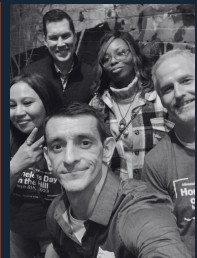
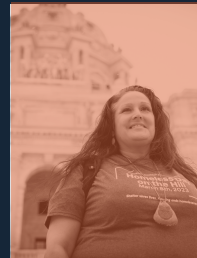


2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



FUNDING REQUEST:
\$200M funding to meet the statewide need. 10% of the funding would be dedicated to tribal nations working together to address homelessness.

\$200M FAMILY HOMELESS PREVENTION AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (FHPAP)

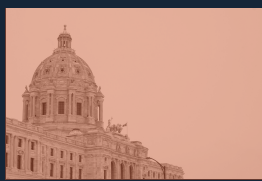
FHPAP is designed to provide flexible financial assistance and/or supportive services to families, youth, and single adults who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. It provides supportive services and financial assistance, such as rent deposits, rent payments, or utility payments for eligible households.

FUNDING REQUEST:
Expanding 30% of income protections passed in the 2023 session to include General Assistance (GA) and individuals residing in Board and lodge settings.

EXPAND INCOME PROTECTIONS FOR HOUSING SUPPORT RESIDENTS

Minnesota's Housing Support program pairs housing assistance (e.g., rent, linens, laundry) with case management for low-income seniors, veterans, and adults with disabilities who are at risk of homelessness. It is one of the state's best tools to prevent and end homelessness, but inequitable income formulas create barriers to housing and can lead individuals to choose to remain in a shelter or unhoused instead.

Partner-led priority by: Catholic Charities Twin Cities
Contact: Lorna Schmidt at Lorna.Schmidt@cctwincities.org | www.cctwincities.org



FUNDING REQUEST:
\$50M to enhance current shelters and generate new models to meet the needs that are culturally responsive, gender-affirming, accessible, and low-barrier; Site-Based Transitional Housing accepted as eligible use.

\$50M CAPITAL INVESTMENT in Shelter and Transitional Housing

Shelter spaces and Site-Based Transitional housing will be eligible uses of this funding and will be included in the same bill

Funding the preservation and creation of shelter is key to meeting the growing community needs for unsheltered homelessness. By adding this as an eligible use, these investments will also strengthen the existing Transitional Housing model and continue to preserve and create housing opportunities.

FUNDING REQUEST:
One-time funds for a research study on the state-wide numbers, unique needs of pregnant and parenting youth experiencing homelessness.

STUDY ON PREGNANT AND PARENTING YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

One-time funds for a research study on the state-wide numbers, unique needs of pregnant and parenting youth experiencing homelessness, and best practices in supporting them within programming, emergency shelter, and housing settings.


Partner-led priority by: Youth Services Network | Contact: Beth Holger at bholger@thelinkmn.org | www.ysnmn.org

FUNDING REQUEST:
Increase of \$20M: \$12M for sustaining and expanding street outreach; \$8M for Safe Harbor Supportive Services

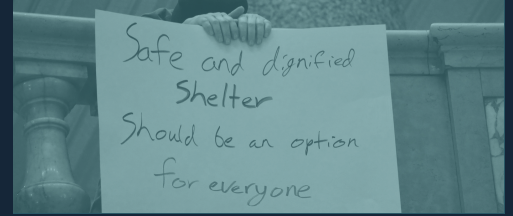
SAFE HARBOR: EMERGENCY SHELTER AND HOUSING

Safe Harbors specializes in supportive services, shelter, and housing for survivors to heal from the trauma of sex trafficking. In addition to the funding request, we support sustaining the full \$1.76 million increase of one-time funding in 2024-25.

Also partner-led priority by: Youth Services Network
Contact: Beth Holger at bholger@thelinkmn.org | www.ysnmn.org



Even after the historic legislative wins of 2023, there are significant needs in communities across Minnesota for continued capital investment in shelter, making new investments to create or preserve transitional housing, and continued investment into homelessness assistance programs. Our partners have identified vital policy solutions through engagement with communities most impacted; we join with them in lifting up these powerful solutions. The priorities of MCH and our partners below will make crucial investments and policy solutions to address homelessness and hunger--every child, youth, adult and family should have a home and no one should go to bed hungry.



ELIMINATE DHS BACKGROUND STUDIES REQUIREMENT

Current law mandates Housing Support programs undergo the DHS Background Study process for board members, staff, and volunteers with direct recipient contact. However, during the crisis-level industry staffing shortage, this requirement poses a significant workforce barrier, particularly affecting individuals with lived experience of homelessness and BIPOC applicants are disproportionately impacted by justice involvement.

Partner-led priority by: *Hearth Connection* | Contact: Kristine Davis at kristine@hearthconnection.org | www.hearthconnection.org

POLICY REQUEST:

Eliminate the background studies requirement from Housing Support supportive housing and emergency shelter settings.

SIMPLIFY STATE SUPPORTIVE HOUSING RESOURCES

This proposal establishes a workgroup to streamline access and administration of state-funded supportive housing resources for people experiencing homelessness, with recommendations to the MN Legislature in 2025. The objective is to reduce administrative complexities, enhance equity and accessibility, and accelerate the transition of individuals from homelessness to sustainable long-term solutions.

Also partner-led priority by: *Hearth Connection*

Contact: Kristine Davis at kristine@hearthconnection.org | www.hearthconnection.org



POLICY REQUEST:

Establish a workgroup compiled of Representatives from state agencies, including MN Housing and the Department of Human Services, along with community members.

INCREASE SNAP BENEFITS FOR SENIORS AND ACCESS FOR STUDENTS

Minnesota lawmakers can follow the example of other states in addressing SNAP access at the state level. Specifically, Minnesota's lawmakers can clarify state law and allow more low-income, food-insecure students to access this federal benefit by allowing Pell-eligible students enrolled in public institutions of higher who otherwise qualify for the SNAP to access this program.

SENIORS (55+)

Currently, the monthly minimum benefit for SNAP households of 1 to 2 people is \$23 and needs to be adjusted to support the rising cost of groceries. We need to increase the minimum benefit for seniors.

Partner-led priority by: *Hunger Solutions*

Contact: Peter Woitock at pwoitock@hungersolutions.org | www.hungersolutions.org



POLICY REQUEST:

Clarify state law and allow more low-income, food-insecure students, and Pell-eligible students, to access SNAP.

POLICY REQUEST:

We propose to raise the minimum benefit for seniors 55 and older to \$50 a month to ensure our most vulnerable households don't go hungry.

**SHELTER SAVES LIVES.
HOUSING ENDS HOMELESSNESS.**

MCH will be following legislation regarding encampments to ensure it is meaningful, statewide and supports people moving out of homelessness.