



March 13, 2025

Senator Zaynab Mohamed
2103 Minnesota Senate Building
Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Representative Brion Curran
5th Floor Centennial Office Building
Minnesota House of Representatives
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Senator Mohamed and Representative Curran,

I write to express support for SF 2124/HF 1914 (Bridge to Shelter Act), legislation that would provide much needed funding for Minnesota's homelessness response system. This critical piece of legislation takes a new revised statewide approach in helping further build out the system of supports to on the ground providers, counties and Tribal nations by creating separate streams of funding to utilize as counties, tribes, and providers know one cannot succeed without the other and the need to provide separate sources funding is essential.

Services like crisis response, diversion, outreach, low barrier shelter, and housing-focused case management are vital to the program success, all eligible under the Bridge to Shelter Act. It is noteworthy that the COVID-19 pandemic and unprecedented funding in rental and housing assistance played a significant role. With that assistance gone, we would be unable to sustain our efforts and services our partners provide in ending homelessness.

SF 2124/HF 1914 would mitigate that gap of funding and resources and would help continue our efforts in taking care of some of our most vulnerable population in our state.

Thank you for advancing this legislation and your work to ensure that, until we end homelessness, that it is rare, brief, and non-reoccurring.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Duininck', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adam Duininck
President and CEO
Minneapolis Downtown Council

April 3, 2025

Senator Zaynab Mohamed
2103 Minnesota Senate Building
Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Representative Brion Curran
5th Floor Centennial Office Building
Minnesota House of Representatives
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Senator Mohamed and Representative Curran,

I write to express Project for Pride In Living's support for SF 2124/HF 1914 (Bridge to Shelter Act), legislation that would provide much needed funding for Minnesota's homelessness response system. This critical piece of legislation takes a new revised statewide approach in helping further build out the system of supports to on the ground providers, counties and Tribal nations by creating separate buckets of funding to utilize as counties, tribes, and providers know one cannot succeed without the other and the need to provide separate sources funding is essential.

The Minnesotans we serve face numerous challenges, most of them structural. Our work involves supporting them as they navigate the social services systems, ensuring that they can meet their basic needs, and secure stable and dignified housing. Services like crisis response, diversion, outreach, low barrier shelter, and housing-focused case management are vital to the program success, all eligible under the Bridge to Shelter Act.

It is noteworthy that the unprecedented funding in rental and housing assistance that accompanied the COVID-19 pandemic era played a significant role in supporting the homelessness response system. With that assistance gone, we collectively will be unable to sustain our efforts and services we provide in ending homelessness. SF 2124/HF 1914 would mitigate that gap of funding and resources and would help advance our efforts in taking care of some of our most vulnerable residents in our state.

Thank you for advancing this legislation and your work to help ensure that homelessness is rare, brief, and non-reoccurring in the state of Minnesota

Sincerely,



Janayah Bagurusi
Senior Director of Resident Services
Project for Pride in Living





April 2, 2025

Senator Zaynab Mohamed
2103 Minnesota Senate Building
Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Representative Brion Curran
5th Floor Centennial Office Building
Minnesota House of Representatives
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Senator Mohamed and Representative Curran,

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Thank you for advancing this legislation and your work to ensure that, until we end homelessness, that it is rare, brief, and non-reoccurring.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Horsfield", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Steve Horsfield,
Executive Director

Our mission is to house, support, and empower people impacted by homelessness.

160 Glenwood Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55405 • Office: 612.874.8683 • simpsonhousing.org



April 1, 2025

Representative Mohamud Noor
5th Floor Centennial Office Building
Minnesota House of Representatives
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Representative Joe Shomacker
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building
Minnesota House of Representatives
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Representative Noor and Representative Shomacker,

I write to express Bloomington HRA's support for SF 2124/HF 1914 (Bridge to Shelter Act), legislation that would provide much needed funding for Minnesota's homelessness response system. This critical piece of legislation takes a new revised statewide approach in helping further build out the system of supports to on the ground providers, counties and Tribal nations by creating separate buckets of funding to utilize as counties, tribes, and providers know one cannot succeed without the other and the need to provide separate sources funding is essential.

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Thank you for advancing this legislation and your work to ensure that, until we end homelessness, that it is rare, brief, and non-reoccurring.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

1CF150F4727A410...

Sarah Abe
Administrator
Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority

Funding needed to continue solutions to homelessness



Innovative programs require sustainable funding

Hennepin County allocates \$191 million to housing and homeless activities each year. The county invested \$88.7 million in federal funding from 2022 to 2024 to revolutionize our housing and homelessness response systems.

This short-term funding included \$43.3 million for deeply affordable and supportive housing through an equitable housing strategy, plus investments in:

- Operations and services at low-barrier shelters, Avivo Village and Homeward Bound
- 24/7 operations at existing shelters
- Shelter-diversion programming
- Housing-focused case management and encampment response services
- Capital projects, including physical improvements and construction

Housing programs are working

During 2023, Hennepin County and our partners helped 2,171 people to transition from homelessness into permanent housing. This represents a 57% increase compared to 2021.

We made great strides with pandemic recovery resources, even as we responded to unprecedented demand for family shelter.

These critical interventions help make homelessness rare, brief and nonrecurring in our communities. They are creating and strengthening pathways out of homelessness and into stable, permanent housing.

Shelter operations and services

24/7 shelter

We will need \$3 million a year to continue services.

Housing-focused case management

We will need \$3 million a year to continue services.

Avivo Village shelter

We will need \$4 million a year to continue services.

AICDC Homeward Bound

We will need \$2 million a year to continue services.

Shelter diversion

We will need \$1 million a year to continue services.

Family shelter and operations

Increased demand for family shelter and Hennepin County's commitment to no child sleeping outside has increased the annual cost of family shelter operations by \$15 million a year.



Highlights from 2024

Hennepin County's Housing Stability area works with public- and private-sector partners to make homelessness rare, brief and nonrecurring for families and single adults. In the past year, Hennepin County:

- Became one of the most populous counties in the nation to achieve the federal designation for effectively ending homelessness among veterans in our community. That does not mean veterans do not experience homelessness, but that our system is prepared to quickly respond and move people back into permanent housing in less than 90 days on average.
- Administered more than \$13 million in emergency rental assistance to prevent evictions for 3,500 extremely low-income renter households, through the RentHelp Hennepin program.
- Responded to a crisis in family homelessness that resulted in a spike in shelter demand at almost 500 family households by the end of 2023 – more than 400% of normal capacity. The county maintained a shelter-all policy for families, a commitment that no child sleeps outside, and invested in efforts to connect families to permanent housing. Since the start of 2024, these concerted housing efforts have reduced the number of families in need of shelter by 52% as outflow from family shelter has exceeded inflow every month.
- Was at the center of major media coverage of homelessness response, with multiple high-impact national and local features on this important and nation-leading work.

Highlights include:

- [Wall Street Journal: The Struggle to Help Homeless People Who Don't Want Help](https://www.wsj.com) (wsj.com)
- [Invisible People: Homelessness is Solvable: Hennepin County Shows How](https://www.youtube.com) (youtube.com)
- [New Yorker: Not Your Childhood Library](https://www.newyorker.com) (newyorker.com)
- [Star Tribune: How Hennepin County spends nearly \\$200 million a year on homelessness prevention](https://www.startribune.com) (startribune.com)

Contacts

Liz Young
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liz.young@hennepin.us

Akolade Gbadamosi
Public Policy Manager, Intergovernmental Relations
612-471-8783
akolade.gbadamosi@hennepin.us

David Hewitt
Director, Housing Stability
651-226-0156
david.hewitt@hennepin.us



2309 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55404
612-874-0311 main | 612-874-0313 fax



April 1, 2025

Rep. Mohamed Noor
Co-Chair,
Human Services and Finance Committee

Rep. Joe Schomacker
Co-Chair,
Human Services and Finance Committee

Co-Chairs Noor and Schomacker,

I write to express Agate Housing and Services' support for SF 2124/HF 1914 (Bridge to Shelter Act), legislation that would provide much needed funding for Minnesota's homelessness response system. This critical piece of legislation takes a new revised statewide approach in helping further build out the system of supports to on the ground providers, counties and Tribal nations by creating separate buckets of funding to utilize as counties, tribes, and providers know one cannot succeed without the other and the need to provide separate sources funding is essential.

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Thank you for advancing this legislation and your work to ensure that, until we end homelessness, that it is rare, brief, and non-recurring.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle Hanson".

Kyle Hanson
Executive Director



333 12th Street South
Minneapolis, MN 55404
info@alignmpls.org

RE: HF 1914, Emergency services grants and innovative homeless response grants and provider building capacity appropriations

Dear Co-Chairs Noor and Schomacker, and Committee Members,

I am the Director of Align Minneapolis, an interfaith coalition of 19 faith congregations and people with lived experiences of homelessness working to address homelessness in Minneapolis. We believe that addressing homelessness is done by meeting the immediate needs of our homeless and housing insecure neighbors, *and* through policy change and significant investment in the homeless response system and across housing spectrum. People experiencing homelessness know what works for them to get housed, and it includes services to help them along in their journey to housing and while navigating the complicated systems. In our work we have seen firsthand the incredibly positive impact that homeless response services including crisis response, 24/7 shelter, and housing-focused case management have had on people experiencing homelessness. We know people who were experiencing homelessness, sometimes for many years, who were able to get housed and stay stable because of these services, provided by Hennepin County.

Our organization is incredibly supportive of HF 1914, as we know it will help maintain the services that work for people and contribute to ending homelessness. We appreciate that you are holding a hearing on this bill and ask you to support this bill and continue to move it forward.

Sincerely,

Katie Dillon

Director, Align Minneapolis | *Congregations Addressing Homelessness Together*



Office of Mayor Jacob Frey
350 S. Fifth St. - Room 331
Minneapolis, MN 55415
TEL 612.673.2100

www.minneapolismn.gov

April 2, 2025

Representative Joe Schomacker
Representative Mohamud Noor
Co-Chairs of the Committee on Human Services Finance and Policy

Re: HF 1914 — Curran: Emergency service grant funding provided for innovative homelessness response grants, innovative homelessness response grants, and provider capacity building; and money appropriated

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

The City of Minneapolis supports HF 1914, which will support shelter services, especially those that address gaps in other funding streams. This includes crisis response services, housing-focused case management, street outreach and more. Current spending is not sustainable and there's a fragile balance of services which hangs in the balance of prioritizing some of the most vulnerable people in the City, County and in the State.

In 2020 and 2021, the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County and our partners invested more than \$200 million in homelessness response services which have expanded emergency shelter availability, supported low-barrier housing and protective housing for people experiencing homelessness, as well as enhanced existing shelters and expanded support services, rapid rehousing, and street outreach. The City's share of these investments was \$17 million. The City has also committed more than \$45.5 million for housing and homelessness response, made possible by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

HF 1914 is critical to ensuring that these investments and improvements in the homeless response system continue for the long-term. Targeted funding is needed for homeless response in Minneapolis, Hennepin County, and across the State to ensure that we have no gaps into the future, including:

- Improved accountability to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-reoccurring
- Stronger supports in exiting shelter and entering long term stable housing
- Improved stability for vulnerable families
- State level incentives to step up in proactive systems design and operations.

Homelessness is a statewide issue. The City of Minneapolis, in partnership with Hennepin County, is more than willing to do its part in meeting the needs of those who are unhoused, but we cannot do it without continued support from the State of Minnesota. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Jacob Frey
Mayor

Aurin Chowdhury
Council Member
Chair, Intergovernmental Relations

Jeremiah Ellison
Council Member

HENNEPIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 2, 2025

Representative Joe Schomaker
Chair, Human Service Committee
2nd Floor Centennial Building
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 5515

Representative Mohamed Noor
Chair, Human Services Committee
5th Floor Centennial Building
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 5515

Dear Chairs Schomaker and Noor and members of the Human Services Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to hear HF 1914 authored by Representative Curran. I write in strong support of this legislation.

Hennepin County has invested significantly to reduce homelessness for our residents, including more than \$91million of our pandemic relief funds. We have invested in proven strategies, including increasing the supply of affordable housing and eviction prevention, housing focused case management, and homelessness recovery services. In Hennepin County, we believe that homelessness should be rare, brief, and non-recurring and strive to make that a reality for our residents.

We know that our methods are impactful because last fall, Hennepin County was honored to announce we have a homelessness response system in place that can respond and re-house veterans in less than 90 days if they experience homelessness. As a result, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) have certified that we are meeting their benchmarks for effectively ending homelessness among veterans.

Hennepin County is unique in our *Shelter All Family* policy – we believe that no child should sleep outside and work to prioritize families with children in our emergency shelter system. Our investment in our homelessness response system is rooted in both our values and in proven strategies.

I am grateful for your consideration of HF 1914 and encourage your support.

Sincerely,



Irene Fernando
Hennepin County Board of Commissioners

Irene Fernando, Chair
Hennepin County Board of Commissioners
300 South Sixth Street, Minneapolis, MN 55487-0040
hennepinD2.com | hennepin.us





March 31, 2025

Re: Support for HF1914

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

On behalf of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) and the Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators (MACSSA), we are writing in support of HF1914 – Representative Curran. HF1914 would make a crucial investment in shelter and responses to homelessness while building out opportunities to increase capacity and develop the use of intervention best practices across the state.

Counties support a regional approach to ending unsheltered homelessness across the state of Minnesota. Through a variety of programs and services implemented at the county level, our members work to ensure that individual and families can access supports that prevent homelessness. However, we know that homelessness continues to be a persistent issue no matter where you live. Each local community faces their own unique circumstances and challenges, and this bill would provide essential resources to help us work with partners to respond to our residents' needs and increase community stability.

HF1914 would provide grant funds to support counties in implementing best practice interventions in our communities, filling gaps in available resources that limit our ability to respond effectively in each of our contexts. It would also allow for collaborations with local community providers. As we serve residents through county services, we are well positioned to direct state investments into shelter and services that can help Minnesotans get stabilized and housed. This bill would provide essential, flexible resources to help counties in that work, while building capacity to explore and implement the most effective interventions in reducing homelessness.

As the state's partners in delivering human services to address the needs of our state's most vulnerable, we ask you to support HF1914 as it would empower counties as we work to respond to homelessness and increase the housing stability of our residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cate Duin".

Cate Duin, Policy Analyst
Association of Minnesota Counties

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Freeman".

Matt Freeman, Executive Director
Minnesota Association of County
Social Service Administrators

Tackling Homelessness Together

HF 1914 (Curran) / SF 2124 (Mohamed)



HOMELESSNESS IN RAMSEY COUNTY

Unsheltered homelessness continues to increase.

Key indicators:

- Since 2018, the number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness has nearly tripled.
- The 2024 Point-in-Time Count found **410 people were unsheltered**.
- During the first two months the Winter Warming Spaces were open during the 2024-25 winter season, the spaces had **nearly 2,500 walk through the four sites**.
- Ramsey County's family shelter **waitlist is now comprised of 90 families**.

Emergency shelters in Ramsey County serve regional needs.

Ramsey County accounts for:

- 9.5%** of the statewide population
- 24%** of all emergency shelter beds in the state of Minnesota

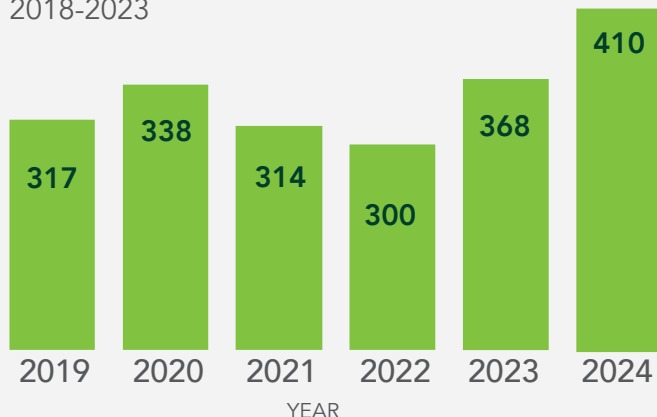
Heading Home Ramsey needs **\$75 million** in funding, or **\$15 million per year for five years**.

Reliable funding will:

- Provide and sustain shelter support and services to families, single adults and youth.
- Bridge the gap from now to the completion of new affordable rental housing.
- Move more people onto a path to housing.

Unsheltered Point-in-Time Count 2018-2023

Number of unsheltered individuals



Additional information



Ramsey County has significant racial disparities in homelessness.

Black or African American make up 13.7% of the population but **40.4%** of the homeless.

Native Americans account for 1.1% of the population but **4.3%** of the homeless.

Those identifying as multiracial make up 3.9% of the population but **14.1%** of the homeless.



Funding needed to bridge gap from homelessness to housing

Ramsey County has a shortage of 18,000 affordable rental housing units. The county, in collaboration with the city of Saint Paul, have committed a total of \$74 million to construct and preserve local, affordable rental housing. While these projects develop, the number of people experiencing homelessness continues to rise.

Statewide County Priorities

The bill reflects a true comprehensive response by allowing all 87 counties and statewide providers to access aid in three critical areas of funding needs:



Provider Need: Addresses critical funding gaps to provider community through increase in the emergency services program (ESP).



County Innovation: Acknowledges counties' fiscal cliffs caused by the end of the federal pandemic relief funding by providing a dedicated funding stream, Homeless Response Innovation Fund, for counties to provide homelessness response services with corresponding requirements and accountability for measurable results.



County-to-County Capacity Building: Incentivizes collaboration between Metro and Greater Minnesota counties and their providers to increase access to sustainable funding streams while envisioning the adoption of best practices and distribution of tool kits.

Outcomes of recent investments:



170 people transitioned from pandemicfunded shelters to housing in 2022.



Winter Warming spaces tripled the number of walk through individuals from about 10,000 in 2022-23 to more than 33,000 in 2023-2024.



Expansion of emergency shelter capacity for families and single adults.



The Shelter Entry & Diversion Team handled more than 25,000 phone calls in 2024.

ABOUT HEADING HOME RAMSEY

Heading Home Ramsey is the HUD-mandated Continuum of Care for Ramsey County and includes more than 100 partners who work together to end homelessness, including:

1 Day at a Time | Advocates | Ain Dah Yung Center | Catholic Charities | City of Maplewood | City of St. Paul | City of Vadnais Heights | Community Medical Services | Department of Veteran Affairs Homeless Programs | Emma Norton Services | Evergreen Recovery | Face to Face Health & Counseling | Faith City Church | Guild | Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul | Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota | M Health Fairview | Metro HRA | Metro Transit Police | Metropolitan Housing and Redevelopment Authority | Minnesota One Stop for Communities | Model Cities | Neighborhood House | Radians Health | Roseville Police Dept. | Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation | Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood | SMRLS | St. Paul Public Housing Agency | St. Paul Public Housing Agency | St. Paul Public Schools | The Listening House | Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities | Wilder | and more

March 30, 2025

Chair Mohamed Noor
Human Services Budget
5th floor 658 Cedar Street
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Joe Schomacker
Human Services Budget
2nd floor 658 Cedar Street
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairs Noor and Schomacker:

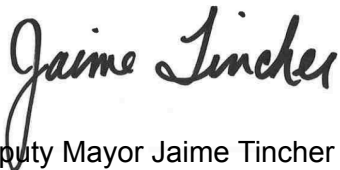
We are writing you today as chair and vice-chair of the Heading Home Ramsey, a continuum of care coalition made up of more than 100 partners who work together to end homelessness in Ramsey County. We support HF 1914 (Curran) and ask you to fund this bill in your omnibus budget bill this year. The needs in Ramsey County alone are about \$15 million a year.

HF 1914 can build off the groundbreaking investments from Pathway Home legislation from 2023. We believe this bill reflects a true comprehensive response with allowing counties as well as providers to access the aid. The bill acknowledges the counties' fiscal cliffs caused by the end of the federal pandemic relief funding by providing a dedicated funding stream, Homeless Response Innovation Fund, for counties. This will provide important response services with corresponding requirements and accountability for measurable results. Furthermore, it incentivizes collaboration between Metro and Greater Minnesota counties and their providers to increase access to sustainable funding streams and sharing Best Practices about how to fund this work at the local level.

Our coalition partners in Heading Home Ramsey have benefited from some of Pathway Home funding but the needs are great and too much of this will fall on the Ramsey County levy as federal funds dry up. Ramsey County accounts for 9.5% of the statewide population, but has 24% of the emergency shelter beds in the state. We invite you to review the statistics on our attached fact sheet.

Thank you for your consideration of HF 1914 and your time.

Sincerely,



Deputy Mayor Jaime Tincher
Chair of Heading Home Ramsey



Ramsey County Commissioner Rena Moran
Vice-Chair of Heading Home Ramsey



March 31, 2025

Senator Zaynab Mohamed
2103 Minnesota Senate Building
Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Representative Brion Curran
5th Floor Centennial Office Building
Minnesota House of Representatives
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Senator Mohamed and Representative Curran,

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Thank you for advancing this legislation and your work to ensure that, until we end homelessness, that it is rare, brief, and non-reoccurring.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Asher Gavzy'.

Asher Gavzy,
President & CEO
Property Solutions & Services, Inc.

Dear Chair Schomacker, Chair Noor and Committee Members:

The MN Coalition for the Homeless (MCH) is writing to express our support for HF 1914. The mission of MCH is to generate policies, community support, and resources for housing and services to end homelessness in Minnesota. We have over 70 member organizations across the state and MCH receives ZERO government funding.

This legislation provides additional necessary investments into Minnesota's homelessness response system by funding emergency services grants, innovative homelessness response investments to our County partners (and Tribal partners pending an amendment), and County capacity-building resources.

MCH wants to also be clear that this bill is only going after **NEW money and not trying to take money that is currently allocated within our homeless programs**. This is very important because MCH would not support it if it were attempting to move money around rather than advocating for new money.

As this Committee knows, Minnesota's emergency shelter system is under immense strain. We are continually grateful for the historic state investments made in 2023, they have been a lifeline to shelter providers across the state. Providers continue to face funding shortfalls that threaten their ability to keep doors open, maintain services, and operate at full capacity. With the threats to reductions of homelessness funding at the Federal level and growing individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Minnesota, without additional state support, more shelter providers will be forced to close, leaving even fewer options for Minnesotans.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership,

Sincerely,

Matt Traynor

Interim Executive Director & Director of Advocacy
MN Coalition for the Homeless