

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 30, 2023
CHAIR WIKLUND
MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Dear Members of the Health & Human Services Committee,

I am concerned that investment in **Minnesota's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)** was dropped from the House omnibus bill (HF238) this week and am asking that you ensure it remains in your Health and Human Services omnibus bill (SF2995).

Comprehensive, reliable data is crucial to understanding our state's progress toward its goal of ending homelessness, and that requires ongoing investment in data infrastructure. Minnesota's HMIS enables planners and policy makers to evaluate programs' effectiveness, provides an accountability mechanism for those who oversee their funding, and researchers to understand the needs of the most vulnerable in our communities (like the recent [Minnesota Department of Health Homeless Mortality Report](#)). It enables service providers to refer individuals and families to available housing units and, in Minnesota's largest county, allows clients in need of a shelter bed to reserve one in a dignified way.

Minnesota recognizes the criticality of HMIS as its use is mandated by ten (10) state programs, including the Department of Human Services (DHS) Homeless Youth Act, and Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP). **However, in 17 years of using the HMIS, Minnesota does not yet guarantee HMIS funding from year to year. Investing in these programs in historic ways and not bringing the HMIS infrastructure alongside makes it hard to support those programs in the way they need.**

HMIS funding as originally proposed in SF388 reads:

\$250,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2025 are appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of human services to assist with the ongoing maintenance and improvement of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). The base appropriation for this purpose is \$1,140,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$1,140,000 in fiscal year 2027.

Please permanently invest in HMIS by including it in the SF2995 omnibus bill and help get it to the Governor's desk for his signature.

Reverently,



BRITT HEINZ-AMBORN, MPP
HMIS DIRECTOR