

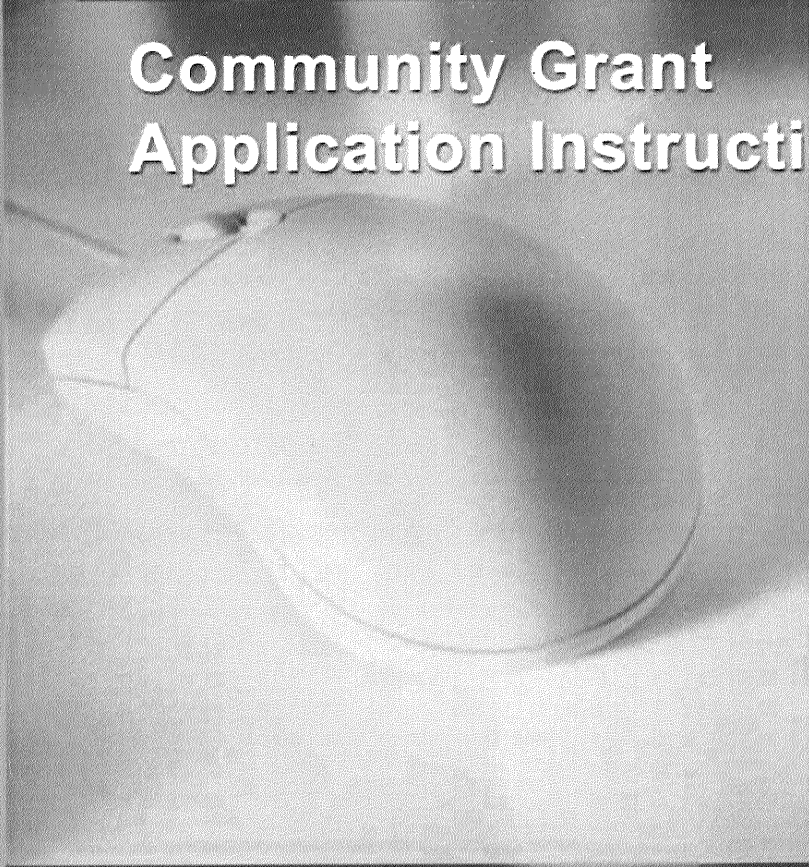
Senators Sams, Frederickson, Dille, Metzen and Bakk introduced--
S.F. No. 1120: Referred to the Committee on Finance.

1 A bill for an act
2 relating to economic development; appropriating money
3 for a grant to the Blandin Foundation.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
5 Section 1. [APPROPRIATION.]
6 \$250,000 in fiscal year 2006 is appropriated from the
7 general fund to the commissioner of employment and economic
8 development for a grant to the Blandin Foundation for the "get
9 broadband" program. This appropriation must be matched equally
10 by nonstate funds and is available until expended. Expenditures
11 made by the Blandin Foundation beginning December 1, 2004, may
12 be used as match for this appropriation. The "get broadband"
13 program must be designed to increase the use of broadband-based
14 technologies by businesses, schools, health care organizations,
15 government organizations, and the general public.

Get Broadband



Community Grant Application Instructions



Get Broadband Program
Keeping Communities Competitive

WWW

Broadband

A Blandin Foundation Initiative

Keeping Communities Competitive

The Blandin Broadband Initiative is designed to catalyze broadband investment and use, to raise awareness about the value of broadband and to encourage public and private investment in rural broadband capacity. It is led by a 15-person strategy board representing private and public sector partners and stakeholders.



For more information about the Broadband Initiative visit

www.blandinfoundation.org

BACKGROUND

The **Get Broadband** Program is being conducted by the Blandin Foundation under its Broadband Initiative, a statewide public-private partnership created to improve the economic vitality of Minnesota's communities by encouraging the development of rural telecommunications markets and infrastructure. The Initiative supports the Foundation's Community Economic Advantage strategy, which aims to help build strong local economies where the benefits and burdens are widely shared. It is guided by a 15-member strategy board made up of public and private industry leaders.

In partnership with leadership across Minnesota, through its Broadband Initiative, the Foundation seeks to:

- > Increase awareness about the value of broadband telecommunications use and services,
- > Increase business and residential use of broadband in rural communities,
- > Increase public and private investment in rural broadband capacity.

The Foundation believes that broadband technology facilitates economic development and is important to the economic success of rural communities. Broadband technology has the potential to help transform rural communities into centers of innovation and technology. It holds the potential for rural communities to overcome their traditional disadvantages of a smaller labor force, fewer capital resources, reduced access to research institutions and greater distance from markets and supplies. Communities committed to expanding the use of broadband technology can increase their potential to retain jobs, grow new markets for business, strengthen health care delivery, enhance educational access and opportunity, and improve quality-of-life.

But despite its benefits and promise, broadband technology remains underutilized in many Minnesota communities. A recent Blandin Foundation study found that only 15 of the 80 percent of rural Minnesotans with access to broadband service subscribe.

The reality is that community leadership is necessary to advocate broadband's public value – economic development, health care, education, governmental services – and to identify strategies to develop it. Building a market, by educating people, is a community's responsibility. Communities that have undertaken broadband market development and education initiatives have achieved "take rates" as high as 70 percent. When citizens subscribe and broadband providers invest, opportunities for economic development are created. Everybody wins.

To help promote increased utilization of broadband in Minnesota's rural communities, the Blandin Foundation has dedicated \$250,000 toward broadband development. Community grants awarded will be funded under the guidance and oversight of the Initiative's Strategy Board and the Blandin Foundation's grant program staff.

PROGRAM GOAL

To further the Broadband Initiative's goals of increasing awareness about the value of broadband telecommunications use and services, increasing business and residential use of broadband in rural communities, and increasing public and private investment in rural broadband capacity, the Blandin Foundation is seeking communities that are committed to increasing their community vitality through the expanded use of broadband-based technologies.

PROGRAM STAGES

The **Get Broadband** Program consists of the following stages:

- 1. Organization:** The community creates a steering committee consisting of senior representatives from the business, education, health care, government and consumer/residential sectors, plus other sectors that may be unique to each community.
- 2. Survey:** The community identifies its current level of broadband utilization and the demand for expanded service. The Blandin Broadband Initiative will conduct the survey.
- 3. Goal Setting:** The community establishes goals for levels of technology utilization, service and connectivity. The Blandin Broadband Initiative will provide some goal setting tools.

4. Education Events:

The steering committee conducts a series of events that demonstrate available technologies, programs, and services that can increase the productivity, efficiency, and quality of life of community members. The Blandin Broadband Initiative will provide a **Get Broadband** Toolkit which includes CD's, presentations, flyers, announcements, computer program demos and other multimedia materials that can be used at community education events.

5. Measurement:

After conducting the broadband education events and programs, the increase in demand and utilization of broadband-based technologies is measured.

6. Future Direction:

The community determines its appropriate strategy for continuing to incorporate new technologies into its community and promote a culture that welcomes and embraces change and new information technology.

BLANDIN FOUNDATION SUPPORT

The Blandin Foundation will provide each **Get Broadband** community with the following support:

Program Guide

A program guide will help each community organize and conduct each stage of the program.

Toolkit

The **Get Broadband** Toolkit includes a collection of CD's, presentations, flyers, announcements, interactive computer program demos and other multimedia materials that can be used at community education events.

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Funding

Blandin Foundation will provide each **Get Broadband** community with up to \$15,000 in grant funds to support community education efforts. To access these funds, the community must deliver a one-to-one cash match.

Coaching and Convening

Get Broadband communities will come together to share information, experiences and resources. The communities will be coached on local leadership capacity development through workshops with experts on technology, marketing and applications.

COMMUNITY QUALIFICATIONS

Communities must identify a single grant recipient to receive and administer grant funds. (The lead organization may subcontract portions of project implementation to collaborating partners.) Eligible applicants must be organizations with a nonprofit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service. Units of government may apply if the purpose of the request goes beyond the limits of expected government services and taxpayer responsibility. To qualify for consideration, applicants must:

- > Describe the market the project will serve. Multiple communities may self-identify as a single "market" for the purposes of this RFP, but they must describe the "connection" between the distinct communities.
- > Represent a community or market located outside the seven-county metro area.
- > Demonstrate a 1:1 local cash match for requested funding.
- > Demonstrate local leadership commitment: A "steering committee" or "organizing committee" must be formed that includes senior representatives of the community's major broadband markets, including, but not necessarily limited to representatives from large and small business, health care, education, government and residential markets. For example, the steering committee could include the mayor, chamber of commerce president, hospital administrator, school district superintendent, city administrator and the director of a local economic development organization. The steering committee members will likely be needed to develop individual working groups that serve their respective sectors.

EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR PROPOSALS

The Blandin Broadband Strategy Board will use the following criteria to evaluate proposals submitted under this program:

- > Basic eligibility: Does the applicant meet the basic eligibility criteria described above (market, organization, etc.)?
- > Broadband goals: Does the applicant demonstrate an understanding of the purpose of the **Get Broadband** Program?
- > Leadership team: Does the applicant include senior leaders from the community's different sectors?
- > Clear evidence of the commitment for matching funds.
- > Evidence of Broadband Internet Service Provider involvement, i.e., as a partner in the market education effort, program funder, etc.

TIMELINE

Three rounds of grants are anticipated in 2005:

February 25, 2005

First round **Get Broadband**
Community Grant applications due.

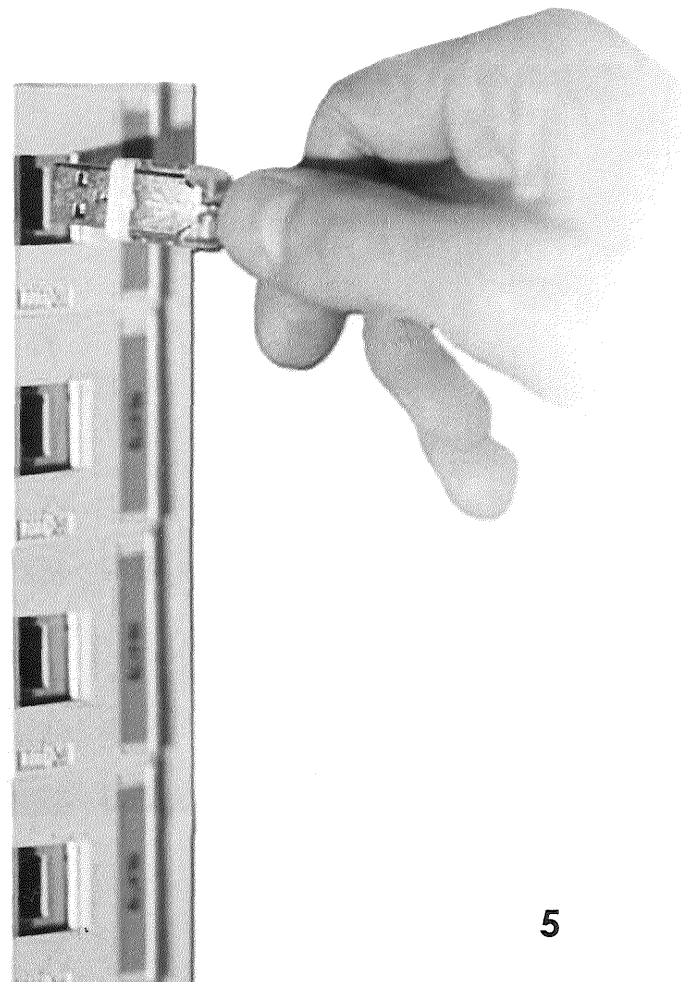
May 20, 2005

Second round **Get Broadband**
Community Grant applications due.

August 19, 2005

Third round **Get Broadband**
Community Grant applications due.

**For each round of grants,
proposals must be received by
4:30 p.m. at the Blandin Foundation.**



The Blandin Broadband Strategy Board reserves the right not to fund any of the proposals submitted under this announcement.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Gary Fields, Blandin Broadband Project Consultant, (651-698-7464; gfields@comcast.net) with any questions regarding this Request For Proposal (RFP); this includes transmitting draft versions of proposals for pre-submittal review.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Include a cover letter with each proposal that introduces your organization and your proposal, and makes a strategic link between your application and the goals of this RFP and the Blandin Broadband Initiative.

The maximum length of proposal narratives is five pages, plus any attachments.

Submit three printed copies of the proposal along with an electronic version of the proposed narrative (financial statements required with the submission need not be mailed electronically).

Proposals should be sent to:

Bernadine Joselyn
Blandin Foundation
100 North Pokegama Avenue
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

and, emailed to brjoselyn@blandinfoundation.org.

Respondents should use the format below. Be sure to include contact information including email addresses for responsible parties.

Please indicate if the project's lead organization is a 501(c)(3) or a unit of government.

An officer of the project's lead organization/fiscal agent should sign the grant application cover letter.

PROPOSAL FORMAT

I. Organization Information

Brief summary of lead organization's/group's history, mission and goals.

Brief description of organization's/group's current programs or activities, including any service statistics and strengths or accomplishments.

Brief description of all participating organizations and groups. This should include: legal name, mission statement, services and programs, addresses, and staff contacts.

Briefly describe the role of the lead and participating organizations and groups, inter-organizational coordination and collaboration during the project, and decision-making processes.

II. Program Elements

Steering Committee. Describe the membership of the steering committee and the constituencies they represent. Include letters of commitment from each member as an attachment.

Program Budget. Include the program budget, clearly identifying where Blandin funding and local funding will be applied.

Matching Funds. Provide written evidence describing the availability of matching cash contributions for the program.

Timeframe. Provide a schedule that shows when the major program stages will be conducted. All programs must be completed within one year.

III. Attachments *(financial information required only of lead/fiscal agent organization)*

Most recent financial statement from most recently completed year, audited if available, showing actual expenses. This information should include a balance sheet, a statement of activities (or statement of income and expenses) and functional expenses.

Organization budget for current year, including income and expenses.

Project Budget, including income and expenses.

Additional funders. List names of corporations and foundations from which you are requesting funds to implement project activities, with dollar amounts, indicating which sources are committed or pending.

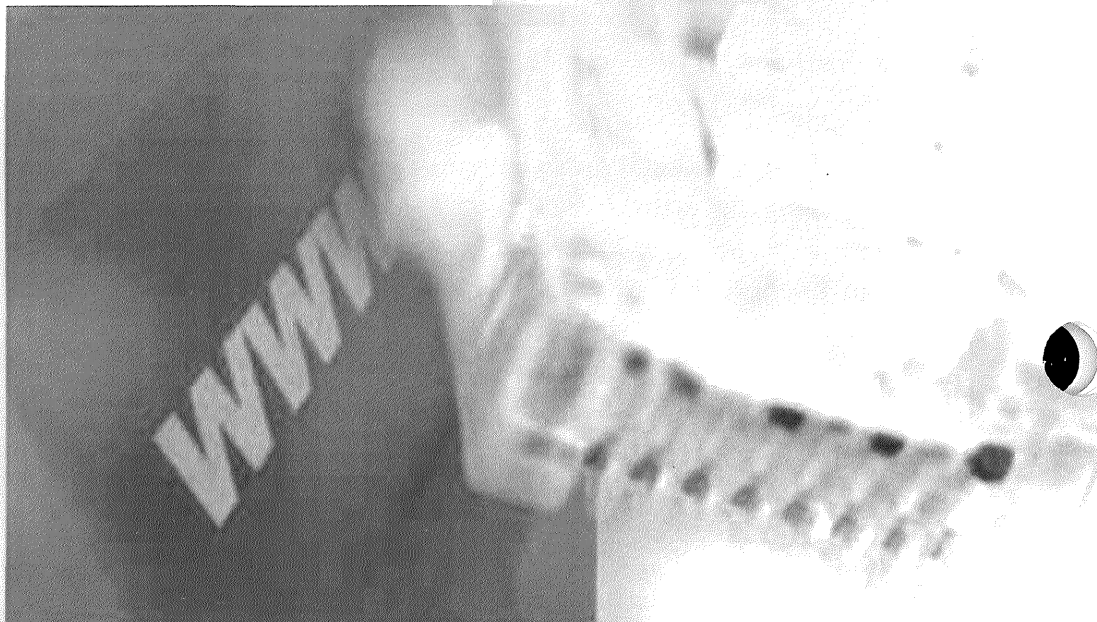
Brief description of key project implementers and/or staff, including qualifications relevant to the specific request.

A copy of the lead organization's (or fiscal agent's) IRS determination letter indicating tax-exempt 501(c)(3) status.

Letters of commitment from steering committee members.

- Cover letter
- Proposal narrative, including project budget
- Lead organization budget
 - Financial statements from lead organization, preferably audited, showing actual expenses including:*
 - Balance sheet
 - Statement of activities (income and expenses)
 - Statement of functional expenses
- List of additional funders
- Brief description of key staff
- IRS determination letter if applicant is not a governmental agency

PROPOSAL CHECKLIST



BLANDIN FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Applicants are encouraged to contact any of the following organizations for local sponsorship or assistance.

Broadband Service Providers

To find the service providers in your area, please contact any of the following trade organizations.

Private Telephone Companies

Minnesota Telecom Alliance	www.minnesotatelephone.org	651/291-7311
MN Assoc. for Rural Telecommunications	www.mnart.org	651/784-2001

Cable Companies

MN Cable Communications Association	www.mncca.com	651/651-0268
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Municipal Telephone Companies

MN Municipal Utility Association	www.mmua.org	763/551-1230
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Wireless Companies

Wireless Committee of the MTA	Scott Bergs scott.bergs@midwestwireless.com	507/385-2360
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University of Minnesota Extension Service

Technology Education accessE.info	Rae Montgomery; rae@umn.edu www.accessE.info	612/624-2773
Community Economics & Leadership	Joyce Hoelting jhoeltin@umn.edu	612/625-8233

MNSCU Campuses

Alexandria Technical College	Kevin Kopischke kevink@alx.tec.mn.us	320/762-4404
Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College	Candi Broeffle candibro@ezigaa.fdl.cc.mn.us	218/879-0743
Bemidji State University	David Kingsbury dkingsbury@bemidjistate.edu	218/755-4900
Hibbing Community College	Ken Simberg kennethsimberg@hcc.mnscu.edu	218/262-6743
Central Lakes College	Rebecca Best rbest@clcmn.edu	218/855-8143
Itasca Community College	Bonnie Henriksen bhenriksen@it.cc.mn.us	218/327-4203
Lake Superior College	Pat Toland p.toland@lsc.mnscu.edu	218/733-5914
Minnesota State University, Moorhead	Jan Flack flackjan@mnstate.edu	218/236-2395
Mesabi Range Technical College	Colleen Gerzin c.gerzin@mr.mnscu.edu	218/749-7716
MN West Community & Technical College	Roger Fransen rogerf@cb.mnwest.mnscu.edu	507/537-7161
Northland Community & Technical College	Shari Olson shari.olson@northlandcollege.edu	218/681-0869
Minnesota State College - Southeast Technical	rwenzel@southeastmn.edu	51/385-6316
Minnesota State Community & Technical College and Northwest Technical College, Bemidji	Mary Eaton mary.eaton@ntcmn.edu	218/755-4264
Minnesota State University, Mankato	Kathy Trauger kathleen.trauger@mnsu.edu	507/389-1546

Pine Technical College	Jason Spaeth spaethj@pinetech.edu	320/629-5175
Rainy River Community College	Tom Weegar tweegar@rrcc.mnscu.edu	218/285-2202
Ridgewater College	Noel Harness harness@ridgewater.mnscu.edu	320/214-3646
South Central Technical College	Larry Lundblad larry.lundblad@southcentral.edu	507/389-7332
Riverland Community College	Steve Bowron sbowron@river.cc.mn.us	507/379-3317
Southwest State University	Jon Harback harback@southwestmsu.edu	507/537-6004
Rochester Community & Technical College	Michelle Pyfferoen michelle.pyfferoen@roch.edu	507/285-7579
Vermilion Community College	Ann Beste-Guldborg a.beste-guldborg@vcc.edu	218/365-7265
St. Cloud State University	John Burgeson jcburgeson@stcloudstate.edu	320/308-3081
Winona State University	Barbara Larsen blarsen@winona.edu	507/457-5582
St. Cloud Technical College	Dieter Pape dpape@sctc.edu	320/308-5066

Regional Development Corporations

East Central RDC, Mora	Roger Ames	320/679-4065
Arrowhead RDC, Duluth	John Chell	218/722-5545
Northwest RDC, Warren	Leon Heath	218/745-673
Mid-Minnesota Dev. Commission, Willmar	Eugene Hippe	320/235-8504

Keeping Communities Competitive

Region 5 Dev. Commission, Staples	Bob Hutton	218/894-3233
Upper MN Valley RDC, Appleton	Paul Michaelson	320/289-1981
West Central MN Initiative, Fergus Falls	Nancy Straw	218/739-2239
SW Regional Dev. Commission, Slayton	Jay Trusty	507/836-8547
Headwaters RDC, Bemidji	Cliff Tweedale	218/444-4732
Region 9 Dev. Commission, Mankato	Reggie Edwards	507/389-8872

Minnesota Initiative Funds

Central MN Initiative Fund, Little Falls	www.centralmif.org	320/632-9255
Northwest MN Foundation, Bemidji	www.nwmf.org	218/759-2057
West Central Initiative, Fergus Falls	www.wcif.org	218/739-2239
Northland Foundation, Duluth	www.northlandfdn.org	218/723-4048
Southwest MN Foundation, Hutchinson	www.swmnfoundation.org	320/587-4848

State of Minnesota Workforce Centers

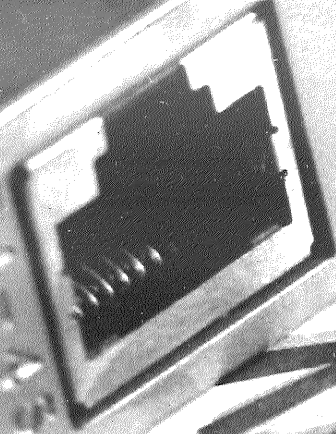
www.mnwfc.org/field/wfctable.htm

Marketing/Program Consultants

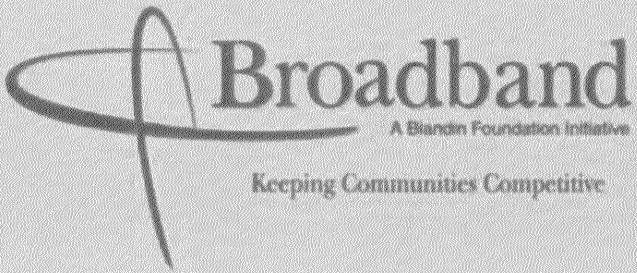
Community Technology Advisors	Bill Coleman www.communitytechnologyadvisors.com	651/426-7741
Virchow, Krause and Company	Brandon Andries www.virchowkrause.com	952/835-1344

COMMUNITY

22-year-old female
University student
English would be
speakers who like
meet English

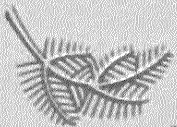


DISCONE



Online at www.blandinfoundation.org

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BLANDIN FOUNDATION™
PUBLIC POLICY & ENGAGEMENT

For more information about the Initiative or
the "Get Broadband" Program contact:

Bernadine Joselyn
Director, Public Policy & Engagement
broadband@blandinfoundation.org
218.327.8728

Senators Solon, Tomassoni and Saxhaug introduced—

S. F. No. 875 Referred to the Committee on Finance

1 A bill for an act
2 relating to natural resources; appropriating money for
3 silvicultural research.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

5 Section 1. [APPROPRIATION.]

6 \$200,000 in fiscal year 2006 and \$200,000 in fiscal year
7 2007 are appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
8 of natural resources for a grant to the Natural Resources
9 Research Institute for silvicultural research to improve the
10 quality and quantity of timber fiber. The appropriation must be
11 matched in the amount of \$200,000 each year, in cash or in-kind
12 contributions, from the forest products industry members of the
13 Minnesota Forest Productivity Research Cooperative.

Minnesota Forest Productivity Research Cooperative

University of Minnesota, Natural Resources Research Institute
5013 Miller Trunk Highway
Duluth, Minnesota 55811

Bill Berguson
bberguso@nrri.umn.edu
phone: 218-720-4296

The forest products industry is vital to Minnesota's economy, accounting for a total of 6.9 billion dollars of economic activity and employing over 55,000 people in various job sectors within the state. The industry has come under increasing pressure from global competition in manufacturing and from rising costs for domestic wood production. In response to concerns about the competitiveness of the state's forest products industry, a Governor's Advisory Task Force on Competitiveness of Minnesota's Primary Forest Products Industry recommended steps to increase the competitiveness of the state's forest products sector. Among the top concerns identified by the Task Force was timber resource availability and price. Recently the price of pulpwood, the raw material used by Minnesota mills, has risen to the point where Minnesota has the highest wood prices in the United States. To address concerns over raw material supplies, the Task Force recommended support for research to increase forest productivity and thereby augment future fiber supplies.

In response to Task Force recommendations, industry representatives, public agencies and research organizations have joined forces to address critical research needs. **The mission of the Forest Productivity Research Cooperative is to increase the economic value of Minnesota's timber resource by improving the quality and quantity of fiber through silvicultural research and transfer of that technology to natural resource professionals and landowners.** This will be accomplished by:

- Focusing on applied research in cooperation with industrial, public agency and other landowners
- Using resource analyses to guide research priorities and analyze impacts of results
- Developing techniques that have immediate impact and improve economic returns to landowners
- Technology transfer to natural resources professionals and landowners
- Promoting synergy with existing research efforts and knowledge

This effort is a collaboration of industry, university and government land agencies. At this time, project principals include Boise, Potlatch Corporation, International Paper, Minnesota Power, UPM-Kymmene, the University of Minnesota-NRRI and the St. Louis County Land Department. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the USDA Forest Service and the UM College of Natural Resources are cooperating agencies. Presently we are seeking support from the Legislature for a portion of the funds needed to support this effort. **The total annual funding sought to fund this work is \$200,000.** This amount will be matched by member organizations in the form of cash and in-kind contributions of land for experiments and demonstrations, site maintenance and technical personnel.



A Cut-to-Length harvester thinning a Norway Pine plantation

Senators Kubly, Kierlin, Jungbauer Saxhaug and Pappas introduced--
S.F. No. 677: Referred to the Committee on Jobs, Energy and Community Development.

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A bill for an act

relating to economic development; providing for the
reopening of certain historical sites; appropriating
money.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. [APPROPRIATION.]

\$..... is appropriated from the general fund to the
Minnesota Historical Society for operation of the following
historical sites in 2005 and 2006: Kelley Farm, Hill House,
Lower Sioux Agency, Fort Ridgely, Historic Forestville, the
Forest History Center, and the Comstock House. This is a
onetime appropriation and is not to be added to the society's
base.

[EFFECTIVE DATE.] This section is effective the day
following final enactment.

S.F. 677 Kubly

Fiscal Note – 2005-06 Session

Bill #: H0698-0 **Complete Date:** 03/14/05

Chief Author: SEIFERT, MARTY

Title: HISTORICAL SITES REOPENED

Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
State	X	
Local		X
Fee/Departmental Earnings	X	
Tax Revenue		X

Agency Name: Historical Society

This table reflects fiscal impact to state government. Local government impact is reflected in the narrative only.

Dollars (in thousands)	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09
Expenditures					
General Fund		1,201	1,201		
Less Agency Can Absorb					
-- No Impact --					
Net Expenditures					
General Fund		1,201	1,201		
Revenues					
Misc Special Revenue Fund		25	25		
Gift Fund		433	433		
Net Cost <Savings>					
General Fund		1,201	1,201		
Misc Special Revenue Fund		(25)	(25)		
Gift Fund		(433)	(433)		
Total Cost <Savings> to the State		743	743		

	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09
Full Time Equivalent					
General Fund		39.50	39.50		
Total FTE		39.50	39.50		

Bill Description

This bill provides an appropriation for operations of seven historic sites that have had funding reduced and have been threatened with closure.

In 2003, the state-funded budget of the Minnesota Historical Society was reduced by \$4.3 million. Previous base reductions increased this total reduction to over \$5 million per year. In response to this reduction, cuts were made in all areas of the Society's operations, including historic sites. Because of community support, six of the seven sites were re-opened, at least temporarily. At this time, community groups are having a challenging time raising funds sufficient to keep these sites open.

This bill was introduced with a blank appropriation amount. The Society estimates that to provide a level of service, in terms of hours open to the public, equivalent to the level provided in 2004, for these seven sites, the cost would be \$743,000. This level of service would still be substantially below the level of hours provided to the public in the 2002 sites season. In order to provide the level of service provided in the 2002 season an appropriation of \$1,195,000 would be needed.

(It should be noted that funding and open hours were reduced at most other historic sites throughout the system as well.)

This bill states that this funding is one-time and is not added to the Society's base budget. The result of this language would be that the historic sites would experience uncertainty at the start of FY08, during the middle of the 2007 sites season.

Assumptions

For the purposes of this fiscal note, a level of service equivalent to the 2004 sites season is assumed. This level of service is substantially reduced from the 2002 season levels.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

The total cost of operating these seven sites would be offset by admission and gift shop sales revenue, as shown in the "Revenues" portion of the fiscal note. This portion is broken into two sections, Special Revenue for state-owned sites and Gift for other sites. This total would amount to \$458,000 each year, leaving a net cost to the General Fund of \$743,000 each year.

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

Providing funding for these historic sites would help to ensure their long-term financial stability. While local groups have helped to provide funding for these sites, this is an unpredictable and variable source of funding. Moving from year to year with uncertainty of the status of these sites does not help to ensure consistent visitation (and corresponding revenue) and makes marketing these sites even more challenging.

Agency Contact Name: David Kelliher (651-297-8085)

FN Coord Signature: DAVID KELLIHER

Date: 03/10/05 Phone: 297-8085

EBO Comments

I have reviewed this Fiscal Note for accuracy and content.

EBO Signature: KEITH BOGUT

Date: 03/14/05 Phone: 296-7642

Senators Dibble, Rosen, Anderson, Pariseau and Frederickson introduced--

S.F. No. 684: Referred to the Committee on Finance.

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A bill for an act

relating to families; appropriating money for
emergency assistance and transitional housing.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. [APPROPRIATION.]

\$15,000,000 is appropriated from the general fund to the
commissioner of human services to be available until June 30,
2007. Of this appropriation:

(1) \$9,000,000 is for transitional housing programs under
Minnesota Statutes, section 119A.43. Up to ten percent of this
appropriation may be used for housing and services which extend
beyond 24 months; and

(2) \$6,000,000 is for emergency services grants under Laws
1997, chapter 162, article 3, section 7.

No more than five percent of this appropriation is
available for administering the grants. This appropriation is
in addition to any base appropriations funding and shall become
part of the agency's base.

**Minnesota Youth Service Association
Committee on Public Policy and Advocacy**

7601 42nd Avenue North, New Hope, MN 55427
phone (763) 592-5510, fax (763) 592-5550

*"Pursuing public policy reform to increase opportunities and
resources for homeless and runaway youth."*

**OFFER SUPPORT TO MINNESOTA'S HOMELESS YOUTH
SUPPORT H.F. 2150/S.F. 2004, H.F. 1198/S.F. 684, AMEND H.F. 1875**

State Funding Losses Result in Losses of Shelter and Services for Youth

All Minnesotans are aware of the budget cuts enacted in 2003 to help balance the state's budget. The impact on youth services has been severe. A combination of federal, state, and local funding losses have resulted in losses of 32 emergency shelter beds, 137 youth housing units, and 48 case managers providing one-to-one support. We this to be an urgent matter since these losses have curtailed our ability to provide crisis intervention and support to Minnesota's most vulnerable youth.

Governor's Plan to End Long Term Homelessness Fails to Offer Solutions for Homeless Youth

While we applaud the Governor's leadership in taking a bold stand against homelessness, we are concerned that the Report fails to address the needs of unaccompanied homeless youth and nationally recognized policies and best practices that prevent or end homelessness for this population. The State must play a crucial role in addressing homeless youth, since we know that many homeless youth were former foster youth. A state-wide survey of homeless youth conducted by the Wilder Research Center in 2003, found that 70% of all homeless youth had histories of out-of-home placements and yet became homeless before their 18th birthday. These are our youth, they wish to succeed, and they deserve our attention and support.

SUPPORT HOUSE FILE 2150, SENATE FILE 2004, and HOUSE FILE 1198, SENTATE FILE 684

There is a current law that recognizes the need to support shelter, housing, and supportive services to homeless youth. Minnesota Statute Section 256K.35 has been on the books but has gone unfunded for three years. House File 2150 and Senate File 2004 seek to use existing TANF Reserves to fund a grant program through the Minnesota Department of Human Services. Currently, the State of Minnesota is sitting on a surplus of \$40 million in TANF Reserves. House File 2150 would direct only \$1.2 million each year to support needed community programs that offer hope, intervention, and family reunification to homeless and at-risk youth. Additionally, Senate File 684 and House File 1198 provide needed on-going General Fund support for shelter and transitional housing which is a high priority if we are to meet the Governor's Plan to End Long Term Homelessness in the next decade.

AMEND HOUSE FILE 1875

House File 1875 would repeal Minnesota Statute Section 256K.35, and dash any hope for the State to offer resources and partnership with community and faith-based organizations offering services to homeless youth. Please amend House File 1875 to keep Minnesota Statute Section 256K.35 alive. Community agencies rely on federal, local and private philanthropic support to offer shelter, housing, and support to vulnerable youth. The State needs to take some responsibility, given the intersection between youth in out-of-home placements and those who end up homeless.

THE HISTORY BEHIND MINNESOTA STATUTE SECTION 256K.35

Originally enacted in 2000, the statute provided recognition of the need for homeless youth programs to prevent sexual exploitation and out-of-wedlock pregnancies. The Department of Human Services combined Homeless Youth grants from the General Fund with TANF Reserves and Chafee Independent Living Funds (a federal program). Grants were first awarded in 2001 with the following levels: \$537,564 in 2001, \$966,188 in 2002, and \$985,997 in 2003. The funds were used across a wide spectrum of agencies in Greater Minnesota and the Twin Cities and helped to leverage federal grants. In 2003, the TANF Reserves were allowed to sunset and the General Funds for Homeless Youth were block granted to counties. Unfortunately, counties have not responded with new grants to homeless youth programs.

WHY IS STATE SUPPORT NEEDED FOR HOMELESS YOUTH SHELTER AND SERVICES?

Partially, the State's child welfare systems have contributed to youth homelessness. Over 70% of all homeless youth surveyed by the Wilder Research Center in 2003 indicated that they had been in an out-of-home placement through child welfare and still ended up homeless before their 18th birthday. Additionally, youth continue to run from out-of-home placements and are never found. In 2000, 550 youth ran from placement, were not found, and had their cases closed. In 2001, 575 youth ran from placement, were not found, and had their cases closed. These children are under the jurisdiction and care of the State and counties and may now be homeless.

Additionally, community and faith-based organizations providing services to homeless youth rely on several sources of funding. When the state grants from the Minnesota Department of Human Services was eliminated (coupled with federal and local losses of funding) we saw the loss of 32 shelter beds, 137 youth apartments, and 48 full-time youth advocates. State funding is needed to provide crisis intervention, family reunification, shelter, housing, and life skills training to vulnerable youth. If we don't catch the youth now in our services and help to support them in a crucial developmental stage, some may go on to the adult systems of disability, jail, or chemical dependency treatment. Furthermore, State support would allow agencies to leverage needed federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

WHAT IS THE LEVEL OF NEED?

In 2003 Twin Cities Metropolitan providers served over 3,000 homeless youth, while Greater Minnesota providers served over 1,700 youth. We struggle to serve this number with a continuum that includes just over 100 shelter beds and 360 transitional, supportive housing units. Many youth are turned away. A youth shelter in St. Paul reports turning youth nearly every night.

However, this is not just a "city" issue. In Bemidji, outreach workers with Evergreen Shelter saw 145 homeless and at-risk youth on the streets and provided emergency shelter and family reunification services to 600 youth in 2003; 100 pregnant and parenting teens and single homeless youth were also served in Transitional Housing. In Brainerd, a Lutheran Social Service youth shelter provided emergency shelter to 37 homeless youth in 2001. In Duluth, Lutheran Social Service's shelter assisted 554 youth in 2001 with street-based outreach reporting an additional 250 youth needing services each day. In Owatonna, the Crossroads Shelter served 205 youth in 2001. In Dakota County, the Supportive Housing Unit served 38 homeless and at-risk youth in 2001 and 27 homeless and at-risk youth in 2003 (not counting an additional 134 heads of household under 22 years of age). Safe Haven (a transitional living program in Dakota County) had 319 phone calls for housing in 2003 and served 29 in 2003, of which 16 were homeless youth and 4 were chronically homeless.

GOVERNOR'S INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT TRANSITION FOSTER YOUTH IS LIMITED IN SCOPE

The Governor has proposed using \$1.1 million out of the General Fund to support youth transitioning out of foster care. The initiative is limited in that it will only serve approximately 140 of the estimated 550 youth "aging out" of foster care. We are strongly supportive of this initiative, but it will not serve all foster youth needing housing support after leaving foster care at age 18, nor will it serve unaccompanied homeless youth who are not in the child welfare system.

The solution is easy. Please pass House File 2150, Senate File 2004, House File 1198 and Senate File 684 which take existing TANF reserves and General Fund revenues to fund critical support and shelter options to vulnerable youth and families.

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Federal TANF Reserve F.Y. 2004 - F.Y. 2009 February 2005
 (\$ in thousands)

	<u>F.Y. 2003</u>	<u>F.Y. 2004</u>	<u>F.Y. 2005</u>	<u>F.Y. 2006</u>	<u>F.Y. 2007</u>	<u>F.Y. 2008</u>	<u>F.Y. 2009</u>
Actual & Estimated Resources							
Balance Forward From Prior Year	126,667	21,006	40,885	71,164	51,849	33,477	14,263
Prior year adjustment		351	416				
Rounding adj			1		1		1
Adjusted Balance Forward	126,667	21,357	41,302	71,164	51,850	33,477	14,264
Block Grant* ***	267,161	267,161	266,230	263,434	263,434	263,434	263,434
Performance Award**	749	13,399	13,399	-	-	-	-
Total Resources Available	394,577	301,917	320,931	334,598	315,284	296,911	277,698
Actual & Estimated Uses							
Expenditures:							
Education Finance							
Children, Families & Learning, Dept of	4,283	-	-	-	-	-	-
Health, Human Services & Corrections							
10 Financial Management		76	122	122	122	122	122
11 Legal and Regulatory Affairs		100	100	100	100	100	100
15 Admin. Reimbursement & Pass Through Less Transfers		3,592	7,010	7,010	7,010	7,010	7,010
20 MFIP/DWP Grant		113,247	89,752	112,714	115,277	114,640	110,629
21 Support Services Grants		88,622	113,033	102,594	102,632	102,632	102,632
25 Child Support Enforcement Grants		-	-	-	-	-	-
32 Other Children and Economic Assistance Grants		-	-	-	-	-	-
35 Children and Economic Assistance Admin.		424	452	452	452	452	452
Human Services, Dept of	265,074	206,061	210,469	222,992	225,593	224,956	220,945
Health Department	19,965	5,686	6,289	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Subtotal-Health, Human Services & Corrections	285,039	211,747	216,758	228,992	231,593	230,956	226,945
Economic Development							
Employment and Economic Development	-	417	544	-	-	-	-
Trade and Economic Development	1,245	142	-	-	-	-	-
Economic Security, Dept of	5,788	-	-	-	-	-	-
Housing Finance Agency	125	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal-Economic Development	7,158	559	544	-	-	-	-
Total TANF Expenditures	296,480	212,306	217,302	228,992	231,593	230,956	226,945
Transfers to Other Funds							
Federal Title XX (300)	15,790	4,790	7,927	4,790	4,790	4,790	4,790
Federal Child Care and Development Fund (300)	30,953	25,012	22,619	23,102	23,978	23,978	23,978
Working Family Tax Credit (General Fund)	30,348	18,924	18,919	19,173	19,254	19,732	19,793
Undesignated Refinancing (General Fund)	-	-	-	6,692	3,192	3,192	3,192
	77,091	48,726	49,465	53,757	51,214	51,692	51,753
Total Uses	373,571	261,032	266,767	282,749	282,807	282,648	278,698
Cancelation****			(17,000)		(1,000)		(1,000)
TANF Reserve	\$21,006	\$40,885	\$71,164	\$51,849	\$33,477	\$14,263	\$0

* The first actual TANF award received by the state started October 1, 1997. F.Y. 2004-07 assumes a continuation of TANF funding amount as it exists in current law. The Authorization for TANF expired on September 30, 2002. Funding has been extended through several continuing resolutions. The most recent resolution expires March 31, 2005.

**High Performance Bonuses awarded by bonus year (FFY1999: \$9,424,075; FFY 2000: \$2,592,312; FFY 2001: \$2,993,030; FFY 2003: \$13,399,244; FFY2004: 13,399,244) spread over state fiscal years.

*** Less Mille Lacs Band Tribal TANF award: annualized level of \$823,539 - Oct 1, 1998 to March 31,2005; annualized level of \$4,550,817 starting 4/1/2005

**** With this fund balance begins the inclusion of a biennial-end cancellation estimate for TANF. The estimate is based upon consistent

turns of underspending in the non-forecasted TANF accounts, principally, allocated coun- 'ts. For FY 2005, the estimate is at a higher level, enting early underspending in the MFIP Consolidated Support Services Grant progr mped up over its initial 18 month allocation period.



MINNESOTA'S HMIS

Managing information to help
end homelessness.

WHAT IS HMIS?

A Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a client-level database that combines information from many different homeless and social service providers. This is accomplished on a state-wide basis, usually through a Web-based technology. In Minnesota we are using privacy-secured software called ServicePoint (www.servicept.com).

The mission of Minnesota's HMIS is to provide standardized and timely information to improve access to housing and services, and strengthen our efforts to end homelessness.

The goal for Minnesota's HMIS is to eventually provide as comprehensive a picture of homelessness as possible, by incorporating all emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing providers, as well as other points of contact for people experiencing homelessness, such as outreach programs, drop-in centers, and food shelves.

BENEFITS

- Better services to clients. Through HMIS, more comprehensive case history and enhanced communications between service providers are possible.
- Easier data management for agencies. Minnesota's HMIS provides agencies with a fairly comprehensive client-level data management tool that meets reporting requirements for several state and federal homelessness-related funding programs—and produces HUD's Annual Progress Report.
- Improved planning to prevent and end homelessness. Minnesota's HMIS offers the state a chance to answer questions important to improving service effectiveness, including: How many people use services over the course of a year? What are the needs of these people? Do new initiatives result in measurable changes?

Finally, HMIS meets a federal mandate, thus improving Minnesota's chances of continuing to receive at least its current level of HUD homeless program funding—about \$20 million annually.

WHAT ABOUT THE RISKS?

Like any system for managing data about individuals, HMIS includes risks to personal privacy. To address these risks, data privacy has been emphasized at every step in developing and implementing Minnesota's HMIS.

The system's data security model is based on client preference and allows licensed users to see only the client information that they have permission to see. Additionally, before being able to use the system, agencies and end-users must go through training and sign agreements to uphold rigorous data privacy standards. No information that would enable the federal government to identify particular individuals is sent to HUD through Minnesota's HMIS.

AGENCIES REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is requiring its grantees under the following programs to participate in HMIS:

- Supportive Housing Program (SHP)
- Shelter Plus Care (S+C)
- Section 8 Moderate Rehab for Single Room Occupancy (SRO)
- Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG)
- Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA; grantees that specifically target homelessness are required; others are encouraged to participate)

Minnesota, service providers that receive funding under the following programs are required to participate:

Department of Human Services / Office of Economic Opportunity

- Transitional Housing Program (THP)
- Emergency Services Program (ESP)
- Emergency Shelter Grant Program (ESGP)
- Rural Housing Assistance and Stability Program (RHASP)

Minnesota Housing Finance Agency

- Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP)
- Ending Long-Term Homelessness Initiative Fund (ELHIF) and other program funds designated for long-term homelessness

WHO RUNS HMIS?

Minnesota's HMIS is overseen by a Governing Council that includes representatives of each Continuum of Care region in the state, as well as various advocacy organizations and providers serving specific homeless populations (such as youth and veterans). Wilder Research administers all aspects of the HMIS project including managing the database, helping agencies use it effectively, and creating reports from the data that help us better understand homelessness and how to improve client services. Wilder Research is teaming with Minnesota Housing Partnership to provide training for HMIS users.



MINNESOTA'S HMIS

"HMIS is a great way to track the services and progress of the client. Everything is outlined and right in front of me -- case notes, goals and services utilized. It saves me time. Eventually, this system will even make intakes easier and less time-consuming, as I can look the client up in the system and retrieve data telling me the basic information and other services utilized in the past."

Michele Merxbauer

Three Rivers Community Action

PROJECT FUNDERS

To date Minnesota's HMIS has received funding from:

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Minnesota Housing Finance Agency
Minnesota Department of Human Services
Minnesota Department of Corrections
Minnesota Department of Health
Minnesota Department of Education
Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Home Board
Family Housing Fund
Greater Minnesota Housing Fund
Open Your Hearts to the Hungry and Homeless
Enterprise Foundation
U.S. Department of Agriculture

To get involved or find out more, visit Minnesota's HMIS on the Web at:

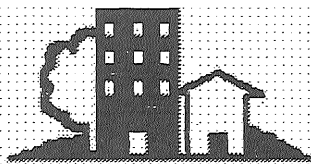
www.hmismn.org
e-mail: HMIS@wilder.org

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Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless

Working to ensure everyone has a safe, decent, affordable place to call home

Policy Brief: Reducing Turnaways at Homeless Shelters & Transitional Housing

Who is homeless?

- 39% of those who are homeless are *children/unaccompanied youth*.
- 34% of homeless adults (46%, women) reported they *stayed in an abusive relationship* because they had nowhere else to live.
- 47% of homeless adults reported a *significant mental health problem*.
- 59% are homeless for the *first time in their life*.
- 44% reported being *homeless a year or more* (37% being homeless more than a year in 2000).
- Homelessness *disproportionately impacts communities of color*—57% of homeless adults and 65% of homeless youth are people of color.
- 41% of homeless adults said they *need to see a doctor for a physical health problem*.

What does “homeless” mean?

A person is homeless if they (1) lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; or (2) have a primary nighttime residence that is a supervised, publicly or privately operated temporary living accommodation, including emergency shelters, transitional housing, and battered women’s shelters; or (3) have a nighttime residence in any place not meant for human habitation, such as under bridges or in cars. This is based on the definition used by Congress.

What does “precariously housed” mean?

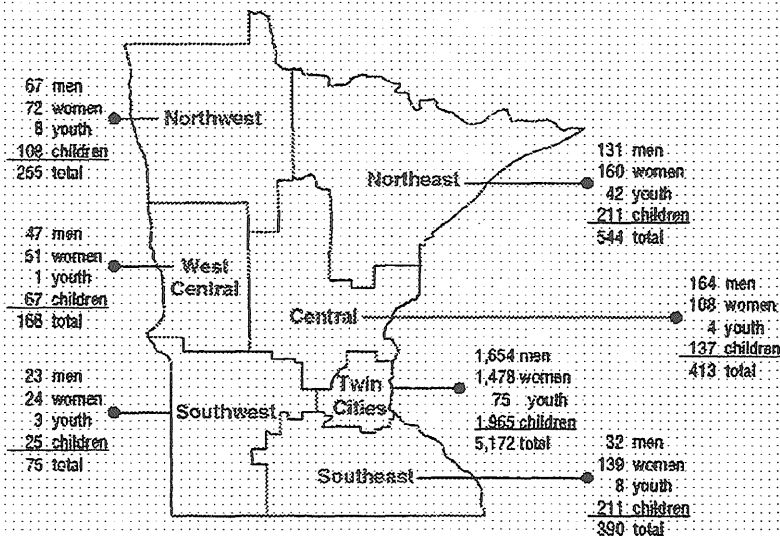
A housing situation is “precarious” if it is temporary or unstable. Examples include those living “doubled up” with friends or relatives. These individuals are not included in the homeless numbers.

Number of People Experiencing Homelessness in Minnesota

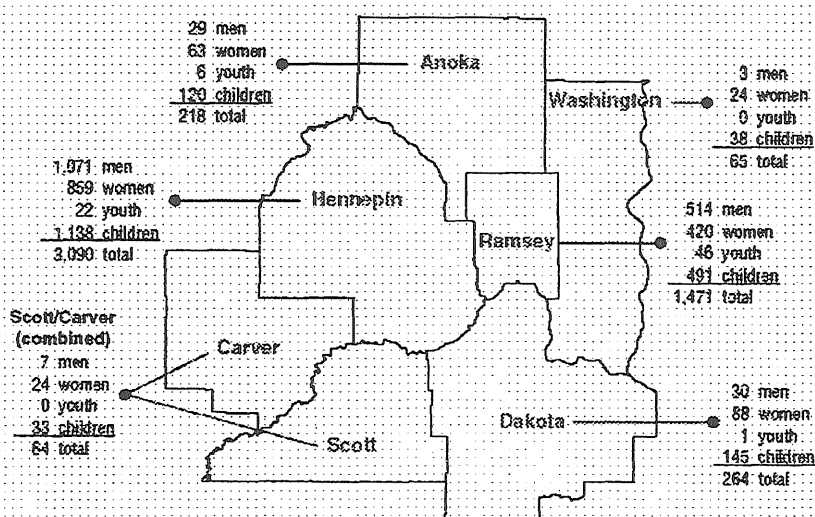
Wilder Research Center’s *Homeless in Minnesota 2003* estimates that on 23 October 2003, the total number of homeless and precariously housed persons in Minnesota numbered 20,347. The homeless persons estimate is 8,800 to 8,900, including nearly 2,000 individuals who are forced to “live on the streets.”

Each night, approximately 7,000 individuals are “fortunate” enough to receive shelter from a variety of homeless service providers across the state (e.g. emergency shelters, domestic violence programs, transitional housing programs), according to a number of quarterly shelter surveys conducted by the Department of Human Services over the past few years.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN MINNESOTA HOMELESS SHELTERS ON OCTOBER 23, 2003



NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN METRO AREA HOMELESS SHELTERS ON OCTOBER 23, 2003



Problem:

Due to inadequate resources, **over 1,000 individuals are regularly turned away from shelter each night in Minnesota.** Children and unaccompanied youth regularly account for nearly half of those sheltered and turned away. People turned away from shelter often must rely on unsafe accommodations: a car, an abandoned building, "the streets". Unaccompanied youth and vulnerable adults are often forced to compromise their basic values in order to secure housing from someone who wants to take advantage of them.

Solution:

To stop turning away individuals and families from emergency shelter and transitional housing, the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless proposes appropriating an additional \$6 million for the Emergency Services Program (ESP) and \$9 million for the Transitional Housing Program (THP).

A variety of homeless service providers, utilizing a mix of public and private resources, assist thousands of individuals experiencing homelessness each night in Minnesota. They have the expertise to assist additional households back into affordable housing of their own. However, lack of adequate resources keep them from serving everyone in need.

THP provides supportive housing and supportive services to homeless individuals and families so that they can secure permanent stable housing. Participants are required to pay at least 25% of their household income for rent, and program stay is limited to 24 months. *To conform to federal allowances and to allow transitional housing to assist households with higher vulnerabilities and barriers to the housing market, the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless proposes allowing 10% of THP funds to serve households beyond 24 months.* ESP funds the operating costs of shelters and essential services to homeless families and individuals.

Both programs provide a variety of services, including: self-sufficiency case management, assistance to access permanent housing, child care, employment counseling and job placement, medical and psychological help, substance abuse treatment, transportation, financial assistance available from other programs, and other services needed to stabilize homeless households in housing.

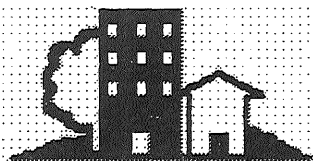
Transitional Housing Successes:

- 95% of those who completed transitional housing moved into independent housing (average stay is 6 months).
- The number of participants utilizing MFIP decreased from 28.6% at entrance to 19.7%
- The percentage of adults living in temporary housing who are working is 51%.
- The average income per participant increased 26% from entrance to exit.

Guide to temporary housing programs			
	Emergency shelters	Battered women's shelters	Transitional housing
Access	Walk in or referred by a social service agency. If space is limited, may be selected by lottery.	Walk in or referred by an agency or advocate.	Walk in or referred by a social service agency or shelter program.
Services	Safe sleeping space. Most open only evenings and overnight. Some sites provide other services like hot meals, health care, employment and/or housing information, and connections to other services.	Safe refuge for women and their children when fleeing an abusive situation. Legal advocacy and moral support for women while they work on a longer-term solution to their situation.	Housing and support services. Usually involves working with a case manager or service coordinator to set and address goals for family and housing stability. Most are family-focused, but some serve other specific populations such as veterans, single adults, or persons with special needs.
Time limits	Up to 30 days.	Until safe housing can be arranged; usually up to 30 days.	Varies; ranges from 45 days to 24 months.

(guide) Wilder Research Center, 2003

For further information contact the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless at: Tel: 612-870-7073 Fax: 612-870-9085 e-mail: home01@isd.net Web: www.mnhomelesscoalition.org



Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless

Working to ensure everyone has a safe, decent, affordable place to call home

Policy Brief: Homelessness Prevention—Addressing Homelessness Before It Starts

Wilder Research Center's Homeless in Minnesota 2003 estimates that on 23 October 2003, the total number of homeless and precariously housed persons in Minnesota numbered 20,347. The homeless persons estimate is 8,800 to 8,900, including nearly 2,000 individuals who are forced to "live on the streets."

- 59% are homeless for the *first time in their life*.
- 30% of homeless adults are *working*; 13% are working full-time.
- The fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit in Minnesota is \$784; the *hourly wage required to afford this rent is \$15.07*.
- *Lack of affordable housing* is the most common barrier to stable housing reported by homeless adults (and the 2nd most common barrier to employment reported by unemployed homeless adults).
- *Children and unaccompanied youth* are 39% of the homeless.
- Half of homeless children *attend two* different schools in a single school year; more than 25% attend three *or more schools*.
- As a result, three-quarters of *homeless children perform below grade level* in reading, and more than half perform below grade level in math.
- *Homeless children* are more likely than other Minnesota children to *have physical or mental disabilities*.

Family Homeless Prevention & Assistance Program (FHPAP)

FHPAP is a flexible grant program designed to assist families, youth, and single adults who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness. The program has three objectives:

- Homelessness prevention
- Shortening the length of stay in emergency shelters, or time homeless, by getting households into safe, affordable housing
- Eliminating repeated episodes of homelessness

Number of Households Served

In the last biennium (July 1, 2001—June 30, 2003), FHPAP assisted 14,676 unduplicated households, including 41,053 total people, at an average cost of \$503 per household. The median household income of recipients was \$8,808. Over 23,000 of those served were children, including 642 unaccompanied youth. Approximately half of those assisted were stabilized in housing before becoming homeless, while the other half were given assistance to be re-housed after becoming homeless. FHPAP emphasizes prevention, when possible, as it is both more humane and more cost effective than assisting households after they have already become homeless.

FHPAP Philosophy

The program is based on the belief that this is a community problem and requires a community response, hence the requirement of broad participation on grantee advisory boards. The program challenges grantees to consider how they will overhaul the homeless system in Minnesota by coordinating school systems, service providers, legal aid staff, county commissioners, etc.

Prevention efforts vary greatly among service providers due to the flexibility allowed at the local level to determine how best to meet the program's three main goals. Services have included cash assistance for back rents and security deposits; case management; landlord relations; and job training. Specified case management and referral services are also provided by grantees (or specialized sub-grantees) geared towards substance abuse, mental illness, and/or youth related issues.

A Model Program

FHPAP receives national recognition. Recently, the Illinois State Legislature established a Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program modeled after the Minnesota program. FHPAP was also chosen by the National Alliance to End Homelessness as a Best Practice in prevention.

Prevention saves money:

- ▶ **Dakota County** estimates that an episode of homelessness for a family costs \$13,000 (emergency shelter costs, case manager salaries, supportive services costs, and HUD dollars for rental subsidies). Preventing a homelessness episode only costs between \$1,400 and \$3,500 (payment of back rent or mortgage, staff time, and other miscellaneous expenses). These prevention costs are covered by a range of sources in addition to FHPAP (e.g. client resources, county funds, leveraged staff time).
- ▶ In **Hennepin County**, 94% of the singles that received correctional exit services from FHPAP had no shelter stays post-release.

Prevention works (outcomes from July 1, 2003—June 30, 2004):

- ▶ **St. Louis County** reports that 78% of the households that received assistance to retain housing remained stable in their housing as a result of FHPAP. Eighty percent of the households that were stabilized in housing through FHPAP remained in that housing 6 months after receiving services.
- ▶ **Hennepin County's** program served 2,787 households. Of those who received prevention assistance, 96% of families and 95% of single adults without children did not have a shelter stay after receiving services.
- ▶ The HOPE program, serving **Crow Wing, Todd, and Morrison Counties**, had 50 households who enrolled in its program who reached their 6-month mark; of those households, 94% remained in housing.
- ▶ **Southeastern Minnesota Housing Network**, serving **Rice, Goodhue, Wabasha, Steele, Dodge, Olmsted, Winona, Freeborn, Mower, Fillmore, and Houston Counties**, provided prevention assistance to 74 households, of which 84% were in housing six months after entering the program.
- ▶ **Ramsey County's** program served 1,370 households. In its family stabilization program, which reduces recidivism by stabilizing people in safe, affordable housing, 97% of families who entered these programs did not have a subsequent shelter stay.

Current Need, Funding, and Request:

- ▶ Since 2002, the cost per household has increased—this is partially due to the erosion of Emergency Assistance, higher housing costs, and slightly higher income households requiring prevention resources. Due to these added pressures on the program, providers served 18% fewer households in 2003 due to lack of state resources.
- ▶ Currently, there are sixteen FHPAP projects, which cover 57 of Minnesota's 87 counties. The current funding is at \$7.43M for two years (through 2005). Fifty-five percent (55%) of that \$7.43M goes to metro areas, and 45% to Greater Minnesota. Current grantees requested over \$1.5 million more for the biennium than was allocated by the State. In addition, the program lost \$250,000 in TANF resources in the current biennium.
- ▶ Prevention should be a statewide strategy. A long-term funding strategy should allow MHFA to increase the funds available to existing grantees and to help new regions design successful homeless prevention plans.
- ▶ The Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless supports a \$4 million increase to work toward meeting our goal to have an adequately-funded, statewide program. Resources should be used to increase the funds available to existing grantees and to help new regions design successful homeless prevention plans.

Minnesota's HMIS: Participating agencies

- American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO), Duluth
- Anoka County Community Action Program, Blaine
- Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, Virginia
- Ascension Place, Minneapolis
- Avenues for Homeless Youth, Minneapolis
- Bi-County Community Action Program, Bemidji
- Breaking Free, St. Paul
- Cabrini House, Minneapolis
- Carver County HRA, Chaska
- Catholic Charities, multiple cities
- Central MN Housing Partnership, St. Cloud
- Central MN Task Force on Battered Women, St. Cloud
- Church of St. Stephen's, Minneapolis
- Churches United for the Homeless (CHUFTH), Moorhead
- Churches United in Ministry (CHUM), Duluth
- Community Action Center of Northfield, Northfield
- Community Emergency Assistance Program (CEAP), Brooklyn Park
- Dakota County Community Development Agency, Eagan
- Dakota County Community Services-Supportive Housing Unit (DCCS-SH), West St. Paul
- Dakota Woodlands, Eagan
- East Metro Women's Council, White Bear Lake
- Elim Transitional Housing, Minneapolis
- Emma Norton Services, St. Paul
- Families Moving Forward (FMF), Minneapolis
- Fargo-Moorhead Dorothy Day House of Hospitality, Inc.
- Freeport West, Minneapolis
- Harriet Tubman Center, Minneapolis
- Hastings Veterans Home, Hastings
- Heartland Community Action Agency, Willmar
- Hennepin County, Minneapolis
- Home of the Good Shepherd, St. Paul
- Housing Coalition of the St. Cloud Area, St. Cloud
- Houston County Women's Resources, Hokah
- Inter-County Community Council (ICCC), Oklee
- KOOTASCA Community Action, International Falls
- Lakes and Pines Community Action Council, Inc., Mora
- Legal Aid Service of NE Minnesota, Duluth
- Life House, Duluth
- Listening Ear Crisis Center, Alexandria
- Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS), St. Paul
- Mental Health Resources, Eagan
- Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MAC-V)
- Minnesota Valley Action Council, Mankato
- Minnesota Veterans Home, Minneapolis
- Model Cities of St. Paul, St. Paul
- Motivation, Education, and Training (MET), Willmar
- New Foundations, Inc., St. Paul
- New Pathways, Cambridge
- Northwest Community Action (NWCAA), Badger
- Northwestern Mental Health Center, Crookston
- Olmsted Community Action Program, Rochester
- Otter Tail-Wadena Community Action Council, Inc., New York Mills
- Our Saviour's Housing, Minneapolis
- Partners for Affordable Housing (PAH), Mankato
- Perspectives-SHP, St. Louis Park
- Peta Wakan Tipi, St. Paul
- Prairie Community Services, Hancock
- Prairie Five Community Action Council, Montevideo
- Range Mental Health Center (RMHC), Virginia
- Range Transitional Housing (RTH), Virginia
- Red Wing Area Coalition for Transitional Housing
- Resource, Inc., Minneapolis
- Rise, Inc., Spring Lake Park
- Rochester Area Family Y, Rochester
- RS Eden, St. Paul
- Safe Haven for Youth, Prior Lake
- Salvation Army, multiple cities
- Scott Carver Dakota CAP (SCD CAP), Shakopee
- Scott County Human Services, Shakopee
- Semcac, Rushford
- Simpson Housing Services, Minneapolis
- Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, St. Paul
- Southwestern MN Opportunity Council, Worthington
- St. Cloud HRA, St. Cloud
- St. Louis County, Virginia
- Steele County Transitional Housing, Owatonna
- Theresa Living Center, St. Paul
- Three Rivers Community Action, Zumbrota
- Tri-Valley Opportunity Council (TVOC), Crookston
- Urban League, St. Paul
- Violence Intervention Project, Thief River Falls
- Volunteers of America (VoA), multiple cities
- Washington County, Stillwater
- West Central Minnesota Communities Action, Inc. (WCMCA), Elbow Lake
- Western Community Action, Marshall
- White Earth Reservation Tribal Council, White Earth
- Women's Advocates, St. Paul
- Women's Transitional Housing (WTH), Duluth
- Worthington HRA, Worthington
- Wright County Community Action (WCCA), Maple Lake
- Youthlink, Minneapolis
- YWCA of Duluth, Duluth
- YWCA of Fargo-Moorhead, Fargo-Moorhead
- YWCA of St. Paul, St. Paul
- Zumbro Valley Mental Health (ZVMH), Rochester

Minnesota's HMIS: Governing Council

Current membership, April 2005

Continuum of Care representatives

Anoka : **Barb Wold**, Anoka County

Central: **Brenda Engelking**, Central Minnesota Housing Partnership

Dakota: **Jane Lawrenz**, Dakota County Community Services Division (Implementation Group Chair)

Hennepin: **Pat Crosby**, Hennepin County

Northeast: **Patty Beech**, Northeast Continuum of Care

Northwest: **John Pugleasa**, Beltrami Area Service Collaborative

St. Louis : **Ken Hall**, Range Transitional Housing

Scott/Carver: **Judson Kenyon**, Scott-Carver-Dakota CAP Agency

Southeast: **Mary Ulland-Evans or Michele Merxbauer**, Three Rivers Community

Southwest: **Becky Riess**, Western Community Action, Inc.

Ramsey: **Jim Anderson or Shannon Kennedy**, Ramsey County

Washington : **Tina O'Malley Bayonet**, Washington County Social Services

West Central: **Diane Walker**, West Central Minnesota Community Action

State agency representatives

- Minnesota Housing Finance Agency: **Jamey Burden**, Family Homeless Prevention & Assistance Program
- Department of Human Services: **Isaac Wengerd**, Office of Economic Opportunity

Elected-at-large members

- **Michael Dahl**, Executive Director, Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless
- **Marcia Otte**, Family Services Director, Mahube Community Council
- **Steve Long**, Lakes and Pines Community Action Council
- **LaRae Roeder**, Salvation Army
- **Christy Snow Kaster**, Metro-wide Engagement on Shelter and Housing (MESH)
- **Richard Wayman**, Streetworks Collaborative for Homeless Youth and the Runaway and Homeless Youth Coalition
- **Kathleen Vitalis**, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans

Senators Dibble, Kubly, Jungbauer, Sams and Anderson introduced--
S.F. No. 1166: Referred to the Committee on Finance.

1 A bill for an act
2 relating to housing; appropriating money for the
3 bridges rental housing assistance program.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
5 Section 1. [BRIDGES RENTAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE;
6 APPROPRIATION.]
7 \$3,400,000 in fiscal year 2006 and \$3,400,000 in fiscal
8 year 2007 are appropriated from the general fund to the Housing
9 Finance Agency for the bridges rental housing assistance program
10 under Minnesota Statutes, section 462A.2097. These
11 appropriations are in addition to any base appropriations for
12 this purpose and shall become part of the agency's base.



Minnesota

BRIDGES HOUSING PROGRAM

What is Bridges?

Bridges provides temporary support for people with serious persistent mental illness while they are waiting to get on federal Section 8 rental subsidy program. With Bridges, like Section 8, a low-income person with mental illness rents an apartment at the regular market rate and pays 30% of his/her income for rent. The program pays the balance. The goal of the program is to provide stability in the lives of its recipients.

Last biennium the state allocated approximately \$1.6 million per year of the biennium for the Bridges program.

Who qualifies for Bridges?

Applicants for Bridges must have a serious and persistent mental illness. Families can apply, but an adult member of the family needs to have a serious and persistent mental illness. Household income needs to be under 50% of the area median income. Bridges was designed for and priority is given to persons who are:

- Homeless,
- Residing in a Regional Treatment Center (RTC) or served through state operated services,
- Residing in community-based intensive treatment facilities (IRTS),
- Living in Board and Lodge, Board and Care, Nursing Homes, Apartment Training programs, Shared Housing, Transitional Housing or
- Living in substandard and/or rent burdened (more than 50% of household income).

Why is Bridges important?

Without access to affordable housing, people enter more costly programs. Presently more than 20% of the people at each level of treatment – inpatient, state regional treatment center, intensive residential treatment – are waiting to move to the next lower and less expensive level of treatment but not due to the lack of affordable housing. And, presently, 50% to 50% of people with mental illness at Anoka Regional Treatment Center do not need to be there. Related to this, according to the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation in their 2003 study 52% of people with long-term homelessness have a serious and persistent mental illness and 24% have a dual diagnosis of both mental illness and chemical dependency.

f a s t f a c t s

According to Minnesota’s Department of Employment and Economic Development, and consistent with national figures, the majority of persons with mental illness (75%) were reported to be looking for work or not in the labor force. So they are not able to find employment to earn the income necessary to access housing.

Housing instability leads to crisis and relapse; housing stability allows people with mental illness to focus on other life goals. Bridges is consistent with best practices emphasis on “recovery” and community-based services.

Is Bridges cost effective?

Providing people with a serious and persistent mental illness with safe, stable housing allows them to focus on recovery and employment. Their lives are improved and there is significant public savings, particularly if supportive services are available. It costs the state \$390 per month for a Bridges Housing subsidy. It costs the state \$459 per day to keep a person in Anoka. In-patient hospital stays range from \$459 to \$857 per day.

Conclusion

Currently some counties are not keeping a waiting list for the Bridges program. They feel it is futile. People that the Bridges program would serve are precariously housed and move often so it would be difficult, if not impossible, to find them. An official with Hennepin County describes the situation there as: “staggering – overwhelming”. In January of 2005, MN Housing Finance Agency records show 345 active participants in the Bridges program. The program is now serving 298 fewer households compared to 2001 while the need is more acute.

Simultaneously, the federal Section 8 housing program is stagnate (especially in the Metro area) and has been so for quite some time. The Section 8 waiting lists are generally not open. So, as a result, in the last couple of years Bridges participants are staying on the Bridges program and not moving quickly onto Section 8 – which is resulting in no real new activity in terms of the Bridges program assisting new or additional households.

In order to meet the waiting list and unmet needs, an additional \$3.4 million dollars beyond the current amount allocated in the Governor’s budget is needed in each of the next two fiscal years.

Senator Dibble introduced--

S.F. No. 1813: Referred to the Committee on Finance.

A bill for an act

relating to housing; appropriating money to the
Housing Finance Agency for the Homeless Management
Information System.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. [APPROPRIATION.]

\$800,000 is appropriated from the general fund for the
fiscal biennium ending June 30, 2007, to the Housing Finance
Agency for the nonprofit capacity building program to administer
the state's Homeless Management Information System.

Senators Anderson, Dibble, Rosen, Gerlach and Frederickson introduced--
S.F. No. 683: Referred to the Committee on Finance.

1 A bill for an act
2 relating to housing; the Housing Finance Agency;
3 appropriating money to the family homeless prevention
4 and assistance program.
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
6 Section 1. [APPROPRIATION.]
7 \$4,000,000 is appropriated to the Housing Finance Agency
8 from the general fund for the fiscal biennium ending June 30,
9 2007, for transfer to the housing development fund for the
10 family homeless prevention and assistance program under
11 Minnesota Statutes, section 462A.204. This appropriation is in
12 addition to any other appropriation and shall become part of the
13 agency's base.