

## **SUMMARY FOR LEGISLATORS**

### **Support HF1579: A Proven Solution for High-Acuity Homelessness**

#### **The Challenge:**

Minnesota's current shelter funding model fails to meet the needs of people experiencing chronic homelessness, especially those with complex co-occurring conditions like serious mental illness, substance use disorder, and extended unsheltered homelessness.

#### **Why It Matters:**

- Disproportionately impacts BIPOC and Native Minnesotans.
- Traditional shelter models are not equipped for high-acuity individuals.
- These individuals cycle through costly crisis systems—emergency rooms, jails, encampments—without stability.

#### **The Solution: HF1579 + Supplemental Housing Support Rate**

- Establishes a \$975/month supplemental Housing Support rate for two high-impact, indoor "village" shelter models: Avivo Village Minneapolis (100 units) and Avivo Village Central St. Cloud (48 units).
- Builds on the state's capital investment to sustain operations for individuals with the highest needs.
- Supplemental rate helps fund 24/7 staffing, healthcare partnerships, culturally responsive services, and housing-focused navigation.

#### **Proven Impact:**

- Over 270 individuals moved into permanent housing since 2020.
- Significant reductions in ER visits, EMS calls, and public systems costs.
- Designed to serve those left behind by traditional shelter models.

## DETAILS & REQUEST

### What the Supplemental Service Rate Supports:

- 24/7 intensive staffing including housing navigators, peer recovery specialists, and behavioral health providers.
- Safe, low-barrier, indoor shelter that welcomes individuals actively using substances or living with untreated mental illness.
- Wraparound services: harm reduction, SUD treatment, mental health care, and culturally affirming resources.
- Reduces pressure on public spaces, emergency systems, and downtown areas.

### Financial Impact:

Monthly rate: \$975; annualized at \$11,700 per individual.

- Minneapolis at 100% occupancy: ~\$1.17M/year; ~26% of \$4.5M annual costs.
- St. Cloud at 100%: ~\$561K/year; ~19–28% of \$2–3M operating costs.

### Why Now:

- Capital funds are secured; however, both sites face operational shortfalls as federal COVID funding expires and systems across Minnesota are increasingly strained.
- This bill represents an important step toward sustainability, helping to establish ongoing funding for this essential public infrastructure.

### THE REQUEST:

Support HF1579 to authorize and fund a \$975/month Supplemental Housing Support Rate for Avivo Village Minneapolis and Avivo Village Central—two shelter models proven to serve individuals with high acuity and unsheltered homelessness.

Contact: John Tribbett, Avivo | [jtribbett@avivomn.org](mailto:jtribbett@avivomn.org) | 612-752-8255



*Benton County Mission:  
Quality Public Service*

April 1, 2025

Representative Mohamud Noor, Chair  
Human Services Finance Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for Supplemental Housing Support Services Rate – HF1579 (Avivo Village St. Cloud)

Dear Chair Noor:

On behalf of Benton County, I am writing to express our strong support for HF1579, which establishes a supplemental Housing Support services rate for Avivo Village St. Cloud and Avivo Village Minneapolis.

Avivo Village St. Cloud is a planned 48-unit, low-barrier indoor shelter that will provide 24/7 staffing, private units, and intensive wraparound services to individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness who have complex needs. These include individuals with serious mental illness, substance use disorders, chronic medical conditions, and people who have historically been unable to access traditional shelter—such as veterans and East African community members.

This facility is funded by the Minnesota Department of Human Services' Office of Economic Opportunity (DHS/OEO) through a Shelter Capital grant. The state's investment has made it possible to construct a shelter tailored to individuals with high-acuity needs. Avivo Village will provide 24/7 supervision and services for people with highly complex needs. Since Avivo Village provides enhanced services, we find it reasonable that they should receive additional supplemental funding toward support of their necessary services.

HF1579 offers a practical and targeted response—providing a capped monthly rate of \$975 per Housing Support-eligible individual to fund the service intensity required for this model to succeed.

This legislation ensures that the State's capital investment delivers lasting impact. It provides a sustainable funding stream for a shelter model that is specifically designed to meet the needs of those with the highest barriers, while also easing the strain on emergency rooms, law enforcement, and other crisis systems.

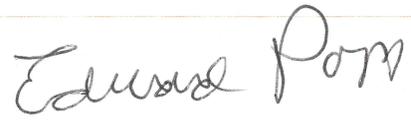
**County Board:**  
Scott Johnson, District 1  
Ed Popp, District 2  
Steve Heinen, District 3  
Jared Gapinski, District 4  
Pam Benoit, District 5

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[info@co.benton.mn.us](mailto:info@co.benton.mn.us)

We respectfully urge your support for HF1579 and thank you for your leadership in advancing housing solutions that meet people where they are—with dignity, safety, and the care they need to thrive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward Popp". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "P" at the end.

Edward Popp  
Board Chair



City Council Member Aurin Chowdhury – 12th Ward

350 S. Fifth St. - Room 307

Minneapolis, MN 55415

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April 2, 2025

Representative Mohamud Noor, Chair  
Human Services Finance Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for Supplemental Housing Support Services Rate – HF1579 (Avivo Village Minneapolis and Avivo Village St. Cloud)

Dear Chair Noor,

On behalf of the Minneapolis City Council, we are writing to express our strong support for HF1579, which establishes a supplemental Housing Support services rate for Avivo Village Minneapolis and Avivo Village St. Cloud.

Avivo Village Minneapolis has proven to be a transformative model in our city's efforts to address unsheltered homelessness. This 24/7, low-barrier indoor village offers private, safe, and dignified spaces for individuals who face some of the most complex challenges—including serious mental illness, substance use disorders, and chronic health conditions. The model has served individuals historically unable to access traditional shelter, including veterans, Indigenous residents, and members of the East African community.

The facility provides intensive wraparound services, deeply rooted in harm reduction and person-centered care. We have witnessed firsthand the life-saving outcomes made possible by this approach. The supplemental rate proposed in HF1579 recognizes the unique service intensity this model requires and ensures its continued success, sustainability, and ability to meet residents where they are.

HF1579 proposes a practical and capped monthly rate of \$975 per Housing Support-eligible resident. This supplemental funding would provide essential operational support and contribute to a sustainable funding model for Avivo Village. It acknowledges the intensive service delivery required and helps preserve the effectiveness and stability of this low-barrier, high-acuity shelter model.

Importantly, this investment helps reduce reliance on higher-cost emergency services such as emergency departments, law enforcement, and crisis response—delivering a more humane and cost-effective solution. It also provides operational funding for the State's Shelter Infrastructure investment in St. Cloud and bolsters their long-term impact and sustainability of both sites.

We respectfully urge your support for HF1579 and thank you for your commitment to supporting solutions that seek to restore stability, dignity, and hope to Minnesotans experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Sincerely,

Council Member Aurin Chowdhury  
Chair, Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Council President Elliott Payne

Council Vice President Aisha Chughtai

Council Member Emily Koski

Council Member Jason Chavez

Council Member Katie Cashman

CC:

Senator Bobby Joe Champion, Senator Doron Clark, Senator Scott Dibble, Senator Omar Fateh, Senator Zaynab Mohamed, Representative Fue Lee, Representative Esther Agbaje, Representative Sydney Jordan, Representative Mohamud Noor, Representative Katie Jones, Representative Jamie Long, Representative Anquam Mahamoud, Representative Aisha Gomez, Representative Samantha Sencer-Mura, Representative Emma Greenman, Representative Joe Schomacker, Representative Kristin Bahner, Representative Tony Albright, Representative Liz Boldon, Representative Luke Frederick, Representative Debra Kiel, Representative Tina Liebling, Representative Paul Novotny, Representative Dave Pinto, Representative Kristin Robbins, Representative Jordan Rasmusson, Representative John Burkel, Representative Nels Pierson



## Sherburne County Board of Commissioners

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1-800-433-5229

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

The Honorable Mohamud Noor  
Minnesota Representative, District 60B  
& Co-Chair, Human Services Finance Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for Supplemental Housing Support Services Rate – HF1579 (Avivo Villages)

Dear Co-Chair Noor;

On behalf of the Sherburne County Board of Commissioners, I am writing to express our support for HF1579, which establishes a supplemental Housing Support services rate for Avivo Village St. Cloud and Avivo Village Minneapolis.

Avivo Village St. Cloud is a planned 48-unit, low-barrier indoor shelter that will provide 24/7 staffing, private units, and intensive wraparound services to individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness who have complex needs. These include individuals with serious mental illness, substance use disorders, chronic medical conditions, and people who have historically been unable to access traditional shelter — such as veterans and East African community members.

This facility is funded by the Minnesota Department of Human Services' Office of Economic Opportunity (DHS/OEO) through a Shelter Capital grant. The State of Minnesota's investment has made it possible to construct a shelter tailored to individuals with high-acuity needs. Avivo Village will provide 24/7 supervision and services for people with highly complex needs.

Since Avivo Village provides enhanced services, we find it reasonable that they should receive additional supplemental funding toward support of their necessary services. HF1579 offers a practical and targeted response — providing a capped monthly rate of \$975 per Housing Support-eligible individual to fund the service intensity required for this model to succeed.

This legislation ensures that the State's capital investment delivers positive and lasting impact. It provides a sustainable funding stream for a shelter model that is specifically designed to meet the needs of those with the highest barriers, while also easing the strain on emergency rooms, law enforcement, and other crisis systems.



We respectfully ask for your and the Committee's continued support for HF1579 and thank you for your leadership in advancing housing solutions that meet people where they are — with dignity, safety, and the care they need to thrive.

Thank you again for all you have done for Sherburne County and, indeed, all of Minnesota.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bruce A. Messelt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Bruce A. Messelt  
County Administrator & Clerk of the Board