



April 16, 2024

Dear committee members,

In the last legislative session, Minnesota made historic investments in housing and food supports.

While we understand that the economic picture for our state looks different, we are eager to ensure Minnesota seizes on an opportunity through the section 1115 Health-Related Social Need (HRSN) demonstration authority (1115 HRSN demo) offered by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services to provide housing and nutrition supports to achieve health care outcomes.

The undersigned organizations support the inclusion of HF3639 in the House Human Services Finance Omnibus Bill. The included language directs Minnesota to develop an 1115 waiver application in the coming years that will allow our state to access unprecedented federal funding to follow through on our commitment to build a health care and social care infrastructure that reduces or eliminates our state's longstanding health disparities affecting Black and American Indian Minnesotans.

Through a section 1115 HRSN waiver, Minnesota could:

- Draw down \$1 dollar of federal Medicaid matching funds for every \$1 dollar of Minnesota state funds used to provide safe, affordable housing and sufficient, nutritious meals for Minnesotans whose household income is below 133% of the federal poverty level (or, for a household of one adult, \$1,615 monthly/\$19,391 annually).
- Draw down 50% federal Medicaid Administrative matching funds to pay for training and required certifications for Community Health Workers, Peer Support Specialists, Peer Recovery Specialists.
- Draw down federal Medicaid service matching funds to develop more supportive housing programs for individuals and families trying to get back on their feet, or to remain on their feet, while coping with chronic behavioral health and/or physical health conditions.
- Draw down 50% federal Medicaid Administrative matching funds to make necessary improvements in Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) eligibility systems to reduce or eliminate Medicaid “churn” where Minnesotans lose their health care coverage even though they remain eligible for MHCP.

Please ensure Minnesota makes progress toward funding a section 1115 HRSN demonstration waiver so that we can take advantage of the opportunity to receive 50% federal Medicaid match on these critical services and infrastructure investments.

Thank you,

Allina Health
Advocates for Better Health
AspireMN
Avivo
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota
Bob Tavani House Medical Respite
Catholic Charities Twin Cities
Children's Minnesota
Coalition of Recovery Investment
Collective Action Lab
Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)
Essentia Health
Fairview Health Services
Greater Minnesota Housing Fund
HealthPartners
Hennepin County
Hennepin Healthcare
Housing Matters
Jewish Family & Children's Service of Minneapolis
Knute Nelson/Walker Methodist
Legal Services Advocacy Project
Metro Meals on Wheels

Minneapolis Health Department
Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers
Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs
Minnesota Association of County Health Plans
Minnesota Hospital Association
Minnesota Medical Association
Native American Community Clinic
Northeast Youth and Family Services
NUWAY Alliance
Open Arms of Minnesota
PRISM
Ramsey County
RS EDEN
Second Harvest Heartland
Stratis Health
Therapeutic Services Agency
Trellis
Vail Place
Zumbro Valley Medical Society