

Thanks to your support and legislative passage in 2021, the Hometown Heroes Assistance Program is the most comprehensive firefighter well-being legislation in the nation.

The Hometown Heroes Assistance Program (HHAP) dedicates \$4 million per year to ensure that every Minnesota firefighter has access to the education, prevention and care needed to handle a cardiac, emotional trauma or cancer diagnosis.

Now, we need your help once again to ensure the program is running as smoothly as possible. Please PASS HF 2746 (Youakim)/SF 2634 (Howe).

The HHAP is a landmark piece of firefighter well-being legislation overwhelmingly supported by a bi-partisan legislature in 2021. Since implementation, it's clear that two small procedural changes are needed to ensure effective administration of the program:

SF 2634 outlines those changes:

1. Clarifies that the HHAP applies to diagnosis on or after the effective date of the bill, August 1, 2021. This ensures the funding remains sustainable for its intended duration.
2. Changes the flow of funds from the Office of Justice Programs to the State Fire Marshal, which was the intended agency to oversee the funds all along.
3. Other minor language clean-up

Thank you for your continued support of our hometown heroes as we fine-tune this critical program!



More than 12% of all firefighters will develop heart disease at some point in their lives.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS

92% of firefighters view seeking mental health treatment as a sign of weakness.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS

More than 68% of all firefighters will develop some form of cancer in their lifetimes.

NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

The Hometown Heroes Assistance Program

Building Momentum



Since 2016, the [Minnesota Firefighter Initiative \(MnFIRE\)](#) has been focused on improving the health crisis in our fire service.

The Hometown Heroes Assistance Program represents a critical part of the solution. The program, which Minnesota legislators passed in 2021, dedicates \$4 million per year to ensure that every Minnesota firefighter will have access to the education, prevention and care needed to handle a cardiac, emotional trauma or cancer diagnosis.

This is the most comprehensive firefighter well-being legislation in the nation, combining three vital resources that are currently available to all active volunteer, paid-on-call, part-time and full-time Minnesota firefighters for free:

- MnFIRE Assistance Program with expanded emotional trauma resources
- Up-to-\$20,000 critical illness insurance policy
- Ongoing health and wellness training

Thanks to the passage of the Hometown Heroes Assistance Program, we have already:

- Gone live with the programs and received immediate traction as we've rolled out services to volunteer, part-time and career firefighters, including facilitating visits with trauma-informed mental health providers and peer supporters and issuing checks to help firefighters dealing with cancer, cardiac issues, COVID and other critical illnesses.
- Developed and improved training modules, training multiple departments across the state every week.
- Put brochures and other information about the MnFIRE Assistance, critical illness insurance and training programs into the hands of every firefighter in Minnesota.