



Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program Fast Track Funds

Final Report to Minnesota Legislature

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Executive Summary

The Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP) was established in 1993 by the Minnesota Legislature to assist families with children, single adults and youth who are experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness. FHPAP resources are intended to complement the existing network of services in the community’s Continuum of Care (CoC) region or within Tribal Nations. FHPAP administrators include counties, non-profit organizations, CAP agencies and Tribal Nations.

FHPAP provides grant funding statewide in the form of support services (up to 50%), direct financial assistance (primarily emergency rent assistance), and administrative support (up to 15%). Effectively ending homelessness means preventing homelessness whenever possible, and if homelessness does occur, the period of homelessness is rare, brief, and nonrecurring. FHPAP is a critical resource to effectively end homelessness through providing direct assistance for prevention and rapid rehousing. In addition to prevention and rapid rehousing activities, FHPAP can support Coordinated Entry and street outreach activities designed to address or prevent homelessness.

On March 30, 2023, Governor Tim Walz signed bill [Chapter 20--H.F.No. 1440](#), which appropriated one-time Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP) “Fast Track” funds in the amount of \$50M. Fast Track funding was available through 20 administrators statewide from June 2023.

With the additional resources appropriated by the Legislature and the significant efforts of Minnesota Housing staff, FHPAP administrators and their subgrantees, a significant number of families received resources that were critical to supporting their housing stability. As a result, an additional 15,238 households were served by the FHPAP program from June 2023 – November 2024.

Table 1: Fast Track Funding Utilization

Timeframe	Statewide	Metro	Greater Minnesota
June 2023-September 2023	\$22,131,729	\$11,318,319	\$10,813,410
October 2023-November 2024	\$27,868,271	\$15,823,348	\$12,044,923*
Total**	\$50,000,000*	\$27,141,667	\$22,858,333

*Rounded

**99.72% expended as of 11/30/24 with a small amount remaining to be expended by one administrator.

With these funds, FHPAP provided critical resources to an additional 15,238 households between June 2023 and November 2024; among them were households with children under age 18 (34% of households served), households headed by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (59% of households served), and households headed by a person with a disability (39% of households served).

Implementation

Minnesota Housing leadership, program staff, FHPAP administrators and external stakeholders maintained well-attended weekly meetings through September 2023 then met monthly to plan, implement and troubleshoot challenges around Fast Track funding. Based on this engagement, decisions and program improvements were made to simplify the program to expedite payments, improve efficiency of the program and meet program expectations. These processes and changes included:

- Partnering with current FHPAP administrators to distribute funds statewide.
- Advancing the last quarter of the regular 2022-2023 FHPAP funds early and prior to Fast Track contract execution to help families sooner.
- Simplifying the process for making and approving budget modifications.
- Further simplifying budget format for 2024-2025 RFP and grant contract agreements.
- Increasing the administrative budget limit from 10% to 15% of the grant amount.
- Lifting of requirement to utilize Minnesota Prevention Assessment Tool (M-PAT).
- Updating the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) which is used by grantees for reporting.
- Adding language to grant contract agreement to ensure payment of assistance at the local level within 30 days of applicant eligibility determination.

Fast Track 2022-2023

In the first round of Fast Track funding, Minnesota Housing awarded \$23.6M to the 20 administrators statewide (Table 1) to serve their communities from June 1 through September 30, 2023. Administrators were surveyed to determine funding level based on capacity and need. Existing contracts were amended between June 1 and July 3, 2023.

The \$23.6M was the full amount requested by existing providers for this timeframe based on their assessment of community need and capacity to scale up. The funds were awarded evenly between the Metro and Greater Minnesota.

With this additional funding, administrators spent more than what is typically awarded for the entire biennium (\$20.5 million) in the 4 months of their contract, nine times the expenditure of a typical quarter. Over 6,400 households, an estimated 43% of eligible households who applied for assistance, were served with Fast Track resources in that timeframe. In comparison, 4,300 households were served in all of 2022.

Of the amount awarded, there was \$1.4 million (or 6%) of funds unspent and returned to Minnesota Housing. These funds were included in the second round of the competitive RFP in 2024, with applications due February 22, 2024.

Fast Track 2024-2025

The remaining \$26.4 million of Fast Track funding was awarded through the 2024-2025 FHPAP competitive RFP (Table 2) and based, in part, on the share of the statewide need served by each administrator. Fast Track was again awarded to the 20 administrators that received this funding in 2022-2023 as they had the established service delivery and systems in place for the additional reporting requirements. The Fast Track funds were mostly spent in the first two quarters to meet the statute requirement to make 'best efforts to spend the appropriation by June 30, 2024'. A small portion of Fast Track continued to be expended through November 30, 2024. This was largely due to Fast Track funds returned from the prior biennium that had to be reallocated.

Round 2

Unspent Fast Track funds from the 2022-2023 Fast Track Award, totaling ~\$1.4 million were combined with the additional one-time funds appropriated to FHPAP during the 2023 legislative session and made available through a competitive RFP in early 2024. Additional Fast Track funding was awarded to the three top scoring applications in the metro area and three top scoring applications in greater Minnesota. These contracts were signed on June 1, 2024 and therefore given an additional quarter beyond June 30, 2024 to fully expend the appropriation.

Impact

The systemic roots of housing instability and homelessness are complex. We know that FHPAP base funding scratches the surface of need across Minnesota. The surge in resources made available

through Fast Track funding, as well as the additional one-time resources from the 2023 legislative session, meant that providers were able to serve more households and cover larger amounts of rent and utilities owed.

Providers reported they strengthened partnerships and relied on these stronger relationships to get resources out quickly. They shared that Fast Track resources helped repair relationships with property owners and engage new property owners. Those relationships were necessary to meet the incredible demand in their communities.

Administrators across the state experienced demand primarily for resources to assist households in maintaining their housing (prevention), both in the number of requests and the amount of rental assistance requested; about 79% of those served were seeking prevention funds. Rapid Rehousing and other funds were not utilized as much as anticipated in part due to the prevention need as well as the short-term nature of the funding.

Eighty-six percent of households served were adult-headed (~56% single, ~29% families with children) and 14% were headed by a youth under 25 years old (9% single, 5% family). In this timeframe, 6,510 children under age 18 were served by Fast Track, making up 30% of the participants served overall. Black, Indigenous and people of color made up 61% of the participants served by Fast Track, a higher proportion than served by FHPAP in 2022 (56%).

FHPAP's model of providing both financial assistance and support services has demonstrated effectiveness at the programmatic level. Our data system reported that the FHPAP program maintains rates of housing stability for prevention participants at exit from the program at 95%, and fewer than 5% of participants return to the homeless response system within two years. The effectiveness of the supportive services in particular was underscored by providers. One provider shared: "FHPAP provides supportive services which provides a safe opportunity for households to explore options and build the income and skills necessary to stabilize in housing and move forward. Financial assistance alone will address the initial payment emergency but without supportive services some households will be challenged to stabilize in housing or find more affordable housing which can leave them precariously housed."

Unmet requests for Fast Track funds

The FHPAP program does not currently require administrators to track the number of applications for assistance in a prescribed format because administrators design their local projects collaboratively in response to community need and leverage other resources to stabilize households. It is challenging to track this specifically because households may be eligible for other resources that are often matched with participants according to need and funding availability.

Given the flexibility of program implementation, for the purposes of this report, information on how the number of applications received compared to households served was gathered in a variety of methods. Grantees were required to create a brief written description of how “the number of applicants,” also known as households requesting assistance, will be defined in a consistent manner across the program and by subgrantees.

Program administrators tracked:

- The number of households requesting assistance ((called, emailed, were referred, and/or walked in and requested assistance for a housing crisis).
- Number of households served.

In prior grant cycles, administrators that tracked the number of households requesting assistance noted that FHPAP can serve about 5-10% of eligible households. With added Fast Track resources, we estimate that 44% of eligible households were served in the 2022-23 round. In the 2023-24 round, we estimate that 21% of eligible households requesting assistance were served (10,167 households served of 48,102 who requested assistance).

Conclusion

With the additional resources appropriated by the Legislature and the significant efforts of Minnesota Housing staff, FHPAP administrators and their subgrantees, a significant number of families received resources that were critical to supporting their housing stability. As a result, an additional 15,238 households were served by the FHPAP program from June 2023 – November 2024.

The infusion of Fast Track funds had a substantial impact on FHPAP administrators and their subgrantees. These organizations endured multiple challenges while administering these funds, including but not limited to hiring and training staff, managing additional administrative requirements and multiple contracts, and navigating the uncertainty and anxiety that comes with one-time funds.

At the same time, the estimates of unmet need via application tracking, understood alongside other data sources, point to continued gaps. In Minnesota, there are approximately 260,000 renter-households with incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines, of which approximately 120,000 are severely cost-burdened and likely only one unexpected life event or bill away from being unable to pay their rent.¹ At base funding of \$10.3 million per year, Minnesota Housing estimates that

¹ Minnesota Housing Analysis of 2022 5-year iPUMS American Community Survey data. Severely cost-burdened households are those that pay more than 50% of their income on rent.

approximately 3,000 households can be served annually based on an average cost per household of \$3,571.

Minnesota Housing staff are grateful to the Legislature for the additional funding and to administrators and their subgrantees for the continued efforts to help families in their communities.

Reference Data

Table 1. Fast Track Funding Utilization - Detail

Grant Administrators	Counties Served	Total Expended
Anoka County	Anoka	\$2,207,624
Bi-County Community Action Programs, Inc.	Beltrami and Cass	\$466,496
Carver County Health and Human Services	Carver and Scott	\$1,694,881
Dakota County Community Services	Dakota	\$3,495,226
Hennepin County	Hennepin	\$12,719,504
Kootasca Community Action, Inc.	Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, and Lake	\$635,840
Lakes and Pines Community Action Council, Inc.	Aitkin, Carlton, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, and Pine	\$1,303,340
Lakes and Prairies Community Action Partnership, Inc.	Clay and Wilkin	\$1,001,108
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota – Brainerd	Todd, Crow Wing, and Morrison	\$803,325
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota – Central	Benton, Sherburne, Stearns, and Wright	\$926,429
Mahube – Otwa Community Action Partnership, Inc.	Becker, Mahnomen, Hubbard, Otter Tail, and Wadena	\$3,464,066
Minnesota Valley Action Council, Inc.	Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca, and Watonwan	\$648,231
Ramsey County	Ramsey	\$5,159,867
St. Louis County	St. Louis	\$1,453,815
Three Rivers Community Action, Inc.	Dodge, Freeborn, Fillmore, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, and Winona	\$3,500,400
Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc.	Polk, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Red Lake, Clearwater, Kittson, Roseau, and Lake of the Woods	\$828,289

Grant Administrators	Counties Served	Total Expended
United Community Action Partnership	Lincoln, Lyon, Jackson, Cottonwood, Redwood, Pipestone, Murray, Rock, Nobles, Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, Renville, Yellow Medicine, Swift, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, and Big Stone	\$3,209,762
Washington County	Washington	\$1,864,565
West Central Minnesota Communities Action	Grant, Pope, Stevens, Traverse, and Douglas	\$478,615
White Earth Band of Ojibwe	Red Lake Nation, Mille Lacs Band, Leech Lake Band, White Earth Nation, Fond Du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and Bois Forte Band	\$4,138,617*
	Metro	\$27,141,667
	Greater Minnesota	\$22,858,333
Total		\$50,000,000

**Rounded*

***99.72% expended as of 11/30/24 with .28% remaining to be expended by one administrator.*

Figure 1. Fast Track Funding Total Disbursement

**Family Homelessness Prevention Assistance Program (FHPAP)
Fast Track Funds**

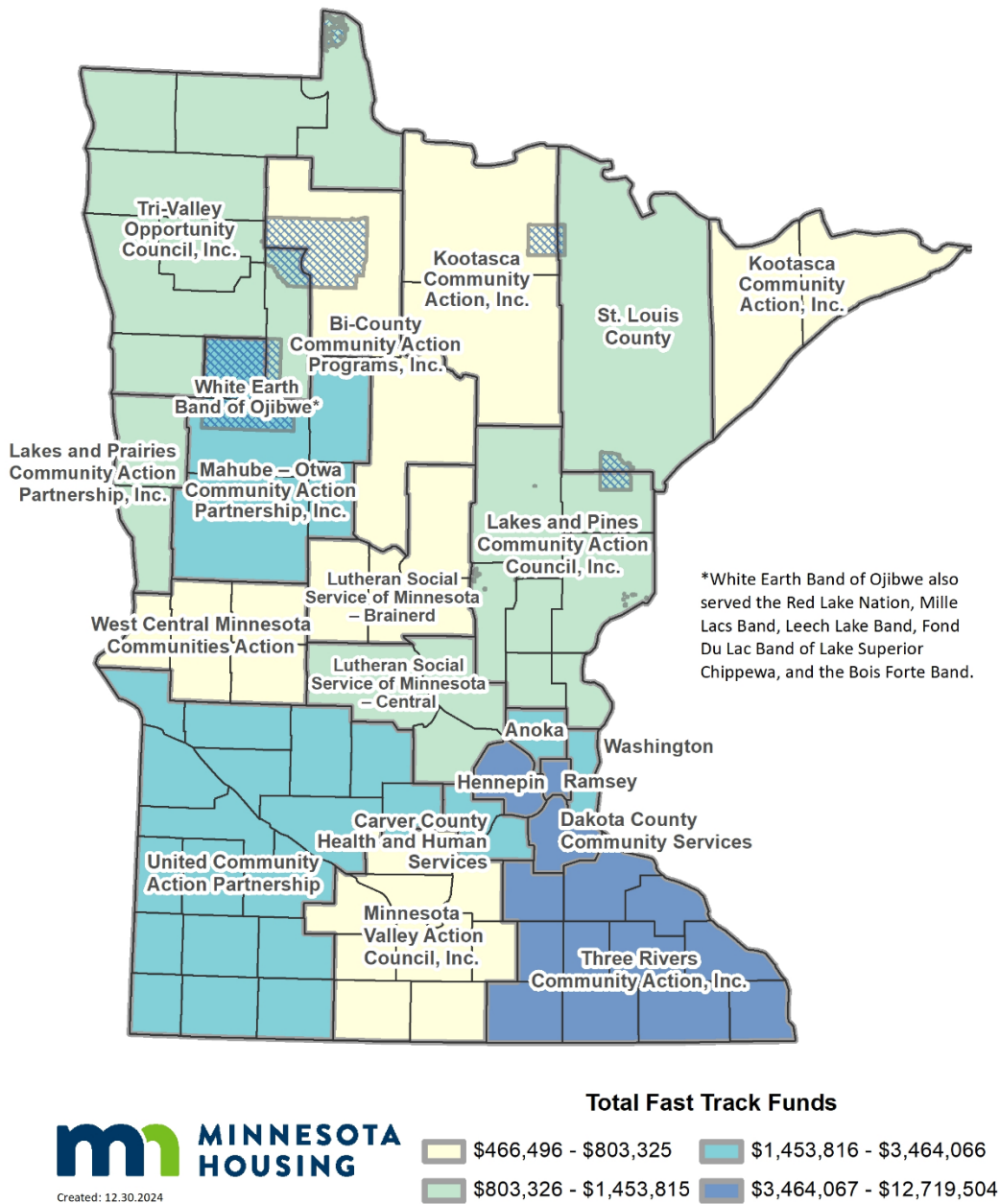
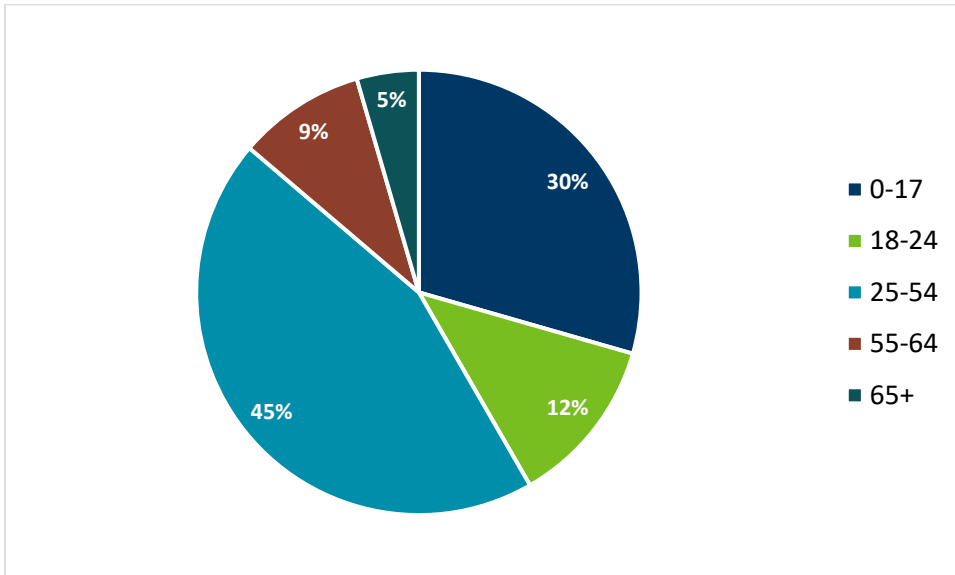


Table 2. FHPAP Households Served, by Round, and ratio of households applying to households served

Funding Round	Households Applied	Households Served	Ratio
2022-2023 (June 1 – September 30, 2023)	15,122	6,713	44%
2023-2024 (October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024 and after)	48,102	10,167	21%
Total Households Served	63,244	16,880	27%

Source: Minnesota’s Homeless Management Information System. Note that the total households served does not equal to the sum of households served in each round, as households could be served across rounds of funding. Total includes both Fast Track and Standard FHPAP funds combined.

Figure 2. Percentage of Fast Track Recipients by Age Group



Source: Minnesota’s Homeless Management Information System