



March 4, 2025

The Honorable Lindsay Port
3213 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
Via email

Re: SF1511, Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program (FHPAP) Appropriation

Dear Chair Port and members of the Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee:

We write in support of S.F.1511, and the continued need to support housing stability for Minnesotans through FHPAP (Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program).

Minnesotans continue to face historically high evictions, the vast majority of which are for nonpayment of rent. In just the first two months of 2025, 3,000 Minnesota families have received eviction notices. This state-wide issue affects individuals and families in small and large communities. For 2024, the counties with the highest eviction filing rates were Ramsey, Dakota, Sherburne, Kanabec, and Anoka. Without emergency rental assistance, families are at severe risk of homelessness and harm to their health, educational outcomes, work stability, and more.

Communities and individuals with low incomes are especially at risk of housing instability and homelessness; they are vulnerable to emergencies and unexpected expenses like car repairs, medical expenses, childcare, and more. In response to a legislative directive to determine an estimation of need, Minnesota Housing has estimated that it would take \$350 million annually to respond to the need of Minnesota families with low incomes for emergency rental assistance.

The Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program (FHPAP) helps people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, by providing financial assistance and supportive services such as rent or housing payments, utility payments, deposits, and other eligible expenses. This program works. It prevents harm to families from housing displacement and homelessness. And every dollar makes a difference, whether one time or ongoing, by helping individuals and families remain housed through emergency situations. For instance, in Hennepin County, the average payment to support housing stability and prevent eviction for non-payment of rent per household is \$3,850.

The Minnesota ERASE Campaign (End Rental Arrears and Stop Evictions) is an effort to eliminate rental indebtedness caused by the pandemic, prevent evictions, and create support for long term policy changes to end housing instability and homelessness. Co-convenors of the campaign include ACER (African Career Education Resource); Housing Justice Center, and MHP (Minnesota Housing Partnership).

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Nelima Sitati Munene, Executive Director
African Career Education & Resource Inc. (ACER)

Margaret Kaplan, CEO
Housing Justice Center (HJC)

Elizabeth Glidden, Deputy Executive Director
MHP (Minnesota Housing Partnership)