

13 February 2023



Dear Chair Howard and Members of the Housing Finance and Policy Committee:

On behalf of the Homes for All coalition, we write in support of HF1440, which will provide additional funding for the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP). These additional funds for FHPAP can be deployed quickly to meet the ever-growing and critical need for emergency rental assistance across the state.

Homes for All is a coalition of over 270 endorsing organizations from around the state that advocates for affordable, safer, and more stable housing. Our coalition represents the full continuum of housing, from services for people experiencing homelessness, to permanent supportive housing, to affordable rental options, to homeownership opportunities for Minnesotans.

Additional funding for FHPAP, with a focus on emergency rental assistance, needs to be passed as quickly as possible. Our state is facing a growing eviction crisis, and households are struggling to stay safely and stably housed. Some evidence about how critical these resources are is below:

- Over 22,000 evictions were filed in Minnesota in 2022, the highest of any year since 2013.
- Households experiencing housing instability are more likely to experience anxiety, depression, high blood pressure, longer hospital stays, and psychological distress. Children in households experiencing housing instability are more likely than their peers to face developmental delays, depression, and comorbidities like asthma.
- A new study from the MN Department of Health shows that 20-year-olds experiencing homelessness have the same death rate as 50-year-olds in the general population.

We urge the committee to support and quickly pass HF1440 to ensure Minnesotans across the state can remain safely and stably housed. As a state, we have the resources available to make a difference in the housing crisis, and we can and must act now.

Sincerely,

Michael Dahl
Public Policy Director, HOME Line
Homes for All Policy Co-Chair

Annie Shapiro
Advocacy Director, MinnCAP
Homes for All Policy Co-Chair