

## 2025 MCH Endorse Agenda

### **Monitor and utilize State Resources to cover potential cuts from the Federal Legislature**

- Utilizing a flexible process to accommodate the variety of program needs and the varying timelines of needing these funds. There is urgency to this that may require legislative action before the end of the 2025 legislative session.

### **Making the Local Homeless Prevention Aid (LHPA) a permanent program**

- LHPA was created by the 2021 Minnesota Legislature to help local governments ensure no child is homeless within a local jurisdiction by keeping families from losing housing and helping those experiencing homelessness find housing. The program is currently set to end in 2028, but our goal is to make it a permanent program.

### **Build and preserve affordable housing to reduce homelessness and stabilize communities**

- Led by the *Minnesota Consortium of Community Developers*
- We need \$400 million in new authorization of HIBs so that essential projects across the entire affordable housing continuum can move forward, including preservation of deeply affordable units and gap financing for homeownership opportunities.

### **Safe Harbor Funding**

- Led by the *Youth Services Network*
- Sustain the one-time increase of \$0.875 allocated in 2023 and 2024. And an additional increase of \$20 Million - \$9 Million for sustaining and expanding street outreach, emergency shelter, and housing; \$2 Million for sustaining and expanding Safe Harbor Regional Navigators; and \$9 Million for Safe Harbor Supportive Services

### **Bridge To Shelter - A three-pronged approach to addressing homeless response needs**

- **Provider Funding** - To bridge the gap between current state funding and the amount requested by providers in the most recent Emergency Services Program competitive round. Funding is intended for providers and not for counties, especially any "new" money.
- **County Funding** - Counties would compete through an RFP process handled by the Department of Human Services (similar to the Emergency Services Program). The department would prioritize funding based on quantifiable measures of need and outcomes articulated during the application process. Funding would address communities' most significant gaps and fund the most effective interventions for reducing homelessness that do not receive other public funding. Tribal Nations and/or Indigenous organizations would also be incentivized and prioritized through the RFP process.
- **County to County Capacity Building** - funding for collaboration between Metro and Greater Minnesota counties and their providers to increase access to sustainable funding streams for providers and systems. This peer-to-peer approach would ensure that providers offering Medical Assistance-eligible services expand capacity to access these funding streams. The collaborative would assist in the adoption of best practices and distribution of toolkits.

### **Establish Site-Based Transitional Housing Funds**

- Led by *Lutheran Social Service of MN*
- Appropriate one-time funding for cash grants to transitional housing projects throughout the state of Minnesota, allowing for the preservation, expansion, and increased accessibility of transitional housing programs.

## **HEARTH Connection Legislative Priorities**

- **Remove Duplicate DHS Background Studies for Emergency Shelter Providers** - This proposal allows existing alternative background check methods to be used in supportive housing and emergency shelters.
- **Restore the Full Housing Support Service Rate** - This proposal would change the rate cut to apply only to people receiving HSS instead of people who appear eligible. It would also restore the full Housing Support rate for everyone for one year until recommendations from related rate studies can be reviewed. A temporary restoration means providers can offer essential services without disruption while a sustainable long-term solution is developed.
- **Improvement to Housing Stabilization Services** - To address difficulties faced by supportive housing providers, proposed changes include shifting from a 15-minute increment billing structure to daily billing to reduce administrative burdens and better cover actual costs. Additionally, increasing DHS staff capacity to decrease application processing times, as well as increase training and program oversight.

## **The Minnesota Homeless Study and the companion Reservation Homeless Study**

- We need funding to ensure that these studies continue. The study has been a critical resource in understanding and addressing homelessness in Minnesota since 1991. It is unique in the United States in its partnership with tribal communities, as well as the comprehensive nature of the publicly available data collected over more than 30 years. The study is used to prioritize needs, identify systemic issues, and improve programs and policies to address homelessness in our state.

## **Yes to Homes - Enable, expedite, and incentivize more homes**

- Led by the *Yes to Homes Coalition*
- Build more homes of all types in all corners of the state by removing barriers that add cost and time to increase housing access for all Minnesotans.

## **Shelter Zoning Improvements**

- Policy priority that would allow the development of emergency shelters to be permitted as eligible use on any lot zoned for the development of multifamily residential housing, commercial uses, or industrial uses. This would NOT exclude an emergency shelter facility from a lot zoned for uses other than multifamily residential housing, commercial uses, or industrial uses if otherwise permitted by a local zoning regulation.

## **Decriminalize Street Homelessness**

- Led by *NAMI Minnesota*
- Prohibits local jurisdictions from criminalizing sleeping in public places and legally parked vehicles.

## **Crime Victims' Services Funding: (SF852 | HF1082)**

- Led by *Violence Free MN*
- A substantial and robust increase in state level Crime Victims' Services Funding is required to make up for federal cuts and allow for the maintenance and expansion of crucial public safety infrastructure such as Domestic Violence Shelters, Rape Crisis Centers, and Child Advocacy Centers.

## **Fair Chance Access to Housing Act (SF4015 | HF4785)**

- Led by *Vera Institute of Justice*.
- Limits the use of background checks when someone applies for rental housing. It would ensure that Minnesotans with arrest and conviction histories have a fair chance to secure housing through:
  - Prohibiting housing providers from asking about conviction histories during the initial screening process
  - Postpone background checks until applicant receives a conditional offer
  - Limit the use of screening to specific types of convictions within established timeframes
  - Give applicants the chance to offer evidence of rehabilitation before a denial by the housing provider