

Housing and Homelessness  
Prevention Committee  
3213 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155



February 28, 2023

Dear Chair Port and Members of the Committee,

The Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD) is an association of nonprofit community development organizations and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) committed to expanding the wealth and resources of communities through housing opportunities and economic development initiatives. MCCD's mission to build strong and stable communities can only be achieved by addressing the inequities that have shaped housing policies at every level of government. These policies and practices have prevented Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and other communities from achieving housing stability, accessing capital, and building wealth.

MCCD is writing in support of S.F. 1367 to fund the Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program (FHPAP). Families across Minnesota need access to emergency rental assistance and homelessness prevention now. Our state is facing a severe housing crisis, but we can continue to make progress by passing S.F. 1367 and authorizing \$50 million for FHPAP this session. FHPAP prevents the harm that families experience when they are faced with housing instability. By providing families with emergency rental assistance, we can also better support affordable housing providers and ensure that they can continue to provide critically needed affordable housing options across Minnesota.

We know that BIPOC families are disproportionately impacted by the effects of rising rents, inflation, and the COVID-19 pandemic. FHPAP is a vital program because it predominately serves low-income and BIPOC households. By passing S.F. 1367, we can ensure that families are able to access assistance so they do not have to go through the traumatic experience of being unhoused.

**With your support of S.F. 1367, we can assist thousands of renter households and prevent families from experiencing homelessness.**

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you this session to address Minnesota's affordable housing crisis. Please reach out to Kelly Law ([klaw@mccdmn.org](mailto:klaw@mccdmn.org)) should you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

*Elena Gaarder*

Chief Executive Officer

Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers