



**Ramsey County Board of
Commissioners**



**Office of the
Ramsey County Attorney**



**Office of the
Ramsey County Sheriff**



**Ramsey County
Manager's Office**

May 5, 2025

Dear House Public Safety & Judiciary Finance Conferees,

We are deeply grateful for the State's investment in Youth Treatment Homes in Ramsey County. Your support has enabled us to pursue a bold and compassionate shift—from institutional confinement to therapeutic, community-based residences that offer young people with complex behavioral health needs a more dignified and healing environment.

We respectfully request your support in extending this critical funding through June 30, 2027. The Senate's omnibus bill includes this extension (SF 1417, Art. 2, Sec. 16) and we are advocating for its inclusion in the final Judiciary and Public Safety omnibus bill, emerging from the conference committee.

Since receiving funding in 2023 for both the homes and wraparound services, we have moved forward with purpose and care—working to build a sustainable and responsive model that aligns with the needs of our community and addresses the unique challenges inherent in this type of system change. Our approach has been deliberate, collaborative, and informed by those most impacted.

Key steps we have taken to date include:

- Assembling a legislative action team of subject matter experts to chart a path toward successful implementation in Fall of 2023.
- Leading a series of targeted community engagement sessions throughout 2024 focused on listening to youth, families, and frontline practitioners about unmet needs and how best to meet them as well as analyzing existing service providers to understand the real-world barriers and opportunities in operating homes for high-needs youth.
- Crafting a thoughtful Request for Proposals (RFP) based on this input.
- Releasing the RFP in November 2024, with selection currently underway.

Throughout this process, we have surfaced significant structural barriers, including licensing timelines of up to eight months through DHS and the difficulty of securing a vendor for this new model.

We are committed to the long-term success of these homes and the youth they are meant to serve. Extending the duration of funding through June 2027 will allow for full implementation, learning, and impact.

Thank you again for your partnership and belief in this vision. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or if additional information would be helpful.

Commissioner Rafael Ortega, Board Chair

Commissioner Rena Moran

John Choi, County Attorney

Bob Fletcher, Sheriff

Ling Becker, County Manager