

# Family Supportive Housing Services Bill

HF 1644 (Reyer) / SF 1732 (Boldon)

Provide comprehensive service delivery for 100 families living in supportive housing.

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## Supportive Housing Ends Homelessness

It is estimated nearly 5,000 Minnesota families with children experience the trauma of homelessness on any given night.

Family supportive housing is the solution. It provides a safe home with subsidized rent combined with on-site specialized services for both parents and children in secure, non-time-limited housing.

## Funding Gap

**Currently, there is no single source of services funding for entire families in supportive housing.** The most effective way to provide services to a family is a holistic, comprehensive approach that provides case management, services, and programming for the entire family. This approach allows families to stay together and gives them the support they need to thrive.

Current state services programs focus only on funding individuals narrowly for their specific disabilities, which does not cover the comprehensive approach needed to support a family.

## Solution

A one-time investment of \$1.5 million to fill the funding gap for 100 families currently in supportive housing where 60% of the funds are focused on the 7-County Metro, 30% in Greater MN, and 10% to members of Minnesota Tribal nations.



## Example of Family Supportive Housing:

### Vista 44, Hopkins, MN:

- Family Supportive Housing operated by Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, and services are provided by Volunteers of America, Minnesota, and Wisconsin
- 50 Units – two one-bedrooms, 33 two-bedrooms, and 15 three-bedrooms.
- Comprehensive services include:
  - Case management
  - Kids programing & educational assistance
  - Job and parenting skill building
  - Referrals and assistance with medical, mental health treatment, and substance abuse treatment.

## Supporting Organizations:

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative

RS Eden

Project for Pride in Living

Catholic Charities Twin Cities

Hope Community

Agate Housing and Services

CommonBond Communities

Volunteers of America, Minnesota Wisconsin



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April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

**RE: HR1644, Family Supportive Housing Services Bill**

Dear Co-Chair Noor, Co-Chair Schomacker, and Members of the Human Services Finance and Policy Committee,

RS EDEN appreciates the opportunity to support HF1644, the Family Supportive Housing Services bill. This bill would directly assist families experiencing homelessness or housing instability by filling the state's funding gap for services supporting families in supportive housing.

Family supportive housing is critical to ending the experience of homelessness for families. When we provide subsidized housing with on-site services, families with children find relief from the exhausting cycle of survival through supportive housing. Stable housing allows parents and guardians to breathe, take a break, rebuild, and focus on creating nurturing environments where children can learn, play, and grow without worrying about where they will be the following day.

It is challenging to sustain new family-supportive housing because there is no state source of funding for services that support the entire family in these settings. The most effective way to provide services to a family is through a holistic, comprehensive approach that offers case management, services, and programming tailored to the entire family. This approach enables families to remain together and provides them with the necessary support to thrive.

Current state services programs focus only on funding individuals narrowly for their specific disabilities, which does not cover the comprehensive approach needed to support a family. The bill would establish a flexible grant program to fill this gap, ultimately providing stability for families.

Rs EDEN provides both single and family permanent supportive housing. We know from experience that family housing is not linearly more work and investment, it is exponentially more work and investment to keep the entire family unit safe and stably housed. This bill would recognize the distinction and help support these families that are so precariously housed at the moment.

Thank you. We hope you can join us in supporting HF1644, the Family Supportive Housing Services bill.

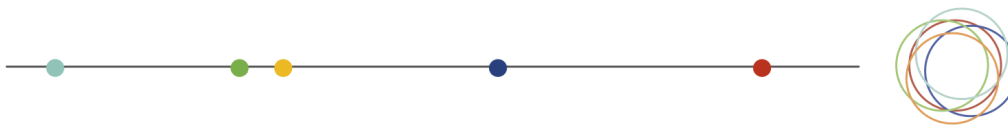
Caroline Hood (she/her), LICSW

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Hood', written over a light blue circular stamp.

President and CEO

RS EDEN

612-578-5044



Representative Mohamud Noor  
Human Services Finance & Policy Committee  
Minnesota Capitol 123  
Re: HF1644, Family Supporting Housing Grant Program

April 3, 2025

Dear Chair Noor, Schomacker, and members of the Human Services Committee,

The Birth Justice Collaborative requests your support of HF1644, to create a family supportive housing grant program, to help organizations and tribal agencies offer permanent family housing and provide targeted services for children and families to prevent housing instability from escalating, address their immediate needs, and help them achieve long-term stability and financial independence.

Stable housing is critical for children's healthy growth, development, and well-being. Research shows that experiencing homelessness as a child is disruptive to the critical early brain development and can lead to negative health, education, and behavioral outcomes. Oftentimes, children experiencing homelessness live separately from their parents. Supportive housing allows families to stay together and provides children with a secure environment to build healthy relationships with their parents and caregivers—the foundation that all future learning is built upon.

This grant program works to support the long term goals for every family by offering stabilization services for themselves and their children. Specialized family support includes work skills training, budgeting and money management, employment services, and referrals for mental health and SUDs treatment. This integrated approach connects families with dignified housing and provides a safe, stable environment for their children to grow.

Please join us in supporting HF1644, to support the long-term success and stability of families experiencing housing instability.

Sincerely,

**The Birth Justice Collaborative**

Akhmiri Sekhr-Ra, Cultural Wellness Center,  
Louise Matson, Division of Indian Work,  
Rev. Dr. Alika Galloway, Liberty Northside Healing Space,  
Ruth Buffalo, Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center,  
Dr. Antony Statel, Native American Community Clinic,  
Makeda Zulu, Urban Research & Outreach-Engagement Center, University of Minnesota



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*Affordable Housing*

March 27, 2025

**RE: Support for HF1644, Family Supportive Housing Services Bill**

Dear Co-Chair Noor, Co-Chair Schomacker, and Members of the Human Services Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of Volunteers of America of Minnesota (VOAMN), I am writing to express our support for HF1644, the Family Supportive Housing Services Grant Program Bill. This legislation is a necessary step in ensuring that families experiencing homelessness or housing instability have access to the supportive services they need to achieve long-term stability.

At VOAMN, we serve more than 22,000 Minnesotans each year—including children, parents, older adults, and individuals—through a holistic, integrated approach to health, housing, and human services. With 129 years of experience, we know that stable housing, when paired with the right support, creates a powerful foundation for families to regain independence and thrive.

Family supportive housing is a proven, effective strategy for reducing family homelessness. By combining deeply affordable housing with on-site, family-centered services, these programs empower parents and caregivers to rebuild their lives, free from the daily uncertainty of where they will sleep next. They also provide the stable environment children need to learn, grow, and reach their full potential.

Despite its proven success, Minnesota lacks a dedicated state funding stream to sustain the essential services that make family supportive housing work. Current funding sources are often fragmented or come with restrictive eligibility criteria, making it difficult for families to access the holistic, wraparound support they need. HF1644 would fill this gap by creating a flexible grant program that allows providers to deliver individualized, family-centered services—ensuring that whole families receive the right support at the right time.

By passing HF1644, Minnesota has the chance to make a lasting difference in the lives of families working toward stability. We urge you to support this legislation and help create a future where all families, regardless of their circumstances, have the resources and support they need to thrive.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to housing stability. We look forward to working together to strengthen family supportive housing in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Manworren".

Julie Manworren  
President & CEO