

April 2, 2025

Dear Chairs and Members of the Human Services Finance and Policy Committee:

Individuals with mental illnesses are significantly more vulnerable to housing instability and homelessness. Without stable housing, recovery from mental illnesses becomes unattainable. Many individuals thrive when they have access to ongoing, housing-linked services that help them maintain their homes, build positive relationships with property management and neighbors, and integrate into the community. There is an urgent need to sustain and expand permanent supportive housing. We urge you to take a big step towards meeting this need by supporting HF 99.

The Housing Support for Adults with Serious Mental Illness (HSASMI) program is a targeted initiative that funds permanent supportive housing for individuals diagnosed with serious mental illness (SMI), particularly those with high barriers to housing. HSASMI helps individuals secure housing and sustain it over time by wrapping essential services around them. It connects people to services where they live, making the services as accessible and regular as possible.

While the need for supportive housing in our state is crystal clear, you may wonder why we are requesting funding for HSASMI grants specifically. PATH (Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness) is another major source of funding for supportive housing, but while PATH focuses on outreach and short-term rental assistance, HSASMI provides a continuum of care. HSASMI focuses on establishing and *maintaining* permanent housing. Both programs are essential and work in tandem as they address overlapping stages on the spectrum of homelessness. Housing Stabilization Services is a Medicaid benefit to provide supportive housing, but it has been incredibly challenging for both providers and beneficiaries alike to use. Beneficiaries could wait months to be enrolled in the program – if they get enrolled at all. Additionally, the reimbursement rate for the support services part of the supportive housing offered through Housing Stabilization Services is too low to cover providers' costs.

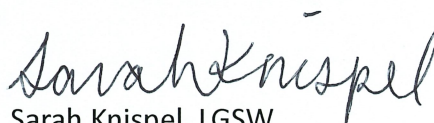
There is currently a high demand for HSASMI, with limited available resources. Out of 28 proposals submitted in 2024, only 16 grants (40%) were funded. We know the need is even greater than the applications suggest - many organizations do not apply due to the limited availability of funds.

Please close this gap and help Minnesotans with mental illnesses get the housing they need to live and the supportive services they need to thrive. Pass HF 99.

Thank you,



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