## MN Housing Stability Coalition and MN Supportive Housing Coalition and Homes For All Coalition and MN Coalition for the Homeless

Housing and service non-profits across Minnesota with shared goals to prevent and end homelessness and housing instability.

April 3, 2025

Re: HF 2704 Housing Stabilization Service application processing times modified, and Housing Support supplemental service rates modified.

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

Stakeholders across Minnesota support HF 2704 to address urgent long-term solutions to homelessness.

For nearly 20 years, the state's Housing Support program has funded critical services in supportive housing. However, a 2020 implementation of state law cut this funding by 50% for those eligible for Medical Assistance Housing Stabilization Services (HSS), even when they do not actually receive those services or have months of delay to be approved. As a result, providers found the rate reduction unsustainable, and many have reduced or stopped providing services, limiting housing opportunities for those exiting homelessness. HF 2704 would temporarily restore the full Housing Support rate for one year while DHS rate studies are conducted and reviewed and ensure reductions only apply to those actually receiving HSS.

It would also **require the Department of Human Services to process HSS applications within two weeks** instead of sometimes four months or more, improving timely access and housing stability and reducing months of uncompensated care.

We urge your support of HF 2704 to sustain essential services and reduce disruptions to supportive housing opportunities for Minnesotans in need.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

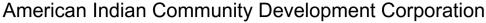
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Alliance Housing Inc





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Amherst Wilder Foundation

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Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative

Catholic Charities Twin Cities

Center City Housing Corp.

Clare Housing

Clay County Housing and Redevelopment Authority

CommonBond Communities

Corporation for Supportive Housing

Divine Konnections Inc.

Elatecare Inc.

**Emma Norton Services** 

Family Rise Together

Frontier Living LLC

**Greater Twin Cities United Way** 

Guild

Handy Help LLC

**Hearth Connection** 

**Hennepin County** 

Homes for All Coalition

**Housing Matters** 

**HumanKind Services** 

ICWA Law Center

Institute for Community Alliances

Link Up

Live Learn Hope Services

Mental Health Resources

MN Assistance Council for Veterans

MN Care Counseling Services

MN Coalition for the Homeless

MN Engagement on Shelter and Housing

MN Housing Partnership

MN Housing Stability Coalition

MySkye Care



























Twin Cities







ALLY SUPPORTIVE SERVICES













**NAMI Minnesota** 

Office of Indian Ministry

Open Your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless

Otter Tail Health Care Services

Our Saviour's Community Services

Person Centered Housing Consultants

Phoenix Service Corporation

Project for Pride in Living, Inc.

RADIAS Health

Range Transitional Housing, Inc.

Red Lake Homeless Shelter, Inc.

Rise, Inc.

River Valley Housing Connection

RS EDEN

Secure Housing Assistance LLC

Simpson Housing Services

Spero

Start Today Hennepin

Steady Homes LLC

Supportive Housing Coalition

Supportive Living Solutions

The Aliveness Project

The Experience of Neshama

The Link

**Touchstone Mental Health** 

Truwell LLC

Zumbro Valley Health Center



Hearth Connection























Minnesota Care
Counseling Services

MENTAL HEALTH | HOUSING | CASE MANAGEMENT



TOUCHSTONE

mental health













April 3rd, 2025

## RE: HF2704 Housing Stabilization/Housing Support Modifications

Chair Noor, Chair Schomacker, and members of the Human Services Finance and Policy Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative to express our strong support for Rep. Curran's bill, HF2704, which modifies Housing Stabilization Services and the Housing Support program to work more efficiently. These two programs form the foundation of service funding for supportive housing, providing life-changing services to Minnesotans across the state.

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative is a nonprofit housing provider and developer with 24 buildings that offer affordable homes to over 1,200 people. We primarily operate supportive housing, which provides safe, affordable, and stable housing with on-site services for the most vulnerable Minnesotans who have experienced homelessness.

Housing Stabilization Services is a powerful tool that allows service providers to bill Medicaid for essential services in supportive housing. Yet, the administrative requirements have made it difficult or impossible to implement in many settings. One difficulty has been the length of time it takes to process someone's enrollment. Requiring the agency to process applications within two weeks would enable efficient and timely services for Minnesotans who need them.

Another difficulty has been that individuals who are eligible for Housing Stabilization Services are having their Housing Support Service dollars reduced, even if they never enroll in the program. While we understand that the original directive intended to incentivize enrollment, due to the difficulty in achieving this goal, many individuals are going without essential services. It is much more common sense and person-centered to allow someone to remain using Housing Support Services until they actually enroll in Housing Stabilization Services.

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative urges the committee to support HF 2704 and pass these two common-sense reforms to help Minnesotans in need of these services.

Thank you,

Berys Felich Ander

Benjamin Helvick Anderson

VP of Policy and Organizing Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative