

July 31, 2020

Senator Amy Klobuchar
Senator Tina Smith
Representative Angie Craig
Representative Tom Emmer
Representative Jim Hagedorn
Representative Betty McCollum
Representative Ilhan Omar
Representative Colin Peterson
Representative Dean Phillips
Representative Pete Stauber

Via email

Re: Support Emergency Rental Assistance, Evictions and Foreclosure Moratorium, Homelessness Prevention Funding, and Housing Assistance Fund for COVID-19 Relief in Minnesota

Dear Senators and Representatives:

With the release of the Senate's coronavirus relief package, we write with concern that this proposal does not include the necessary critical resources to ensure the ongoing health and housing stability for Minnesotans. We ask you to prioritize:

- \$100 billion for emergency rental assistance,
- A uniform national evictions and foreclosure moratorium,
- \$11.5 billion to support those experiencing homelessness with emergency solutions grants, and
- \$75 billion to support a housing assistance fund.

We write to you as organizations committed to meeting the housing needs of Minnesotans. We have concern that thousands of Minnesotans are at risk of losing their homes. According to the July 22 [Household Pulse Survey](#) for Minnesota, and Stout's analysis of this data:

- There are 132,000 potential eviction filings over the next 4 months in Minnesota
- An estimated 195,000 households are unable to pay rent and at risk of eviction
- More than 78% of African American Minnesotans have slight or no confidence they can pay rent next month

A report by the Minnesota firm Housing Link Research, released June 30, 2020, also illustrates the precariousness of low- and moderate-income renters across Minnesota:

- Only 20% of respondents, who are low- and moderate renters, expect to be back to work at full capacity by July 31.
- **70% of respondents have lost their job or hours during the pandemic, a hugely alarming number.**
- More than one in four respondents, or 26%, do not believe they will be able to continue paying rent after July 31. This number does not include those who will pay rent at the expense of other bills, like food and medical care.

- **Almost 30% of respondents have late or unpaid rents since the beginning of the pandemic;**
Just 72% of respondents remain current on rent since beginning of pandemic, compared to 91% of renters able to pay rent prior to the pandemic.

The shocking data on housing instability mirrors information we are seeing from unemployment insurance filings. Since March, Minnesota has seen almost 900,000 applications for unemployment, indicating income loss and economic insecurity. As most Minnesotans live paycheck to paycheck, loss of hours and loss of work has detrimental impacts on debt and housing security, affecting individuals, families, and businesses. Unemployment data must also be examined for impact to specific populations; **48% of Black Minnesotans have applied for unemployment, due to lost hours and work.**

We appreciate your hard work on behalf of Minnesota. These emergency funds and policies will stabilize the health and economic security of families, will support businesses and non-profits providing housing throughout the state, and will ensure that Minnesota has a full and fair opportunity for economic recovery. **We ask for your support to ensure Minnesotans' need for housing assistance is prioritized during the negotiations for COVID-19 relief.**

Sincerely,

Aeon
African Career, Education and Resource, Inc. (ACER)
Align Minneapolis
Alliance Housing, Inc.
Alliance for Metropolitan Stability
All Parks Alliance for Change (APAC)
Artspace
Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative
Catholic Charities of St Paul & Minneapolis
Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA)
City of Duluth
City of Bloomington
City of Minneapolis
Churches United (Morehead)
CommonBond Communities
Community Stabilization Project (CSP)
CSH (Corporation of Supportive Housing)
Dominium
Family Housing Fund
Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation
Greater Minnesota Housing Fund (GMHF)
Hess, Roise and Company
HOME Line
Hope Community, Inc.
Housing Justice Center (HJC)
Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Duluth
Integrated Community Solutions, Inc.
Jewish Community Action
JustUs Health
LISC Twin Cities

LISC Duluth
LHB, Inc.
Mahoney Ulbrich Christiansen & Russ, P.A.
Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD)
MICAH (Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing)
Minneapolis Regional Chamber
Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers
Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless
Minnesota Council of Nonprofits
Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance
Minnesota Budget Project
Minnesota Community Action Partnership
Minnesota Housing Finance Agency
Minnesota Housing Partnership
MNSTEP (Minnesotans Standing Together to End Poverty and Homelessness)
National Housing Trust
New American Development Center (NADC)
Otter Tail County HRA
Our Spring Lake Store L.L.C.
Park Plaza Cooperative
Project for Pride in Living (PPL)
Research in Action
SEMMCHRA (Southeastern Minnesota Multi-County Housing & Redevelopment Authority)
Shelter Corporation
Sunrise Banks
The Arc Minnesota
Three Rivers Community Action
Twin Cities Housing Development Corporation
Unidos, MN
Urban Homeworks
Voices for Racial Justice

See Stout's Analysis and Visualization of Renter Confidence and Potential Evictions: <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjojNzRhYjg2NzAtMGE1MC00NmNjLTIOTMtYjM2NjFmOTA4ZjMyliwidCI6Ijc5MGJmN-jk2LTE3NDYtNGE4OS1hZjI0LTc4ZGE5Y2RhZGE2MSIsImMiOjN9;>

See Stout's Analysis of Household Pulse Survey for Minnesota, week of July 22: <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjojNzRhYjg2NzAtMGE1MC00NmNjLTIOTMtYjM2NjFmOTA4ZjMyliwidCI6Ijc5MGJmN-jk2LTE3NDYtNGE4OS1hZjI0LTc4ZGE5Y2RhZGE2MSIsImMiOjN9>

See Housing Link's research, Paying Rent During the COVID-19 Pandemic, released 06.30.20: https://housinglink.org/docs/default-source/mainlibrary/payingrentduringthepandemic-june2020.pdf?sfvrsn=163e6fda_2

See Half of Black Workers in Minnesota have Lost Work During the Pandemic, July 18, 2020, Star Tribune: <https://www.startribune.com/half-of-black-workers-in-minnesota-have-lost-work-during-pandemic/571820441/>

See NLIHC's research supporting need for \$100 billion for emergency rental assistance: <https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Need-for-Rental-Assistance-During-the-COVID-19-and-Economic-Crisis.pdf>

See Minnesota Housing Partnership's snapshot of COVID-19 Impact on Renters in Key Occupations: <https://www.mhponline.org/images/COVID19/COVID19Renters.png>

See Emergency Assistance Fund Fact Sheet: <https://www.opportunityhome.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Emergency-Assistance-Fund-Fact-Sheet-FINAL.pdf>