

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



Dear Chair Port and Members of the Committee,

March 6, 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.

MCCD is writing in support of Senate File 1511 to fund the Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP).

Families across Minnesota need access to emergency rental assistance and homelessness prevention services now. Despite incredible investments made by this committee in 2023, our state continues to face a severe housing crisis. Eviction filings have increased an incredible 50% from pre-COVID averages, meaning that individuals and families are still struggling to pay rent. When families have access to 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. By passing SF 1511 this session, we can prevent the harm that families experience when they are faced with housing instability.

We know that BIPOC families are disproportionately impacted by the effects of rising rents, inflation, and the enduring effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. FHPAP is a critical program because it predominately serves low-income and BIPOC households. With your support of SF 1511, we can ensure that families are able to access the assistance they need so they do not have to go through the traumatic experience of being unhoused.

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 MCCD, 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, MCCD