

Representative Fue Lee
Chair, House Capital Investment Committee
485 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

April 13, 2021

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of our hunger relief organizations, we express our gratitude for inclusion of House File 1753 in the House Omnibus Bonding Bill. These funds will be used to increase our organizations' capacity to provide essential resources to our communities. 1 in 9 Minnesotans face hunger today, compared to 1 in 11 in 2019. We know access to food services will continue to grow as housing prices continue to increase and our economy slowly recovers due to the pandemic.

As negotiations continue, we ask that you consider increasing the investment into these programs. The more funding that is allocated, the quicker we will be able to serve the increased need within our individual communities. Full funding would also leverage \$1 million in matching grant support for Keystone Community Services. SACA has also been working very closely with the City of Columbia Heights to identify specific support from the city to match funds provided by the state. Our organizations will continue to innovate to meet the changing landscape of hunger in Minnesota. We appreciate your support and your help in this mission.

Thank you,

Keystone Community Services
Southern Anoka Community Assistance (SACA)
360 Communities
Community Pathways of Steele County

