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Trish Thacker, Executive Director

January 18, 2023

The Honorable Mohamud Noor
Chair: Human Services Finance Committee
379 State Office Building St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: funding to support solutions to homelessness in Hennepin County

Dear Representative Noor,

This letter is written in support of Hennepin County's request for funding needed to continue ongoing solutions to homelessness.

Every night, Hennepin County's homeless response system provides shelter and services to over two thousand individuals (2022 Point in Time count), and American Recovery Plan Act funding for these critical resources ends January 1, 2025. In response to this looming fiscal cliff, Hennepin County is requesting funding sufficient to support 24/7 shelter, shelter diversion, housing focused case management, and innovative shelter solutions through the end of 2027.

Continuing these services will be beneficial for the following reasons:

- 1) 24/7 shelter services allow individuals to better stabilize, and to connect with benefits and services needed to move into permanent housing.
- 2) Innovative and specialized shelters ensure that everyone needing shelter has options that respect their history and circumstances.
- 3) Diverting people from shelter and into housing options whenever possible prevents further trauma to individuals and increases efficiency in resource utilization.
- 4) Housing focused case management creates bridges out of shelter and into housing.

Funding Hennepin County's solutions to homelessness is a critical investment in the wellbeing of the county's most vulnerable individuals.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Trish Thacker, MSW, LICSW

Executive Director

Salvation Army Harbor Light Center

trish.thacker@usc.salvationarmy.org

Cell: 612-387-9236