



March 25, 2024

To: Chair Port and members of the Housing & Homelessness Prevention Committee

From: Amy Stetzel, Director: Upper Midwest Region, Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)

Chair Port and Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) to express our strong support for SF 4592/HF 4645, appropriating funding for the Minnesota Homeless Study. The study has been a critical resource in understanding and addressing homelessness in Minnesota since 1991. It is unique in the United States in its partnership with tribal communities, as well as the comprehensive nature of the publicly available data collected over more than 30 years. The study is used to prioritize needs, identify systemic issues, and improve programs and policies to address homelessness in our state. An investment into this study represents incredible value, as the information is used to leverage and prioritize multiple other policies for Minnesotans impacted by homelessness and ensure that investments made are impactful long-term.

According to the [CSH Supportive Housing Needs Index](#), the state of Minnesota needs 15,375 units of supportive housing to meet current need. We also know that American Indian and Alaska Natives are [15 times more likely to experience chronic homelessness in Minnesota](#) than any other race. Minnesotans who identify as Black are 12.4 times as likely to experience chronic homelessness in Minnesota. CSH has partnered with Minnesota Tribal Nations to increase supportive housing both on and off reservation for over 20 years. CSH also sits as a non-voting member on the MN Tribal Collaborative. The work we do to decrease the disproportionality of Native and Black Minnesotans across all systems, but most specifically the homelessness system, is reliant on using trusted, accurate, and long-term data to make the case for investments in systems change and systems infrastructure. The Minnesota Homeless Study is one of our main sources of that type of data. Working with national partners and across a 5-state region with partners that don't have access to this type of resource, I can't tell you how many times people have said "if only we really knew what the true scope of homelessness/poverty/housing instability was in this county, region, or among our Tribal Nations". In Minnesota we have that information, and we tend to take it for granted.

The Minnesota Homeless Study and the companion Reservation Homeless Study are invaluable resources for anyone working to address homelessness and housing instability across the state. This includes state, county, and city officials, homeless service providers who are on the front lines supporting those individuals and communities most impacted by homelessness, and organizations that homeless individuals and families access for non-housing related services, such as healthcare, transportation services, and schools. CSH calls on the committee to pass SF 4592/HF 4645 to ensure that the state continues to benefit from the insights provided by Minnesota Homeless Study data.

Sincerely,

Amy Stetzel
Director, Upper Midwest Region
Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)