



February 15, 2023

Re: Support for HF 1219 – Homeownership Education, Counseling, and Training

Dear Chair Howard and members of the House Housing Finance and Policy Committee:

The League of Minnesota Cities appreciates the opportunity to provide our comments in support of HF 1219 (Kozlowski), which authorizes additional funding for the Homeownership Education, Counseling, and Training (HECAT) program. The HECAT program is a critical resource that provides state grant funding to nonprofits and political subdivisions to assist Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and low- and moderate-income renters with educational and counseling opportunities to best prepare individuals and families for sustainable homeownership.

Cities support resources and programs that seek to assist communities in their efforts to reduce barriers to housing and reduce racial disparities in homeownership. Since 2018, the HECAT fund has committed over \$7.4 million in assistance to eligible grantees that have supported BIPOC communities and low- and moderate-income renters in delivering a variety of homeownership education, counseling, and training services. As cities continue to address racial disparities in homeownership, the \$1,500,000 appropriation for fiscal year 2024 and 2025 will allow the HECAT program to make more awards and bring important homeownership education and training services to more Minnesotans.

Please join us in our support for HF 1219 and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Lightfoot". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "L".

Daniel Lightfoot
Intergovernmental Relations Representative
League of Minnesota Cities