



April 22, 2026

Dear Chairs Frazier and Torkelson and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

We write in strong support of the increase in funding for the Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program (FHPAP) included in HF 1141.

Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program (FHPAP) funding provides critical emergency rental assistance for Hennepin County households at risk for eviction and homelessness, and rental subsidies and support services 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,

Heading Home Hennepin is the Continuum of Care Governing Board in Hennepin County made up of elected officials, public sector leaders, people with lived experience of homelessness, representatives of business, faith and philanthropic communities and cross-sector partners that supports the coordination of the countywide effort to prevent and end homelessness.

FHPAP 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 – and then a further 17% over 2025 – 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.


Our investments in our homelessness response are rooted in both our values and in proven strategies, and as the largest FHPAP administrator in the state—we write in strong support of the investment in the Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program.

Sincerely,

Heading Home Hennepin Tri-Chairs

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela Conley". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Angela Conley
Hennepin County Commissioner

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacob Frey". The signature is highly stylized and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Jacob Frey
Mayor, City of Minneapolis

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ricardo Morales". The signature is written in a clear, cursive style with distinct letterforms.

Ricardo Morales



April 22, 2026

The Honorable Cedrick Fraser
5th Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Paul Torkelson
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for HF1141 Housing Finance Bill

Dear Co-Chair Fraser, Co-Chair Torkelson, and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

Minnesota Housing Partnership (MHP) writes in support of the following provisions found in HF1141.

HF1141 Article 1 Section 5: Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program

The Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program is a proven program delivered through trusted regional partners. Financial assistance is flexible to the individual's need and averages about \$3,500 per household for expenses such as utility bills, mortgage or rent payments, and more - resulting in families remaining stably housed.

We support the commitment to find creative solutions to help address the significant need for financial assistance across the state.

HF1141 Article 2: Housing Infrastructure Bonds

MHP supports the allocation of \$100 million for Housing Infrastructure Bonds to create deeply affordable homes.

Housing Infrastructure Bonds (HIBs) are a flexible source of funding for projects across the state. HIBs are unique in that they can leverage federal resources to build new housing and preserve existing housing for extremely low- and very low-income households.

As Minnesota faces a substantial housing shortage, we need HIBs to create and preserve badly needed affordable homes. Today, there are only 39 rental homes that are affordable and available for every 100 extremely low-income Minnesota household. And, consistently, Minnesota Housing programs are well oversubscribed, as typically only 1 in 3 projects that apply for resources from Minnesota Housing are funded.



Include Funding for Supportive Housing

Supportive housing is critical to keeping families housed and preventing homelessness, for some of our most vulnerable residents. It provides long-term housing with services for people with disabilities, families, and individuals with histories of homelessness so they can remain stably housed. MHP urges lawmakers to include funding for supportive housing.

Include Changes to Tax Exempt Bonds

The **Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC)** is the nation's most important tool for building and preserving affordable rental homes, helping to finance almost 80,000 homes serving 186,000 low-income households from 1986 to 2004. Updates to LIHTC in the federal H.R.1, which became law in 2025, are considered the most significant expansion of LIHTC in over two decades.

The changes in the DE2 to the introduced version of HF1141 **reduce the aggregate bond limitation** applicable to the allocation of private activity bonds for qualifying residential rental projects. This will allow Minnesota to receive the maximum benefit of federal changes to increase affordable homes in Minnesota, and MHP urges the inclusion of these changes.

HF1141 Article 1 Section 2: Workforce Housing Development

Our rural communities have significant challenges to financing and building housing, and the Workforce Housing Development Program is uniquely designed to support rental housing development in Greater Minnesota. We support additional investment in this program, which is significantly oversubscribed and often the best fit to serve the needs of rural communities for smaller rental workforce housing projects.

Minnesota Housing Partnership (MHP) expands housing and community development opportunity for those most impacted by economic and racial disparities by leading collaborative work to promote systems change and grow equitable development capacity. For more than 30 years, MHP has accomplished this mission by producing data-informed research, advocating for equitable housing policy, and providing community development services across the US.

Thank you for your attention; we urge your support for HF1141.

Sincerely,

Courtney Schaff
Policy Manager

House Ways and Means Committee
Minnesota State Capitol
75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard.
Saint Paul, MN 55155



Dear Co-Chairs Frazier and Torkelson and Members of the Committee, April 22, 2026

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. We represent nonprofit affordable housing developers and operators working across Minnesota, providing both rental and homeownership opportunities. Our members support the development of housing across our entire state and house our local workforces, seniors, families, and people exiting homelessness in need of supportive services.

MCCD is writing in support of House File 1141, the 2026 Housing Finance Omnibus Bill.

This bill represents a creative approach to addressing a variety of housing needs. We are grateful for investments in new housing development, preservation of our existing affordable housing, and emergency rental assistance.

\$100 Million in Housing Infrastructure Bonds

We are particularly encouraged by the new authorization of \$100 million in Housing Infrastructure Bonds (HIBs). HIBs are our state's most important capital tool to build and preserve homes, and new HIBs will support the development of critically needed affordable housing. Increasing housing supply is essential to ensuring that all communities, especially those historically underserved, have access to safe, stable, and affordable homes.

\$20 Million for Workforce Housing Development

We also support the \$20 million increase to the Workforce Housing Development Program. This important program increases our state's ability to build workforce rental housing in Greater Minnesota by leveraging local resources and is a vital tool to ensure that we keep pace with the demand for new homes.

HF 1141 is a comprehensive and forward-looking bill that will help address Minnesota's housing challenges while advancing equity and opportunity. We respectfully urge your support for this critical legislation. You can reach me, Kelly Law, at klaw@mccdmn.org or 612-865-3170, should you need any further information now or throughout the legislative session. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelly Law

Kelly Law, Senior Policy and Field Building Advisor, MCCD



April 22, 2026

Chairs and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

Metro Cities, representing the shared interests of cities across the metropolitan area at the Legislature and Executive Branch, appreciates the opportunity to comment on HF 1141 – Howard, the omnibus housing finance and policy bill.

Metro Cities supports the additional state funding for housing programs included in the bill. Current funding levels for housing are insufficient to meet the spectrum of housing needs in the metropolitan region and across the state.

Housing Education Counseling and Training Program (HECAT)

Metro Cities supports \$150,000 in additional funding for the HECAT program as it is an important part of supporting the spectrum of housing needs in the region. This program helps avoid foreclosures, improves homeownership rates, and supports the financial wellness of future homeowners so they are aware of their rights, options, and costs associated with owning a home.

Housing Infrastructure Bonds

Metro Cities supports the addition of \$100 million in Housing Infrastructure Bonds which would provide a critical source of funding for cities to maintain and increase their supply of affordable housing. These resources are essential to provide additional housing across the metropolitan region.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ania McDonnell'.

Ania McDonnell
Government Relations Specialist