

March 23, 2023

Dear Chair Wicklund and Members of Senate Health and Human Services Committee

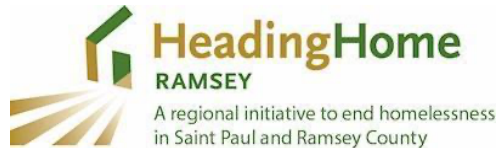
Regarding SF 2033

The elected and appointed members of Heading Home Ramsey, the HUD-mandated Continuum of Care write to offer our strong support for the Heading Home Ramsey bill, House File 1686, a request for funding to invest in and sustain effective models to provide shelter and services to those experiencing homelessness in Ramsey County. Our bill has the support of a wide range of stakeholders across the County who know this funding is key to addressing homelessness.

As Heading Home Ramsey leaders, we provide housing, emergency shelter and crisis response services across Ramsey County. Local government and community partnerships have been critical to our ability to address homelessness in our area.

In Ramsey County, the number of people experiencing homelessness is rising and has nearly doubled since 2016. Over 50 families are on the waiting list for emergency shelter and the 2023 Point-in-Time count conducted January 25 found well over 300 people sleeping outside. We need help. One-time funds enabled Heading Home Ramsey and partners to not only increase shelter capacity but also create more effective supports and interventions to move people quickly from homelessness to housing. But some funds will expire this spring and more funds are needed. While other proposed legislation will help, significant gaps remain in our ability to support five critical interventions. We respectfully request a total of \$75 million over five years:

- Continued shelter options for single adults including expanded women's shelter options. The need for women's shelter space frequently exceeds supply.
- 100-bed shelter for families and additional support for families. This model, established during the pandemic, has produced significantly improved outcomes for families, moving them into housing more quickly.
- Continued operation of day service shelters, providing support to individuals to help them stabilize, connect with resources, and move off the street.
- A low-barrier pilot program serving frequent users of emergency shelter with intensive, 24/7 staffing.
- Outreach, system improvements, and extreme weather support to help address critical immediate needs and move people onto a path to housing more quickly.



These interventions are designed to fill critical gaps while an additional \$74 million is being invested by Ramsey County and the City of St. Paul into the construction of deeply affordable housing. HF 1686 will make an immediate impact while we build more housing and importantly will help us address stark disparities among experiencing homelessness. In Ramsey County, people who are African American are 6.5 times more likely to be homeless than people who are white. People who are Native American/Indigenous are 12.5 times more likely to be homeless than their white counterparts. These unacceptable disparities must be addressed.

We know you share our concern for these families and individuals experiencing homelessness. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jaime Tincher'.

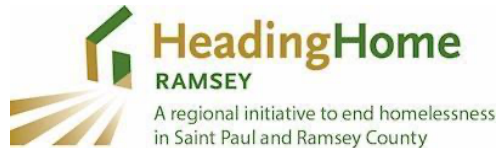
Jaime Tincher
Deputy Mayor, City of St. Paul
Chair, Heading Home Ramsey

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Trista MatasCastillo'.

Trista MatasCastillo
Chair, Ramsey County Board of Commissioners
Vice Chair, Heading Home Ramsey

Heading Home Ramsey Governing Board

- Deputy Mayor Jaime Tincher, City of Saint Paul, Chair
- Commissioner Trista MatasCastillo, Ramsey County, Vice Chair
- Mayor Marylee Abrams, city of Maplewood
- Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
- Johanna Berg, Ramsey County
- Julie Bluhm, Guild, Inc.
- Trisha Cummins-Kauffman, Solid Ground
- Kizzy Downie, Model Cities
- Jen Fairbourne, Lutheran Social Services
- Angela Gauthier, Ain Dah Yung
- Superintendent Joe Gothard, St. Paul Public Schools
- Jon Gutzmann, St. Paul Public Housing
- Jodi Harder, Radies Health
- Anil Hurkadii, Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation
- David Katzenmeyer, People, Inc.
- Tim Lawrence, Metro Transit Police
- Ruby Lee, CLUES
- Rebecca Noecker, Councilmember, City of St. Paul
- Marika Reese, Ubuntu Care Services
- Tiffany Scott Knox, St. Paul Promise Neighborhood
- Deborah Smith, Project for Pride in Living
- Terri Smith, Metropolitan Council
- Wendy Underwood, Catholic Charities
- Lucy Zanders, Theresa Living Center



Heading Home Ramsey Steering Committee:

Heather Alden, St. Paul Public Schools
Keith Allen, M Heath Fairview
Lily Anderson, Guild, Inc.
Nicolle Goodman, City of St. Paul
Lara Griffin, Lutheran Social Services
Sue Hackett, Aeon
Holly Henning, Ain dah Yung Center
Andrea Hinderaker, Model Cities
Molly Jalma, Listening House
Jacqueline Jones, Amherst H. Wilder Foundation
Keith Lattimore, Chair, Ramsey County
Sara Liegl, Project Home
Richard McLemore II, McLemore Holdings & Consulting
Chris Michels, Catholic Charities
Dominic Mitchell, St. Paul Public Housing Agency
Jesse Mollner, St. Paul Police Department
Alan Ostergaard, Vice Chair, Radies Health
Renaé Pereira-Webb, Metro Council HRA
Larene Randle-Wade, MN One Stop for Communities
Dave Sena, Union Gospel Mission
Kenya Walker, Ramsey County
Ben Weiss, Southern MN Regional Legal Services
Lucy Zanders, Theresa Living Center



INTERFAITH
ACTION OF GREATER
SAINT PAUL

Letter in Support of Heading Home Ramsey Request of HF 1686 and SF 2033

March 2023

Project Home at the Provincial House:
Shelter and Economic Mobility for Families with Children Experiencing
Homelessness in Ramsey County



March 21, 2023

To: Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee Chair: Representative Dave Pinto

Dear Representative Pinto,

Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul mobilizes faith communities to support our neighbors' stability and economic mobility needs. Project Home is a program of Interfaith Action. With a capacity for up to 30 families or 100 individuals, Project Home is the largest shelter in Ramsey County for families with minor children experiencing homelessness.

Overview

For 23 years, Interfaith Action provided this shelter at a minimal cost to the government.



We had no facility; instead, we relied on area churches and synagogues to host us for a month at a time and largely relied on their volunteer labor. The families packed up their belongings and relocated to a different house of worship each month. Every day the families moved from the host congregation to the Day Center at 6:30 am; then the children boarded school buses from the Day Center to their schools; then the school buses took them back to the Day Center at the end of the school day; and

then, at 5:30 pm, the families returned to the host congregations to sleep on cots, with cardboard dividers between families, in basements and classrooms of churches and synagogues.



The COVID public health crisis forced us to rebuild the Project Home operating model because houses of worship could no longer welcome us, given significant concerns about the health of volunteers and their families.

During COVID, **we developed a unique public/private/faith partnership that** allowed the shelter to relocate to a former convent at 1880 Randolph Avenue (near the St. Catherine University campus; see "partnership" below). The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet said at Christmas in 2020, **"There is room at the inn."**

Our guest families are teaching us that **having private bedrooms, real beds, and minimal disruption is very stabilizing and allows the families to focus on the work they need to do to build family success.** This move also allowed us to increase the number of people we

serve by a factor of 2.5 (moving **from 40 beds to 100 beds**). The increased capacity helped reduce the number of families on the Ramsey County shelter waitlist. However, there are **still not enough family beds** in Ramsey County to meet the needs of all families with minor children experiencing homelessness.

Without governmental funding, this shelter would not be possible. Project Home would have to revert to its former model, or close. Because of continuing COVID concerns, we do not think our former model of church and synagogue hosting will work in the foreseeable future. Indeed, many houses of worship are not even fully open to their own members. And even **if we could go back fully to the old model, our capacity would be reduced from 100 beds to 40 beds at best.**

Request



We support HHR’s request for your offices’ help to find sufficient funding to stabilize Project Home at its current capacity (100 beds / 30 families).

This model is cost-effective for the long-term success of Ramsey County’s families working so hard to gain an economic foothold and provide stable living and learning environments for their young children.

Interfaith Action requests funding to provide some security measures for the work of

Project Home at the Provincial House. This request is designed to replace **the ESG-CV funds** that made it possible for Project Home to move to the Provincial House during COVID and to fund county administrative costs necessitated by contracts with Interfaith Action.

Key Facts About Project Home

Impact: move from shelter to enduring family success. We provide **emergency shelter** when the family comes to us.

We provide intensive support to boost **the family’s stability and economic mobility** during their stay and ongoing support to maximize ongoing family success once the family relocates to their positive housing destination.

Number of Families Served. The existing conditional use permit (CUP) allows us to accommodate up to 30 families or 100 people. We are on track to serve 175 families (more than 600 people) in 2022. If the CUP were revised, we could accommodate even more as many rooms stand open.

Average Length of Stay. Pre-COVID, Project Home’s average length of stay was 71 days; during COVID, the average has been 83 days.¹ Our length of stay is now just 66 days.

Placement in Positive Housing Destinations. We assisted 62% of our families last year to “Positive Housing Destinations,” as defined by HUD. About one-third of those families found housing through Ramsey County’s Coordinated Entry System. The other **two-thirds of those families found housing with support from Project Home’s Rapid Exit team.**²

Persistence in Positive Housing Destinations. Data show that six months after the families move to their positive housing destinations, **91% of the families are still in that housing.**

Savings. Our families participate in budgeting, savings, and general financial education at Project Home. Last year our families entered Project Home with an average of \$37 and left with an average of \$1,003 in savings. This means that once they settle in housing, their **new lives are not derailed by the first expensive problem** they may face.

Ramsey County Family Shelter Waitlist. When we count numbers on a waitlist, we must remember to count each family as three to four people (on average). Before COVID, there were, on average, about 56 families on the shelter waitlist (about 196 people based on multiplying the number of families times 3.5). [Real-time data are here](#). The waitlist is smaller now, likely because of the eviction moratorium. As the eviction “off-ramp” takes effect, we expect the number of families to increase past pre-COVID levels. Even with the Project Home expansion, there are still not enough emergency shelter beds to serve all the families in need. Any reduction in the shelter bed count would worsen this.

Meaningful Supports

Supports for Adults: Our Rapid Exit Social Work team sets us apart from other shelter settings. This team helps families ladder up in education and employment; find jobs right for them; find positive housing destinations that work given those jobs; solve problems including child care, transportation, legal issues, accessing documents, and more.

Supports for Children: Our staff provides onsite parenting support, gives tips and tricks to manage challenging childhood behaviors, provides school, Head Start, Early Start, and daycare enrollment support and outside referrals for family therapy, chemical dependency recovery support, etc.

Partnership: The Project Home shelter is possible because of a unique partnership forged during COVID between Ramsey County, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, and Interfaith Action.

¹ The actual **nights of stay** is a lower number because families can get weekend passes to stay with family overnight. The **length of stay** is calculated based on the date of entering the program and the date of leaving the program.

² About one third of the families (37.5%) received housing referrals from Ramsey County’s Coordinated Entry System; the other nearly two-thirds of the families (62.5%) found housing by working with Project Home’s Rapid Exit Social Work Team. In 2018, before we adding our Rapid Exit team, only about one-third of Project Home families were successful in transitioning from shelter to housing. Our Rapid Exit team has nearly doubled the percentage of families who achieve positive housing destinations upon leaving shelter (from approximately 33% to 62%).

Welcoming Building and Welcoming Neighborhood. The Provincial House is a clean, beautiful, cheerful place that allows families to release the stress of homelessness and focus on what they need for family success. Moving shelter into Provincial House allowed our partnership to repurpose an underutilized, partly vacant building to provide safe, stable shelter in an area of opportunity.

Project Home includes a large dining room; multiple sunrooms where children can do homework; a fourth-floor playroom for kids to be kids; a computer lab for adults; a playground, a basketball court; and more. In Ramsey County town hall meetings with residents and businesses in the Highland Park neighborhood, nearly 500 people (250 at each of two meetings) said, ["YIMBY" – Yes In My Back Yard!](#)

Families Present Needs Different from Singles' Needs. It's easy to forget how different families' and singles' needs are from each other: **54% of our guests are under the age of 13.** In designing the shelter and economic mobility programs, our focus is supporting the children's well-being and learning, and supporting the adults' ability to build a life pathway that will nurture their children.

Perhaps we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build stability and economic mobility for families with children facing homelessness in Ramsey County.

We applaud the efforts of Ramsey County, the City of Saint Paul, and the State of Minnesota to dramatically increase the amount of deeply affordable housing in the next 3-5 years. We need your support to care for children and families in need while this dream is being realized.

Warmly,



Randi Ilyse Roth
Executive Director

ST PAUL

AREA CHAMBER

401 N Robert Street, Suite 150
St. Paul, MN 55101

MAKING CONNECTIONS THAT COUNT

February 28, 2023

Rep. Mohamud Noor, Chair, House Human Services Finance Committee
379 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Noor and committee members:

On behalf of the 1700+ members and affiliates of the St. Paul Area Chamber, who together represent more than 3 million employees and their families, I'd like to thank you for your support of H.F. 1686.

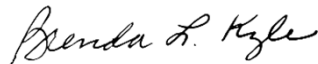
The homeless population in Ramsey County has nearly doubled since 2016. To address this emergency, the County utilized pandemic-related funding to increase shelter capacity and create supports to quickly move people from homelessness to housing. However, much of this one-time funding is set to expire and additional resources will be needed to continue to stand up these crucial services. Heading Home Ramsey's \$75 million request will support the following:

- Continued shelter operation for single adults, including expanded women's shelter options.
- Continued operation of day service shelters.
- A low-barrier shelter pilot program with 24/7 staffing for frequent users of emergency shelters.
- A 100-bed family shelter and additional supports for families.
- Improved outreach and extreme weather support.

This investment will bridge the gap while Ramsey County and the City of St. Paul construct deeply affordable housing, to which they have committed \$74 million. These resources will also help make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring and address the racial disparities in our homeless population.

It is our moral imperative to care for the unsheltered, and provide safe housing so people are not forced to sleep on the street or within the skyways. As home to our State Capitol, Ramsey County is providing housing and supports to residents from every corner of the Minnesota. It is appropriate that the State help ensure that these critical services continue uninterrupted.

Respectfully,



B Kyle
President & CEO
St. Paul Area Chamber



St. Paul Area Chamber



@SPACC #connectingstp



@stpaulchamber



St. Paul Area Chamber





March 17, 2023

Regarding: [HF 1686](#) and [SF 2033](#)

I am writing to you today in my capacity as the Executive Director of the Midway Chamber of Commerce to thank you for your support of SF 2033 and HF 1686.

In Ramsey County, the number of people experiencing homelessness is rising and has nearly doubled since 2016. Over 45 families are on the waiting list for emergency shelter and the 2023 Point-in-Time count conducted January 25 found well over 300 people sleeping outside. We need help. One-time funds enabled Heading Home Ramsey and partners to not only increase shelter capacity but also create more effective supports and interventions to move people quickly from homelessness to housing. But some funds will expire this spring and more funds are needed.

Heading Home Ramsey's request for \$75 million will fund five critical interventions for five years:

- Continued shelter options for single adults including expanded women's shelter options. The need for women's shelter space frequently exceeds supply.
- 100-bed shelter for families and additional support for families. This model, established during the pandemic, has produced significantly improved outcomes for families, moving them into housing more quickly.
- Continued operation of day service shelters, providing support to individuals to help them stabilize, connect with resources, and move off the street.
- A low-barrier pilot program serving frequent users of emergency shelter with intensive, 24/7 staffing.
- Outreach, system improvements, and extreme weather support to help address critical immediate needs and move people onto a path to housing more quickly.

These interventions are designed to fill critical gaps while the \$74 million invested by Ramsey County and the City of St. Paul into the construction of deeply affordable housing comes to fruition. Importantly, these efforts will help us achieve our goal of making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring – especially for people of color and indigenous people. In Ramsey County, people who are African American are 8 times more likely to be homeless than people who are white. People who are Native American/Indigenous are 14 times more likely to be homeless than their white counterparts. These unacceptable disparities must be addressed.

At the Midway Chamber, we take very seriously the wellbeing of our homeless population and know our community is better when everyone has basic needs met. We know you share our concern for these families and individuals experiencing homelessness.

Thank you for considering their proposal at this time of critical need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chad Kulas". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Chad Kulas
Executive Director

cc: Senator John Marty
Senator Jim Abeler
Senator Karin Housley
Senator Erin Murphy
Senator Oumou Verbeten
Representative Athena Hollins
Representative Kaohly Her
Representative Sandra Feist
Representative Peter Fischer
Representative Leon Lillie
Representative Jay Xiong



March 23, 2023

Dear Senator Marty:

I am writing to you today in my capacity as President of the Greater Saint Paul Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) to thank you for your leadership and to urge you to do all you can to pass SF 2033 this year.

Our 300+ members fully support Heading Home Ramsey's request for \$75 million over five years to accomplish:

- Continued shelter operation for single adults, including expanded women's shelter options.
- Continued operation of day service shelters.
- A low-barrier shelter pilot program with 24/7 staffing for frequent users of emergency shelters.
- A 100-bed family shelter and additional supports for families.
- Improved outreach and extreme weather support.

More than 45 families in Ramsey County are on the waiting list for emergency shelter, and the 2023 Point-in-Time count conducted in January found well over 300 people sleeping outside. It is our moral imperative to care for the unsheltered and to provide safe housing so that people are not forced to sleep on the street or within the skyways. As St. Paul BOMA members strive to bring employees back to work and welcome new investors into our capitol city, it is imperative we find humane solutions for our unsheltered community and take property managers out of the social service roles they are currently forced to fill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tina Gassman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tina Gassman
President, Greater St. Paul BOMA



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Fran Miron, District 1
Stan Karwoski, District 2
Gary Kriesel, Chair, District 3
Karla Bigham, District 4
Michelle Clasen, District 5

February 28, 2023

Representative Athena Hollins
471 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator John Marty
3235 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF 1686 and SF 2033 – Heading Home Ramsey request

Representative Hollins and Senator Marty,

On behalf of the Washington County Board of Commissioners, I write in support of the passage of House File 1686 and Senate File 2033. These bills will provide needed state support of efforts to provide shelter space and services for families and individuals who are experiencing homelessness.

As neighbors on the east side of the metropolitan region, Ramsey and Washington Counties partner on a variety of important services. Recent Point-In-Time counts in both counties have found many individuals who need a safe place to stay and the on-going support services and interventions to move them from homelessness to housing.

Washington County continues to operate a temporary hotel shelter program and has allocated a significant amount of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to acquire a permanent facility within the county for homelessness single adults. Family sheltering in the county is provided by several faith communities.

The need in our county and in the east metro exceeds our current capacity and we rely on Ramsey County and its shelter capacity to help fill the gap. As we did in the previous session, we fully support the Ramsey County ask for \$75 million to fund critical interventions.

If you have any questions, please let me or county staff know. Thank you for sponsoring these important bills and we encourage the legislature to fund the Heading Home Ramsey request.

Sincerely,

Gary Kriesel
Commissioner District 3
County Board Chair
Washington County Board of Commissioners

Cc: Trista MatasCastillo, Chair, Ramsey County Board of Commissioners

A great place to live, work and play...today and tomorrow

Government Center | 14949 62nd Street North | P. O. Box 6 | Stillwater, MN 55082-0006
P: 651-430-6001 | F: 651-430-6017 | TTY: 651-430-6246
www.co.washington.mn.us

Washington County is an equal opportunity organization and employer



Date: March 13, 2023

Regarding: HF 1686 (Hollins) and SF 2033 (Marty)

I am writing to you today in my capacity as president of the Saint Paul Downtown Alliance to thank you for your support of SF 2033 and HF 1686.

In Downtown Saint Paul, the number of people experiencing homelessness has risen sharply and conspicuously over the last few years. The impact downtown is profoundly impacting the quality of life, driving up management and security costs, and challenging our efforts to recruit and retain employers. We need help. One-time funds enabled Heading Home Ramsey and partners to not only increase shelter capacity but also create more effective supports and interventions to move people quickly from homelessness to housing. But some funds will expire this spring and more funds are needed.

Heading Home Ramsey's request for \$75 million will fund five critical interventions for five years:

- Continued shelter options for single adults including expanded women's shelter options. The need for women's shelter space frequently exceeds supply.
- 100-bed shelter for families and additional support for families. This model, established during the pandemic, has produced significantly improved outcomes for families, moving them into housing more quickly.
- Continued operation of day service shelters, providing support to individuals to help them stabilize, connect with resources, and move off the street.
- A low-barrier pilot program serving frequent users of emergency shelter with intensive, 24/7 staffing.
- Outreach, system improvements, and extreme weather support to help address critical immediate needs and move people onto a path to housing more quickly.

These interventions are designed to fill critical gaps while the \$74 million invested by Ramsey County and the City of St. Paul into the construction of deeply affordable housing comes to fruition. Importantly, these efforts will help us achieve our goal of making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring – especially for people of color and indigenous people. In Ramsey County, people who are African American are 8 times more likely to be homeless than people who are white. People who are Native American/Indigenous are 14 times more likely to be homeless than their white counterparts. These unacceptable disparities must be addressed.

We know you share our concern for these families and individuals experiencing homelessness. Thank you for considering their proposal at this time of critical need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Spencer".

Joe Spencer, president



OFFICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY
OFFICE OF TITLE I FEDERAL PROGRAMS
1021 Marion Street, Saint Paul, MN 55117-5175
Phone: 651-632-3790, Fax: 651-632-3789
Website: title1.spps.org

February 23, 2023

Support for Project Home, a shelter for families in Ramsey County.

I am the Supervisor of Project REACH for St Paul Public Schools, a program that supports educational attainment for all the students in St Paul Schools who are McKinney-Vento eligible and experiencing homelessness. Currently, we have 983 identified students that we serve every day.

Having the opportunity to partner with Ramsey County, Interfaith Action, and Project Home is incredible so that families have a safe and secure place to stay while experiencing an incredibly traumatic time in their lives. Project REACH partners with Project Home by providing transportation for our students in SPPS, weekly tutors who come to work with the children and support their educational attainment, a dedicated liaison to send referrals, and partnering for summer programming.

Project Home provides families with great staff, daily meals, activities, living space, and dignity during a time that can be so consuming. There is a generous nature about the staff that welcomes the families and provides them opportunities to exhale during this time. Children need the stability of a safe place to grow socially, emotionally, and academically; Project Home provides that, and children can still be kids with a playground, activities, areas to study, and tutors to support their academic needs.

Project Home is more than a shelter, it provides wrap-around services to families, which allows families the space to gather themselves together to move into a permanent place and to make their experience being homeless brief and ideally non-recurring. Project Home has a holistic approach of empowering and supporting families so that they are connected to the greater community when they leave and can lean into the opportunities outside of the shelter.

An investment in Project Home is an investment in our most vulnerable population, our children and their caregivers, that will do everything possible to keep them safe and housed. Project Home is a place where families can regain their strength and move forward into their future and toward long-term economic, housing, and educational stability.

Sincerely,
Heather Alden, MSW, LICSW
Supervisor Project REACH & Fostering Connections

Fairview

February 27, 2023

Senator Melissa Wiklund
Health and Human Services Committee Chair
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2107
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Dave Pinto
Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee Chair
503 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Pinto and Senator Wiklund:

I am writing to you in my capacity as Vice President of Community Advancement with Fairview Health Services expressing our strong support for the **Heading Home Ramsey Continuum of Care Bills – [SF 2033/HF 1686](#)** – supporting those families experiencing homelessness at this critical time of urgent need.

As you know, Ramsey County has seen the number of people experiencing homelessness rising dramatically, nearly doubling since 2016. More than 45 families are on the waiting list for emergency shelter and the 2023 Point-in-Time count conducted on January 25 found well over 300 people were sleeping outside.

One-time funds enabled Heading Home Ramsey and partners to increase shelter capacity and create more effective supports and interventions to move people quickly from homelessness to housing.

Fairview is a member of Heading Home Ramsey and a partner to many organizations committed to making sure homelessness is addressed with quality and dignity. We believe Housing is Health. Your support can continue shelter options for single adults, including expanded women’s shelter options, as the need for women’s shelter space frequently exceeds the supply.

There is a significant need for outreach, system improvements, and extreme weather support to help address critical immediate needs and move people toward housing more quickly. Also, we need continued operation of day service shelters, supporting individuals to help them stabilize, connect with resources, and move off the street.

We know you share our concern for these families and individuals experiencing homelessness.

Sincerely,



John Swanholm,
Vice President, Community Advancement
Fairview Health Services





Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

St. Paul Province

March 1, 2023

To: Human Services Finance Committee Chair: Representative Mohamud Noor
Health and Human Services Committee Chair: Senator Melissa Wiklund

Re: Support of the Heading Home Ramsey Continuum of Care Bills including funding for Project Home

Dear Senator Wiklund and Representative Noor:

We, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (CSJ), St. Paul Province, write today in **support** of the **Heading Home Ramsey Continuum of Care Bills – SF 2033/HF 1686** – and request funding for families experiencing homelessness including the continuation of the Project Home family shelter in our Provincial House.

We are concerned that Ramsey County continues seeing increasing numbers of people experiencing homelessness with numbers that have nearly doubled since 2016. More than 45 families are currently on the county waiting list for emergency shelter. The 2023 Point-in-Time count conducted on January 25 found well over 300 people were sleeping outside. In the face of these needs and challenges, in 2021, in partnership with Interfaith Action and the Project Home ministry, the CSJ community welcomed homeless children and their parents into our Provincial House. Fifty-four percent of our guests are under the age of 13. Because of the excellent services provided, 91 percent of the families remain in positive housing six months after moving out of Project Home.

One-time funds enabled Heading Home Ramsey and partners to increase shelter capacity and create more effective supports and interventions to move people quickly from homelessness to housing. Now, we as the State of Minnesota have the opportunity to support continued funding at this critical time of urgent need.

Heading Home Ramsey's request for \$75 million will fund five critical interventions:

- 100-bed shelter for families and additional support for families. Established during the pandemic, this model has produced significantly improved outcomes for families, moving them into housing more quickly.
- Continued shelter options for single adults, including expanded women's shelter options. The need for women's shelter space frequently exceeds the supply.
- Continued operation of day service shelters, supporting individuals to help them stabilize, connect with resources, and move off the street.
- A low-barrier pilot program serving frequent users of emergency shelters with intensive, 24/7 staffing.
- Outreach, system improvements, and extreme weather support to help address critical immediate needs and move people toward housing more quickly.

We know you share our concern for families and individuals experiencing homelessness. Caring for those on the margins is the role of not only religious institutions. The moral measure of a society is how it responds to those most in need, and as such, government support is essential. We can find no one more in need than children without a place to call home. We ask for your sincere consideration of the Heading Home Ramsey Continuum of Care Bills request and support for families-our dear neighbors experiencing homelessness and those in need now and into the future.

The CSJ's mission calls us to pursue Moving always toward the profound love of God and love of neighbor without distinction. From the beginning, our Sisters have always moved toward easing the burdens of those in need. In this spirit, in our beloved Twin Cities, we founded a variety of ministries to address urgent needs and to improve the lives of our neighbors. These ministries include: addressing health care needs through St. Joseph's Hospital; assisting asylees through Sarah's...an Oasis for Women; supporting immigrants through Learning in Style and St. Mary's Health Clinics; building strong communities through Peace House and Hope Communities; and seeking justice for families experiencing homelessness through our partnership with Project Home.

Sincerely,

Catherine M. Auergraw, CSJ

Jeff Wedge-dahl, CSJ

Katherine Rossini, CSJ

Province Leadership Team



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
 55 E. Fifth Street Suite 800
 St. Paul, MN 55101
 Phone: (651) 228-9823
 Website: www.smrls.org

Brett Olander, Esq.
 Board President

Brenda Devlin
 First Vice President

Terry Newby, Esq.
 Second Vice President

Thomas B. Hatch, Esq.
 Treasurer

Andrew Baese, Esq.
 Secretary

Jessie Nicholson, Esq.
 Chief Executive Officer

Lara Otsuka, J.D.
 Director of Business Administration

Lisa Hollingsworth, Esq.
 Director of Litigation and Advocacy

ST. PAUL CENTRAL OFFICE*
 55 East Fifth Street, Suite 400
 St. Paul, MN 55101
 (651) 222-5863

S.E. AREA OFFICE*
 146 College Street West
 Albert Lea, MN 56007
 (507) 377-7401

S.E. AREA OFFICE
 903 W. Center Street, Suite 230
 Rochester, MN 55902
 (507) 292-0080

S.E. AREA OFFICE*
 66 E. Third Street, Suite 204
 Winona, MN 55987-3466
 (507) 454-6660

S.W. AREA OFFICE*
 12 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 3000
 Mankato, MN 56001
 (507) 387-5588

S.W. AREA OFFICE*
 1547 N. McMillan, Suite 6
 Worthington, MN 56187
 (507) 372-7368

EDUCATION LAW ADVOCACY PROJECT
 450 N. Syndicate Street, Suite 285
 St. Paul, MN 55104
 (651) 291-2837

AGRICULTURAL WORKER PROJECT
 55 East Fifth Street, Suite 400
 Saint Paul, MN 55101
 (651) 894-6854

IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES
 450 North Syndicate Street, Suite 285
 St. Paul, MN 55104
 (651) 291-2837

1015 7th Ave. N.
 Moorhead, MN 56561
 (701) 232-8872

903 West Center Street, Suite 230
 Rochester, MN 55902
 (507) 292-0080

*Office has a special Legal Advocacy for Older Americans Project and a Volunteer Attorney Project Program

Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity Employer

Partially funded by:

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION



March 8, 2023

Dear Senator John Marty,

Regarding HF 1686 and SF 2033

In Ramsey County, the number of people experiencing homelessness is rising and has nearly doubled since 2016. Over 45 families are on the waiting list for emergency shelter and the 2023 Point-in-Time count conducted January 25 found well over 300 people sleeping outside. We need help. One-time funds enabled Heading Home Ramsey and partners to not only increase shelter capacity but also create more effective supports and interventions to move people quickly from homelessness to housing. But some funds will expire this spring and more funds are needed.

I am writing in support of Heading Home Ramsey's request for \$75 million to fund five critical interventions:

- Continued shelter options for single adults including expanded women's shelter options. The need for women's shelter space frequently exceeds supply.
- 100-bed shelter for families and additional support for families. This model, established during the pandemic, has produced significantly improved outcomes for families, moving them into housing more quickly.
- Continued operation of day service shelters, providing support to individuals to help them stabilize, connect with resources, and move off the street.
- A low-barrier pilot program serving frequent users of emergency shelter with intensive, 24/7 staffing.
- Outreach, system improvements, and extreme weather support to help address critical immediate needs and move people onto a path to housing more quickly.

These interventions are designed to fill critical gaps while the \$74 million invested by Ramsey County and the City of St. Paul into the construction of deeply affordable housing comes to fruition. Importantly, these efforts will help us achieve our goal of making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring – especially for people of color and indigenous people. In Ramsey County, people who are African American are 8 times more likely to be homeless than people who are white. People who are Native American/Indigenous are 14 times more likely to be homeless than their white counterparts. These unacceptable disparities must be addressed.

We know you share our concern for these families and individuals experiencing homelessness.

Thank you for considering their proposal at this time of critical need.

Sincerely,

Jessie Nicholson, Esquire
 Chief Executive Officer



Date: February 28, 2023

Regarding: [HF 1686](#) (Hollins) and [SF 2033](#) (Marty)

I am writing to you today in my capacity as an active member on the Heading Home Ramsey, Steering Committee and as the Executive Director of Minnesota One Stop for Communities to thank you for your support of SF 2033 and HF 1686.

In Ramsey County, the number of people experiencing homelessness is rising and has nearly doubled since 2016. Over 45 families are on the waiting list for emergency shelter and the 2023 Point-in-Time count conducted January 25 found well over 300 people sleeping outside. We need help. One-time funds enabled Heading Home Ramsey and partners to not only increase shelter capacity but also create more effective supports and interventions to move people quickly from homelessness to housing. But some funds will expire this spring and more funds are needed.

Heading Home Ramsey's request for \$75 million will fund five critical interventions for five years:

- Continued shelter options for single adults including expanded women's shelter options. The need for women's shelter space frequently exceeds supply.
- 100-bed shelter for families and additional support for families. This model, established during the pandemic, has produced significantly improved outcomes for families, moving them into housing more quickly.
- Continued operation of day service shelters, providing support to individuals to help them stabilize, connect with resources, and move off the street.
- A low-barrier pilot program serving frequent users of emergency shelter with intensive, 24/7 staffing.
- Outreach, system improvements, and extreme weather support to help address critical immediate needs and move people onto a path to housing more quickly.



These interventions are designed to fill critical gaps while the \$74 million invested by Ramsey County and the City of St. Paul into the construction of deeply affordable housing comes to fruition. Importantly, these efforts will help us achieve our goal of making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring – especially for people of color and indigenous people. In Ramsey County, people who are African American are 8 times more likely to be homeless than people who are white. People who are Native American/Indigenous are 14 times more likely to be homeless than their white counterparts. These unacceptable disparities must be addressed.

We know you share our concern for these families and individuals experiencing homelessness. Thank you for considering their proposal at this time of critical need.

Sincerely,

Larene Randle Wade
Executive Director
Minnesota One-Stop for Communities

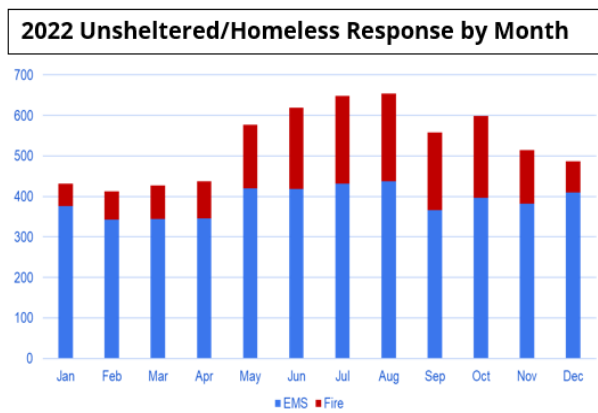
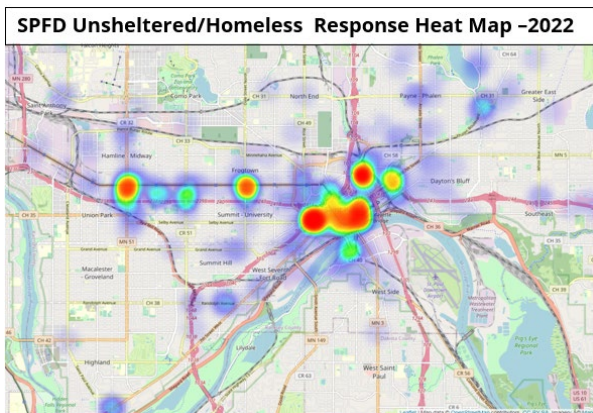


February 28, 2023

Dear Chair Noor and Committee Members,

On behalf of the City of Saint Paul Fire Department, I am writing to express my support for HF 1686, which would provide funding for Heading Home Ramsey to continue their critical work of supporting individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

The Saint Paul Fire Department protects residents and visitors through public education, emergency medical services, fire suppression, and all hazard responses. We partner with the police, safety and inspections, emergency management, parks and recreation, public works, Ramsey County, and community groups to provide innovative solutions to public safety. From 2021 to 2022, the fire department experienced a 15% increase in calls for service involving unsheltered/homeless members of our community. These calls for services are largely centralized around our downtown area and have a seasonal peak during warmer summer months. Our emergency response model will not be able to sustain such rapid call volume growth without a negative impact on response times, or our ability to respond to other critical calls for service.



In 2022 our department responded to 60,265 calls for service. 6,365 incidents involved members of our homeless or unsheltered community, equaling 10 % of the department's total run volume. The department has made efforts to better track calls involving the unsheltered/homeless and provide for the alternative care these



SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA

SAINT PAUL FIRE DEPARTMENT
BUTCH INKS, FIRE CHIEF

645 Randolph Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Tel: 651-224-7811 | Fax: 651-228-6255

individuals need. We provide shuttles to warming centers during colder months, do safety risk assessments at encampments, and are onboarding social workers in partnership with Ramsey County.

This bill would fund additional shelters, facilities, and daytime spaces for the unsheltered and homeless members in our community, easing barriers so they can receive the critical care or assistance they need. Our emergency rooms, jails, and detox facilities are ill-equipped to provide for the volume of people they see daily who just need shelter, or who are struggling with behavioral health issues. Additional shelters within the county will lessen the strain on our hospitals and public safety entities, while meeting the needs of our most vulnerable residents.

The City of Saint Paul remains committed to partnering with Heading Home Ramsey on this important work and I thank you for your consideration of HF 1686.

Sincerely,

Butch Inks, Fire Chief



(651) 280-2076

promiseneighborhood
@wilder.org

wilder.org/sppn

451 Lexington Pkwy N.
Saint Paul, Minnesota
55104

March 6, 2023

Dear Senator John Marty,

As the Executive Director of the Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood and member of Heading Home Ramsey's Executive Leadership Committee, I am writing to thank you for your support of HF 1686 / SF 2033.

In Ramsey County, the number of people experiencing homelessness is rising and has nearly doubled since 2016. Over 45 families are on the waiting list for emergency shelter and the 2023 Point-in-Time count conducted January 25 found well over 300 people sleeping outside.

We need help. One-time funds enabled Heading Home Ramsey and partners to not only increase shelter capacity but also create more effective supports and interventions to move people quickly from homelessness to housing. But some funds will expire this spring and more funds are needed.

Heading Home Ramsey's request for \$75 million will fund five critical interventions for five years:

- Continued shelter options for single adults including expanded women's shelter options. The need for women's shelter space frequently exceeds supply.
- 100-bed shelter for families and additional support for families. This model, established during the pandemic, has produced significantly improved outcomes for families, moving them into housing more quickly.
- Continued operation of day service shelters, providing support to individuals to help them stabilize, connect with resources, and move off the street.
- A low-barrier pilot program serving frequent users of emergency shelter with intensive, 24/7 staffing.
- Outreach, system improvements, and extreme weather support to help address critical immediate needs and move people onto a path to housing more quickly.

(over)

These interventions are designed to fill critical gaps while the \$74 million invested into the construction of deeply affordable housing by Ramsey County and the City of St. Paul comes to fruition.

Importantly, these efforts will help us achieve our goal of making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring – especially for people of color and indigenous people. In Ramsey County, people who are African American are 8 times more likely to be homeless than people who are white. People who are Native American/Indigenous are 14 times more likely to be homeless than their white counterparts. These unacceptable disparities must be addressed.

We know you share our concern for these families and individuals experiencing homelessness. Thank you for considering this proposal at a critical time of need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tiffany Scott Knox". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some loops and flourishes.

Tiffany Scott Knox
Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood Director

INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY ALLIANCES
2550 UNIVERSITY AVENUE W, SUITE 250-S, ST. PAUL, MN 55114
E: MNHMIS@ICALLIANCES.ORG
W: WWW.ICALLIANCES.ORG



ALASKA | BOISE CITY / ADA COUNTY | IOWA | **MINNESOTA** | MISSOURI | NEW
HAMPSHIRE | NORTH DAKOTA | OMAHA/COUNCIL BLUFFS | ROCK RIVER COALITION
SOUTH CAROLINA LOW COUNTRY | VERMONT | WISCONSIN | WYOMING

MARCH 6, 2023
CHAIR WIKLUND
MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Dear Members of the Health & Human Services Committee,

I am writing as the director of Minnesota's HMIS to express support for SF2033, the Heading Home Ramsey bill. As the state system administrator of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), we help planners and policy makers understand the programs in their communities in concert through dashboarding like [the MN Dash to End Homelessness](#).

With the temporary funding made available during the pandemic, they helped more individuals and families experiencing homelessness through innovation and creative partnerships like the Model Cities warming center.

Still, we know that the service providers in Ramsey County are both dedicated and stretched thin. They are lacking a dedicated women's shelter facility and, out of necessity, maintain a nightly lottery system for their shelters. While I support all bill proposals, I want to express particular enthusiasm for the system improvements mentioned:

- Ramsey County's shelters could operate in more efficiently by standing up a single point-of-entry system within HMIS for folks who need a shelter bed each night. HMIS is the data infrastructure through which service providers refer individuals and families to available housing units already.
- With this funding, Ramsey County can also utilize our tools to connect unhoused individuals in need of a shelter bed to a reservation.
- A single point-of-entry helps utilize available beds more completely and effectively, reduces administrative burden for shelter staff, and offers a more dignified experience for those seeking shelter.

Thank you for your efforts. Please pass SF2033.

Reverently,



BRITT HEINZ-AMBORN, MPP
HMIS DIRECTOR

March 2, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,
Regarding: HF 1686 (Hollins) and SF 2033 (Marty):

We are writing to you today in our capacity as chairs of the Minnesota Rabbinical Association to thank you for your support of SF 2033 and HF 1686.

In Ramsey County, the number of people experiencing homelessness is rising and has nearly doubled since 2016. Over 45 families are on the waiting list for emergency shelter and the 2023 Point-in-Time count conducted January 25 found well over 300 people sleeping outside. We need help. One-time funds enabled Heading Home Ramsey and partners to not only increase shelter capacity but also create more effective supports and interventions to move people quickly from homelessness to housing. But some funds will expire this spring and more funds are needed. Heading Home Ramsey's request for \$75 million will fund five critical interventions for five years:

- Continued shelter options for single adults including expanded women's shelter options. The need for women's shelter space frequently exceeds supply.
- 100-bed shelter for families and additional support for families. This model, established during the pandemic, has produced significantly improved outcomes for families, moving them into housing more quickly.
- Continued operation of day service shelters, providing support to individuals to help them stabilize, connect with resources, and move off the street.
- A low-barrier pilot program serving frequent users of emergency shelter with intensive, 24/7 staffing.
- Outreach, system improvements, and extreme weather support to help address critical immediate needs and move people onto a path to housing more quickly.

These interventions are designed to fill critical gaps while the \$74 million invested by Ramsey County and the City of St. Paul into the construction of deeply affordable housing comes to fruition. Importantly, these efforts will help us achieve our goal of making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring – especially for people of color and indigenous people. In Ramsey County, people who are African American are 8 times more likely to be homeless than people who are white. People who are Native American/Indigenous are 14 times more likely to be homeless than their white counterparts. These unacceptable disparities must be addressed.

As leaders in the Jewish community, we take seriously the injunctions in the Hebrew Bible to provide for those on the margins of our society such as, "Do not oppress the

widow, the orphan, the sojourner, or the poor (Zacharia 7:10). We believe we must pursue justice with vigor (Deuteronomy 16:20) and we know you share our concern for these families and individuals experiencing homelessness.

Thank you for considering these proposals at this time of critical need.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Tamar Magill-Grimm

Rabbi Lynn Liberman

Rabbi Debra Rappaport

On Behalf of the Minnesota Rabbinical Association