



Saint Louis County

Public Health and Human Service Department – www.stlouiscountymn.gov

Linnea Mirsch
PHHS Director

April 1, 2024

Dear Chair Pinto:

I am writing to join other counties in requesting a hearing HF 3971 (SF 4071)—which would appropriate \$60 million dollars in FY25 to support shelter services, especially those that address gaps in other funding streams. This includes crisis response services, shelter services, housing-focused case management, outreach and more.

Currently, the needs far exceed the resources in St. Louis County. St. Louis County has invested significant one-time Federal funds available over the last several years, and, while shelters received additional funding from DHS OEO this year, there are still substantial gaps to expand emergency shelter for young people, adults and families:

- In northern St. Louis County, over 900 households were turned away from shelter last year due to shelter spaces being at capacity.
- In southern St. Louis County, over 600 households sought emergency warming center shelter last year. This is in addition to 24/7 low-barrier, drop in shelter (78 beds with the average number of guests being 98).
- Overall, from 2013 – 2023, St. Louis County has seen a **41% increase** in overall homelessness and a **157% increase in chronic homelessness**.

We ask that you give the bill a hearing to get the conversation going on this very important issue. Thank you so much for your time and all that you do to support Minnesotans facing housing instability and homelessness.

Sincerely,

Laura Birnbaum, MSW, LGSW
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers
Housing and Homelessness Programs Team Supervisor
320 West Second Street, 101
Duluth, MN 55802
P: 218-726-2492

St. Louis County
Public Health & Human Services
Government Services Center
320 West 2nd Street
Duluth MN 55802-1495

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Phone: (218) 726-2096
Fax: (218) 726-2093