

## PUBLIC SAFETY THROUGH STABLE HOUSING

More than 95% of those who go to prison eventually get out and return to communities across Minnesota. Public safety depends on these individuals reintegrating successfully into their communities and not committing further crime, yet according to the 2021 DOC Homelessness Legislative Report, 1,128 individuals released from prison were released into homelessness. Of those individuals over 57% were Black, Indigenous, and/or persons of color (BIPOC).



**25% of individuals released from Minnesota prisons are released into homelessness.**

*- 2021 DOC Homelessness Report*

Stable housing is a **critical** part of successful reentry. Housing is cited first and often as the most significant barrier to successful community reintegration. The Governor recommends investments in proven practices that support the ability of individuals reentering their communities after prison in establishing stable housing and reintegration. Those investments include the following:

### Housing Stability Services for Corrections-Involved Individuals

\$1 million in FY2024 and in FY2025, and \$760,000 each subsequent year to provide housing stabilization pre-release services in coordination with community service providers for individuals exiting prison, on probation, and on intensive supervised release. The funding helps bridge a gap in providing these critical services. To ensure effective use of this resource, the proposal includes a requirement to analyze and evaluate data related to the impact of these investments.

### DOC Housing Coordinator Staff

\$225,000 per year ongoing toward the staff capacity at the DOC on homeless mitigation efforts and housing stability for those leaving incarceration or on correctional supervision. Due to the complexities of systems navigation and lack of community-based resources, dedicated professionals with subject matter expertise in both the criminal justice and corrections systems and the human services and housing/homeless services systems are needed at the DOC to support housing stability.

### Rental Assistance

\$500k per year ongoing to increase funding for the DOC Rental Assistance Resource. The investment in this current program will serve as additional gap funding in assisting individuals who are facing homelessness at time of release, on supervised release within the community, or individuals on DOC probation who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

### Culturally Responsive Transitional Housing

The Governor recommends \$405,000 in FY2024 and FY2025 and \$200,00 each subsequent year for grants to culturally responsive, trauma-informed transitional housing for corrections system involved Native American, LGBTQ+, and black individuals.

**“If it wasn’t for the help that this program gives, I would’ve already been back in prison.”**

*- DOC housing services recipient*