



Greater Twin Cities  
United Way  
gtcuw.org

January 31, 2023

Dear Members of the Minnesota House Housing Finance and Policy Committee:

We write in support of HF 302 to expand the eligible use of Housing Infrastructure Bonds for the construction and preservation of affordable housing.

At Greater Twin Cities United Way, our mission is to build pathways toward prosperity and equity for all, touching over 500,000 lives across the 9-county metro area. We fund over 95 direct service organizations and coalitions through grantmaking across our three impact areas of Household Stability, Educational Success and Economic Opportunity. Above all, we know a stable home provides the critical foundation that all Minnesotans need to thrive, supporting better health, education and employment outcomes.

Increasing expenses amid stagnant or falling renter incomes puts added strain on the more than 590,000 cost-burdened households who pay more than 30% of their income on housing in every county across the state. Renter incomes increased by 1% between 2000 and 2019, yet median gross rents rose disproportionately by 14%, leaving many families with a growing financial challenge to maintain safe, stable housing.

With rapidly diminishing access to homes affordable to people with low to moderate incomes, nearly 20,000 individuals and families experience homelessness on any given night - in every region across the state. **In 2022, Greater Twin Cities United Way's 211 resource helpline received more than 468,000 calls from Minnesotans. The top reasons people reached out to 211 were for housing, shelter, and utility assistance, which represented 64% of all requests received.** 211 provides critical resources for Minnesotans in times of need, and coupling the 14-day pre-eviction notice with funding for emergency rental assistance and other supports will be crucial to 211 staff successfully referring callers to resources.

Greater Twin Cities United Way supports the preservation and expansion of access to affordable housing through strategic bonding investments that targets vulnerable households with incomes at or below 50% of the Area Median Income (AMI). Providing safe, affordable and stable housing for Minnesota's families and workforce provides a vital foundation that enables thriving families – and a thriving economy.

Sincerely,

Susan Carter  
Director, Advocacy & External Engagement  
Greater Twin Cities United Way

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