

Senate Housing and Homelessness
Prevention Committee
3213 Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155



Dear Chair Port and Members of the Committee,

March 3, 2025

The Minnesota 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 harms and inequities that have shaped housing and economic development policies at every level of government. These policies have prevented Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and other communities from achieving housing stability, accessing capital, and building generational wealth.

We ask that you support Senate File 1610, Senate File 1533, and Senate File 1711 and reinvest in proven programs the support opportunities for homeownership across Minnesota.

Senate File 1610: Community-Based First-Generation Homebuyers Assistance Program

This critical program is helping to reduce Minnesota's racial homeownership gap – one of the worst such homeownership gaps in the country. In just one year of this program, there are now 600 new homeowners across the state, with 90% of those homeowners identifying as BIPOC. This program is uniquely qualified to serve Minnesotans because it is administered and originated by local, community-based organizations with decades of experience serving their communities. By adequately resourcing this program, we can ensure that more Minnesotan families are able to pursue and achieve the dream of homeownership.

Senate File 1533: Homeownership Education, Counseling, and Training Program

Through the Homeownership Education, Counseling, and Training program (HECAT), we can provide high-quality education services to Minnesotans trying to buy a home. These programs ensure that eligible homebuyers understand the entire homebuying process, including their financial, legal, and property obligations before actually purchasing a home. With these services, we can guarantee that Minnesotans are not only able to buy a home but are also able to afford and sustain their home for generations to come.

Senate File 1711: Workforce Homeownership Program

This program serves as a critical tool to address the lack of affordable workforce homeownership properties in Minnesota. Our state is facing a severe shortage of affordable housing, but we can continue to make progress by investing in the development and preservation of affordable homes. This program serves households up to 115% of area median income and can be used for new construction, acquisition, rehabilitation, and resale of single-family homes, making it a flexible tool to develop and preserve affordable housing.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our request to support the above programs. MCCD and our members would like to make ourselves available for any additional information to best help inform your decisions. Please reach out to Kelly Law, Senior Policy and Field Building Advisor at MCCC, 612-865-3170 or klaw@mccdmn.org, should you need any further information now or throughout the legislative session.

Sincerely,

Elena Gaarder

Elena Gaarder
Chief Executive Officer, MCCC