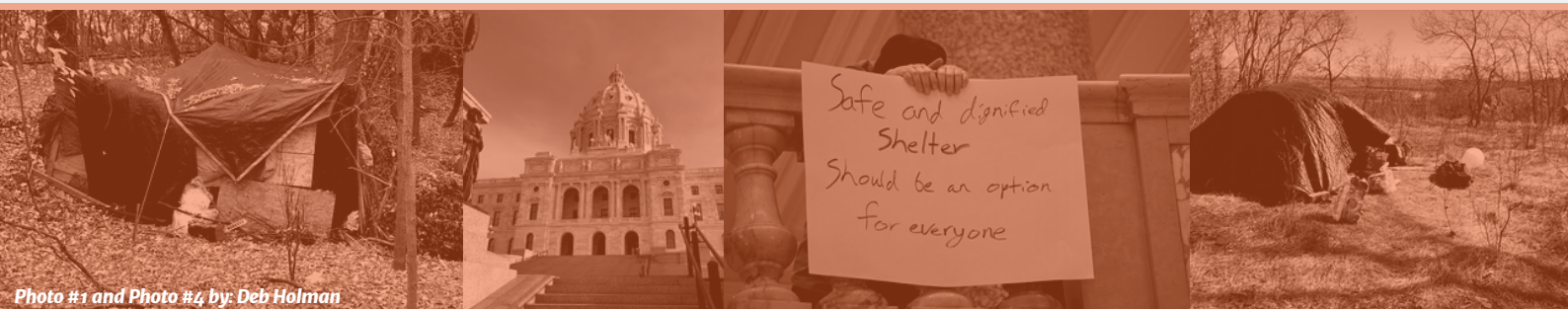


Photo #1 and Photo #4 by: Deb Holman

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