



MINNESOTA COUNCIL
ON FOUNDATIONS

April 3, 2026

Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Co-Chairs Kelly Moller and Paul Novotny and Committee Members:

I write on behalf of the **Minnesota Council on Foundations** to express our strong support for **House File 2099**, which provides funding for local government emergency management to help pay for daily operations. MCF is the host of the **Minnesota Disaster Philanthropy Working Group**, and we understand local communities and their leaders – emergency managers, nonprofits, local government, and grantmakers – all play a key role when disasters strike. We support efforts to better resource local emergency managers in order to build community and disaster resilience. While local emergency management has always been underfunded, the uncertainty of federal funds makes additional state funding more important than ever. Without action, the state is leaving the professionals tasked with preparedness without the funding, support and tools to administer programs that save lives, protect property and create resiliency.

Local governments badly need additional resources to sustain and enhance emergency management capabilities. In a statewide program survey conducted in 2023, 83% of respondents indicated the level of funding for their program was insufficient or extremely underfunded. The survey revealed that over 70% of local Emergency Management programs received less than \$30,000 per year in grant assistance, with some counties only receiving \$14,000.

One of the core tenets of modern emergency management is a commitment to all-hazards planning. While it is impossible to plan for each of the 45 separate categories of potential hazards to an equal degree, the local emergency manager must have sufficient resources to perform risk analysis in order to focus on community vulnerability and assign priorities and designate resources for core functions such as warning, evacuation and sheltering.

However, with funding at the current level or even lower, trends indicate there will be an increase in part-time emergency managers (many with other significant management duties) and counties merging emergency management duties without any clarification of priorities when there are two or three counties sharing an emergency manager with simultaneous disasters.

Please support **House File 2099**, which provides \$12 million in ongoing funding to be distributed equally to the 87 counties, 11 Tribal Nations and communities along with the four Cities of the First Class to support planning, training exercise, equipment, and other emergency readiness needs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dave Anderson
Manager, Policy and Partnerships

The Minnesota Council on Foundations connects, strengthens and mobilizes Minnesota's vibrant philanthropic community to advance prosperity and equity. Learn more at mcf.org **#WeAreMCF**