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Minneapolis, MN 55404  
[info@alignmpls.org](mailto:info@alignmpls.org)

To: Co-Chairs and Members, Housing Finance and Policy Committee

RE: HF 2144, Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program appropriation

Dear Co-Chairs Howard and Igo, and Committee Members,

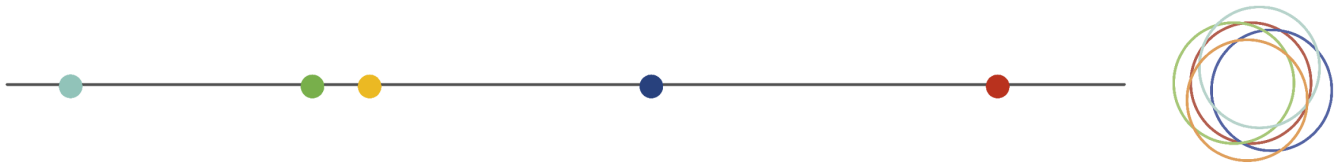
I am the Director of Align Minneapolis, an interfaith coalition of 18 faith congregations and people with lived experiences of homelessness working to address homelessness in Minneapolis. We know that one of the most effective ways to address homelessness is by preventing homelessness from occurring with financial assistance to help households get caught up on back-due rent and avoid eviction. We have an Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program and see many households struggling to make ends meet because of lack of affordable housing and inadequate resources to help them weather even a short-term financial crisis. What we hear from our ERA program applicants is how difficult it is to find help to get caught up on back-due rent and how necessary it is to stabilize and move forward.

The Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program is a critical community resource that needs adequate funding to meet the needs of the community. This program has been a necessary community resource for people who have fallen behind on rent and are facing housing instability. Thank you for hearing this bill, we encourage you to support bill HF 2144 and the funding needed to prevent more people falling into homelessness.

Sincerely,

Katie Dillon

Director, Align Minneapolis | *Congregations Addressing Homelessness Together*



Representative Michael Howard  
Housing Finance & Policy Committee  
Minnesota Capitol, G3

March 25, 2025

Dear Rep. Howard and members of the Housing Finance & Policy Committee,

The Birth Justice Collaborative is writing to encourage you to support HF2144/SF4570, to recognize the Certified Midwife (CM) credential in Minnesota and to license CMs under the Minnesota Board of Nursing, as a strategy to address Minnesota's maternal health crisis and support the birth workers who provide lifesaving care for Minnesota's pregnant women and newborns.

Certified Midwives (CMs) provide the same scope of midwifery services as Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs), and are held to high standards for education, training and certification by the Minnesota Board of Nursing. Midwives are proven to improve access to perinatal care and reduce infant mortality rates, preterm births, and the need for cesarean births in African American, American Indian, and rural communities, but Minnesota's aging Certified Nurse Midwives (CMN) workforce means families in this state will soon lose access to this lifesaving care.

CMs and CNMs differ in how they entered their midwifery educational programs, but not in their scope of work or ability to provide care for pregnant people and their newborns. By providing an alternative pathway to become a full-scope midwife, more candidates from diverse backgrounds and professions will be better positioned to access training and complete the certification process to enter the workforce.

The Birth Justice Collaborative urges you to join us in supporting HF2144/SF4570, to support the midwifery workforce and healthy births in Minnesota, for years to come.

Sincerely,

**The Birth Justice Collaborative**

Akhmiri Sekhr-Ra, Cultural Wellness Center,  
Louise Matson, Division of Indian Work,  
Rev. Dr. Alike Galloway, Liberty Northside Healing Space,  
Ruth Buffalo, Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center,  
Dr. Antony Stately, Native American Community Clinic,  
Makeda Zulu, Urban Research & Outreach-Engagement Center, University of Minnesota

# HEALTHCARE FOR HOUSING MINNESOTA



March 20, 2025

Housing Finance and Policy Committee  
Co-Chairs Representative Igo and Representative Howard  
Capital G3  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Via email

**Re: Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program (FHPAP) [HF2144](#)**

Dear Representative Igo and Representative Howard,

As you set budget targets for housing this legislative session, we urge you pursue the highest possible funding level for emergency rental assistance. The Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program (FHPAP) is critical to maintaining housing stability for low-income families at risk of homelessness. Staying focused on housing stability as a bi-partisan issue supports families facing difficult economic times, with rising housing costs, one of the most significant pocketbook issues.

Minnesotans continue to face historically high evictions, the vast majority of which are for nonpayment of rent. In just the first two months of 2025, 3,000 Minnesota families have received notices. This state-wide issue affects individuals and families in small and large communities across the state. Without emergency rental assistance, families are at severe risk of homelessness and harm to their health, educational outcomes, work stability, and more.

In response to a legislative directive to determine an estimation of need, Minnesota Housing has estimated that it would take \$350 million annually to respond to the need of Minnesota families with low incomes for emergency rental assistance. The Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program (FHPAP) helps people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, by providing financial assistance and supportive services such as rent or housing payments, utility payments, deposits, and other eligible expenses. This program works. Every dollar makes a difference, whether one time or ongoing, by helping individuals and families remain housed through emergency situations.

**Healthcare for Housing Minnesota is a coalition of seven of the largest health systems in Minnesota.** Healthcare systems know from our patients that housing instability is a major social determinant of health that impacts their well-being. The link between housing stability and health outcome is strong and as a result many healthcare providers are now screening for housing instability. Having well-resourced emergency rental support for households to maintain stable housing is preventive care for a person's health. Loss of housing leads to a downward spiral that will impact employment, childcare, education, and individual and community health. Emergency Rental Assistance is a resource that helps bridge households in a time of need, keeps them in a place they call home, and ensures their health does not deteriorate to a point where expensive medical and community interventions are required.

# HEALTHCARE FOR HOUSING MINNESOTA

Please increase funding for the Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program (HFPAP) as a resource that supports housing stability and the health of our patients and communities.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

**Healthcare for Housing Minnesota**

Policy Chair Larry Hiscock  
Fairview

**Co-chairs**

Santo Cruz	Ben Waltz
CentraCare	Blue Cross Blue Shield MN



Legal Services Advocacy Project

March 22, 2025

The Honorable Michael Howard  
Co-Chair, Housing Finance and Policy Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Centennial Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Spencer Igo  
Co-Chair, Housing Finance and Policy Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Centennial Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF 2144 – Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Fund

Dear Co-Chairs Howard and Igo and Members of the Housing Finance and Policy Committee:

The Legal Services Advocacy Project (LSAP) writes in support of HF 2144, which would provide funding for the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP) and offer great benefits to our clients. LSAP is a statewide division of Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, providing policy, legislative, and administrative advocacy on behalf of Legal Aid statewide. Legal Aid's clients include Minnesotans who have low incomes, elderly Minnesotans and Minnesotans with disabilities

FHPAP has been assisting families, youth, and other Minnesotans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness since 1993. This is a proven program that assists recipients with critical services such as financial assistance for rent, utilities, and other housing-related expenses, as well as supportive services such as case management, housing navigation, and outreach. For example, one study found that, with respect to the program's Rapid Re-Housing component, 70% of program participants successfully found permanent housing. And the YMCA of the North reports that, on average, 85% of the youth and families who receive FHPAP services distributed through that organization continue to be housed a year after exiting the program.

Because this is a challenging budget year, the Legislature should prioritize proven programs that work to help those most vulnerable Minnesotans. This is one of those programs and we ask that you strongly consider continuing to support it. Thank you for the opportunity share our views on HF 2144.

Sincerely,

Ron Elwood  
Supervising Attorney

**Dear Chair Howard, Chief Author Rep. Momanyi-Hiltsley, and Housing Committee,**

Thank you for your dedication and continuous support of HF 2144.

My name is Sedia Omar, and I am a member of the New American Development Center (NADC), a non-profit organization that primarily supports East African and other underserved communities. I am also a member of the MN ERASE Campaign.

NADC strongly supports the HF 2144. As you are aware, the housing crisis continues to worsen. Every month, we are forced to turn away families who are in urgent need and qualify for housing assistance, simply due to a lack of funding. Any additional funding for the Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP) would be greatly appreciated, as we know it will help keep families housed, safe, and secure in their homes.

Thank you for your time and for considering HF 2144.

Sincerely,  
Sedia Omar

House Housing Finance and Policy Committee  
Minnesota State Capitol  
75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard.  
St Paul, MN 55155



Dear Chair Howard, Chair Igo, and Members of the Committee,

March 25, 2025

The Minnesota Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD) is an association of nonprofit community development organizations and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) committed to expanding the wealth and resources of communities through housing opportunities and economic development initiatives. MCCD's mission to build strong and stable communities can only be achieved by addressing the harms and inequities that have shaped housing and economic development policies at every level of government. These policies have prevented Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and other communities from achieving housing stability, accessing capital, and building generational wealth.

**MCCD is writing in support of House File 2144 to fund the Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP).**

Families across Minnesota need access to emergency rental assistance and homelessness prevention services now. Despite crucial investments made by this committee in 2023, our state continues to face a severe housing crisis. Eviction filings have increased an incredible 50% from pre-COVID averages, meaning that individuals and families are still struggling to pay rent. When families have access to emergency rental assistance, we can also better support affordable housing providers and ensure that they can continue to provide critically needed affordable housing options across Minnesota. By passing HF 2144 this session, we can prevent the harm that families experience when they are faced with housing instability.

We know that BIPOC families are disproportionately impacted by the effects of rising rents, inflation, and the enduring effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. FHPAP is a critical program because it predominately serves low-income and BIPOC households. With your support of HF 2144 we can ensure that families are able to access the assistance they need so they do not have to go through the traumatic experience of being unhoused.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our request to support FHPAP. MCCD and our members would like to make ourselves available for any additional information to best help inform your decisions. Please reach out to Kelly Law, Senior Policy and Field Building Advisor at MCCD, 612-865-3170 or [klaw@mccdmn.org](mailto:klaw@mccdmn.org), should you need any further information now or throughout the legislative session.

Sincerely,

*Elena Gaarder*

Elena Gaarder  
Chief Executive Officer, MCCD

# HENNEPIN COUNTY

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 25, 2025

Chair Spencer Igo  
Housing Finance and Policy Committee  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Centennial Building  
658 Cedar Street  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Mike Howard  
Housing Finance and Policy Committee  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor Centennial Building  
658 Cedar Street  
St. Paul, MN 5515

Re: Support for HF 2144

Dear Chair's Igo, Howard and Members of the House Housing Committee:

I write to express Hennepin County's support of HF 2144, a bill to provide funding for the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP).

Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program funding provides critical emergency rental assistance for Hennepin County households at risk for eviction, and rental subsidies to support youth, adults, and families to rapidly exit homelessness and stabilize in permanent housing. This funding has enabled us to advance our goals around making homelessness rare, brief and nonrecurring. Further progress toward these goals would be negatively impacted by the currently scheduled reductions in FHPAP funding.

This program has made a particularly positive impact during the current biennium through a series of funding appropriations from the legislature. Following these investments, Hennepin County and its portfolio of contracted providers prevented more than 1,300 evictions with FHPAP funding in 2024 alone through the provision of \$4.2 million in emergency rental assistance and culturally responsive support services. These investments have come at a critical moment as eviction filings have surged to unprecedented levels in Hennepin County. Heightened eviction trends have persisted for the last 3 years and have surged even further in recent months, with all-time single month highs in eviction filings in December 2024 and January 2025. Rental



assistance stabilizes tenancies – benefiting both residents and property owners – and reduces pressure on emergency shelters and other crisis systems.

FHPAP also funded rental subsidies and supports to help 355 households to rapidly exit homelessness and stabilize in permanent housing through 2024. This was one of the critical interventions that helped reduce family homeless shelter use by more than 50% over 2024 as the number of families able to exit shelter each month exceeded the number of new families coming in. Helping families with children swiftly exit homeless shelters to more permanent settings benefits their health, wellbeing and development.

Should FHPAP funding revert to the base funding in fiscal year 2026, Hennepin County estimates that the County and its contracted service providers would prevent 1,000 fewer evictions each year as compared to 2024 levels, and support 135 fewer households each year to exit homelessness. In the absence of a robust emergency rental assistance and rental subsidy portfolio, more households will become displaced through evictions and more households will experience lengthened episodes of homelessness. Additionally, a reversion to base funding levels would adversely impact our ability to work across the geographically and culturally representative network of Hennepin County service providers that has developed over the course of several years of investment.

At Hennepin County, we have made it a top priority to provide safe and stable housing for all individuals and families. As the largest FHPAP administrator in the state, we are writing to support HF 2144 and to underscore the importance of expanding investments in both individuals and families experiencing homelessness as well as at-risk, low-income households to sustain their housing.

Sincerely



Irene Fernando

Co-Chair Michael Howard  
Co-Chair Spencer Igo  
House Committee on Housing Finance and Policy  
Centennial Office Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

March 24, 2025

Dear Chairs, Legislative Authors and Committee Members,

I am writing to express strong support for HF2144, which seeks to appropriate \$75,000,000 to the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP) under Minnesota statute 462A.204.

The Ramsey County Housing Stability Department administers FHPAP in collaboration with numerous community partners, providing essential services such as Coordinated Entry, Homeless Prevention, Rapid Rehousing, and Street Outreach. These services are grounded in trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and housing-first interventions that aim to eliminate racial disparities within the homelessness continuum. A key focus is on proactive prevention efforts, working upstream to avert homelessness and mitigate the flow of individuals into the system, thereby reducing costs and long-term impact.

FHPAP is a critical funding source for homelessness prevention in Ramsey County, enabling us to provide stability and safety for those at risk of losing their homes. Homelessness significantly worsens existing barriers, including generational poverty, systemic racism, legal challenges such as eviction or criminal history, aging out of foster care, lack of support networks, unemployment, physical disabilities, mental illness, and substance abuse. Nearly 70% of those served by FHPAP are BIPOC individuals, despite BIPOC making up only 42% of the total Ramsey County population. Furthermore, the majority of those served are children, with ages ranging from 0-4. By prioritizing prevention, we are better equipped to tackle homelessness, reduce racial disparities, and support our community's most vulnerable members.

The historic one-time appropriations secured in 2023 brought Ramsey County's biennial budget to \$11.1 million, which has significantly enhanced our ability to serve all populations facing or experiencing homelessness. This funding has been instrumental in eviction prevention efforts, helping households at imminent risk of homelessness, particularly through housing court interventions. However, without sustained and additional appropriations for the 2025-2027 biennium, the impact of FHPAP will be severely reduced as the statewide budget is expected to return to its base level of \$20.5 million.

Despite the increased one-time funding in 2023, the demand for FHPAP services remains overwhelming. The financial strain caused by the historical devaluation of BIPOC communities, inflation, the lingering effects of the pandemic, and the end of the eviction moratorium in 2022 has led to an even greater need for eviction prevention services, rental and deposit assistance, and utility support. On average, households require approximately \$4,000 to stabilize their housing situations and prevent further crisis, depending on family size, the duration of their housing instability, and other individual barriers.

We urge our legislators to act on behalf of the singles, families, young adults, and children in our community who are struggling to stay housed. This funding is a critical investment in their safety and stability, and in the long-term health of our community.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued support of the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Keith A. Lattimore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "K" and a long, sweeping tail.

Keith A. Lattimore, Director



March 24, 2025

The Honorable Mike Howard  
5th Floor Centennial Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Spencer Igo  
5th Floor Centennial Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Via email

**Re: H.F.2144, Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program (FHPAP) Appropriation**

Dear Co-Chair Howard, Co-Chair Igo, and members of the Housing Finance and Policy Committee:

We write in support of H.F.2144, and the continued need to support housing stability for Minnesotans through FHPAP (Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program).

Minnesotans continue to face historically high evictions, the vast majority of which are for nonpayment of rent. In just the first two months of 2025, 3,000 Minnesota families have received eviction notices. This state-wide issue affects individuals and families in small and large communities. For 2024, the counties with the highest eviction filing rates were Ramsey, Dakota, Sherburne, Kanabec, and Anoka. Without emergency rental assistance, families are at severe risk of homelessness and harm to their health, educational outcomes, work stability, and more.

Communities and individuals with low incomes are especially at risk of housing instability and homelessness; they are vulnerable to emergencies and unexpected expenses like car repairs, medical expenses, childcare, and more. In response to a legislative directive to determine an estimation of need, Minnesota Housing has estimated that it would take \$350 million annually to respond to the need of Minnesota families with low incomes for emergency rental assistance.

The Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program (FHPAP) helps people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, by providing financial assistance and supportive services such as rent or housing payments, utility payments, deposits, and other eligible expenses. This program works. It prevents harm to families from housing displacement and homelessness. And every dollar makes a difference, whether one time or ongoing, by helping individuals and families remain housed through emergency situations. For instance, in Hennepin County, the average payment to support housing stability and prevent eviction for non-payment of rent per household is \$3,850.

The Minnesota ERASE Campaign (End Rental Arrears and Stop Evictions) is an effort to eliminate rental indebtedness caused by the pandemic, prevent evictions, and create support for long term policy changes to end housing instability and homelessness. Co-convenors of the campaign include ACER (African Career Education Resource); Housing Justice Center, and MHP (Minnesota Housing Partnership).

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Nelima Sitati Munene, Executive Director  
African Career Education & Resource Inc. (ACER)

Margaret Kaplan, CEO  
Housing Justice Center (HJC)

Elizabeth Glidden, Deputy Executive Director  
MHP (Minnesota Housing Partnership)



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

March 21, 2025

Representative Michael Howard  
Housing and Finance Policy Committee  
Minnesota State Capitol, Capitol G3  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: YMCA Letter of Support for FHPAP Funding, HF2144

Dear Co-Chairs Rep. Howard, Rep. Igo, and Committee Members:

I am writing to you today to advocate for the essential funding of the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP), particularly for youth at risk of homelessness. As an organization committed to addressing the root causes of housing instability, the YMCA of the North's Youth and Family Services have seen firsthand the effectiveness of prevention and intervention efforts. However, due to recent reductions in funding, we are concerned about the ability to continue providing these vital services, especially as youth homelessness continues to rise.

Youth homelessness is one of the most significant challenges our society faces. Historically, youth homelessness leads to chronic adult homelessness, but we know that the best way to prevent this outcome is through targeted casework. FHPAP provides essential funding for homelessness prevention and housing programming that interrupts cycles of poverty and homelessness in our state.

Our Homelessness Prevention program focuses on preventing homelessness before it begins by working closely with participants to identify the underlying causes of their housing instability. By offering financial support and 1:1 case management, we can address these barriers and fully prevent housing crises. This approach has proven extremely effective, and we are committed to maintaining our efforts to prevent youth homelessness and to ensuring long-term housing stability.

We have expanded prevention services to youth in Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, and Ramsey counties, yet the reduction in funding has already begun to create a gap in service. This gap means fewer youth are receiving the support they need, at a time when rent prices and inflation are continuing to climb, further increasing the risk of homelessness for young people. Reducing funding now could lead to a significant increase in youth homelessness, further complicating an already dire situation.

Additionally, FHPAP Rapid Re-Housing funding has allowed us to support youth and families for over 15 years. This funding provides essential rental stipends to stabilize housing, as well as wraparound services that address the root causes of homelessness—such as mental health challenges, chronic unemployment, and unlearned life skills. Our team works diligently with participants to build stability plans, empowering them to achieve their healthiest potential. This program has a proven

**YMCA OF THE NORTH**

651 Nicollet Mall, Suite 500, Minneapolis, MN 55402

P 612 371 9622 F 612 371 9967 W [ymcanorth.org](http://ymcanorth.org)

record of success: On average, 85% of the youth and families who receive these services continue to be housed a year after exiting the program.

FHPAP funding has been instrumental in breaking the cycles of chronic homelessness, and we are proud of the work we do. The recent addition of FHPAP Fast Track Funding enabled us to house 40 additional youth and families in the past year alone. Unfortunately, we are now seeing a reduction of FHPAP funding in several counties, resulting in hundreds of youth and families losing access to the financial and community support these programs provide.

At the YMCA, the loss of funding would also result in a 10% reduction in our housing service workforce. This would significantly impact our capacity to serve at-risk youth and families, potentially increasing the likelihood of chronic homelessness for many young people. Without additional funding, we may lose the ability to help these vulnerable individuals regain stability and achieve independence.

Therefore, I urge you to consider increasing FHPAP funding to ensure that we can continue providing critical support to youth at risk of homelessness. The long-term benefits of prevention and stabilization are invaluable, and with adequate funding, we can help ensure that fewer young people fall into homelessness, improving their prospects for a better future.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss how we can work together to prevent youth homelessness in our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Smith', with a stylized, cursive script.

Matt Smith  
Executive Director, Youth and Family Services  
YMCA of the North  
2304 Jackson St. NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418  
Email: [matthew.smith@ymcamn.org](mailto:matthew.smith@ymcamn.org)  
Phone: 612-782-7216