

March 13, 2025

Senator Melissa H. Wiklund
Chair of the Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: SF 2124 — Mohamed: Emergency services grants and innovative homeless response grants and provider building capacity appropriations.

Dear Chair Wiklund and Health and Human Services Committee members,

The City of Minneapolis supports SF 2124, which will support shelter services, especially those that address gaps in other funding streams. This includes crisis response services, housing-focused case management, street outreach and more. Current spending is not sustainable and there's a fragile balance of services which hangs in the balance of prioritizing some of the most vulnerable people in the City, County and in the State.

In 2020 and 2021, the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County and our partners invested more than \$200 million in homelessness response services which have expanded emergency shelter availability, supported low-barrier housing and protective housing for people experiencing homelessness, as well as enhanced existing shelters and expanded support services, rapid rehousing, and street outreach. The City's share of these investments was \$17 million. The City has also committed more than \$45.5 million for housing and homelessness response, made possible by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

SF 2124 is critical to ensuring that these investments and improvements in the homeless response system continue for the long-term. Targeted funding is needed for homeless response in Minneapolis, Hennepin County, and across the State to ensure that we have no gaps into the future, including:

- Improved accountability to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-reoccurring
- Stronger supports in exiting shelter and entering long term stable housing
- Improved stability for vulnerable families
- State level incentives to step up in proactive systems design and operations.

Homelessness is a statewide issue. The City of Minneapolis, in partnership with Hennepin County, is more than willing to do its part in meeting the needs of those who are unhoused, but we cannot do it without continued support from the State of Minnesota. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this important legislation.

Respectfully,



Jacob Frey
Mayor



Aurin Chowdhury
Council Member
Chair, Intergovernmental Relations



Jeremiah Ellison
Council Member