



Greater Twin Cities
United Way
gtcuw.org

February 13, 2023

Dear Members of the Senate Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee:

Greater Twin Cities United Way writes in support of SF1367 that will provide funding for the Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP), providing supportive services and financial assistance to families, youth and individuals experiencing, or at high risk of experiencing, homelessness.

At Greater Twin Cities United Way, our mission is to unite changemakers, advocate for social good and develop solutions to address the challenges no one can solve alone. Together with our partners, we touched over 500,000 lives across the nine-county metro area last year. We fund over 100 nonprofits and coalitions through multi-year general operations grants, innovation initiatives and supportive funds directed toward our partners' most pressing needs in the areas of Household Stability, Educational Success and Economic Opportunity. Above all, we know a stable home provides the critical foundation that all Minnesotans need to thrive, supporting better health, education, and employment outcomes.

Yet nearly 20,000 individuals and families experience homelessness on any given night - in every region across the state. **In 2022, Greater Twin Cities United Way's 211 resource helpline received more than 468,000 calls from Minnesotans. The top reasons people reached out to 211 were for housing, shelter, and utility assistance, which represented 64% of all requests received.** The increased investment in FHPAP will provide additional supports for Minnesotans experiencing household instability with the goal of making periods of homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring.

We know investments that improve housing stability result in lasting impacts and improved long-term outcomes. Even more importantly, we know these investments lead to multi-generational impacts, benefitting not just individuals, but whole families. Greater Twin Cities United Way supports the expansion and increased funding of FHPAP, as stable housing provides a vital foundation that enables thriving children, families and communities.

Sincerely,

Susan Carter
Director, Advocacy & External Engagement
Greater Twin Cities United Way

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