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.

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

$50M CAPITAL INVESTMENT in Shelter and Transitional Housing

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.

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

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
**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.

**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.

**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.

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

**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.