



April 4, 2024

Dear committee members,

In the last legislative session, Minnesota made historic investments in housing and food supports. While we understand that the economic picture for our state looks different, we are eager to ensure Minnesota seizes on an opportunity through the section 1115 Health-Related Social Need (HRSN) demonstration authority (1115 HRSN demo) offered by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services to provide housing and nutrition supports to achieve health care outcomes. The undersigned organizations urge your support of HF3639/SF3969, directing Minnesota to apply for an 1115 waiver in the coming year that will allow our state to access unprecedented federal funding to follow through on our commitment to build a health care and social care infrastructure that reduces or eliminates our state's longstanding health disparities affecting Black and American Indian Minnesotans.

Through a section 1115 HRSN waiver, Minnesota could:

- Draw down \$1 dollar of federal Medicaid matching funds for every \$1 dollar of Minnesota state funds used to provide safe, affordable housing and sufficient, nutritious meals for Minnesotans whose household income is below 133% of the federal poverty level (or, for a household of one adult, \$1,615 monthly/\$19,391 annually).
- Draw down 50% federal Medicaid Administrative matching funds to pay for training and required certifications for Community Health Workers, Peer Support Specialists, Peer Recovery Specialists.
- Draw down federal Medicaid service matching funds to develop more supportive housing programs for individuals and families trying to get back on their feet, or to remain on their feet, while coping with chronic behavioral health and/or physical health conditions.
- Draw down 50% federal Medicaid Administrative matching funds to make necessary improvements in Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) eligibility systems to reduce or eliminate Medicaid “churn” where Minnesotans lose their health care coverage even though they remain eligible for MHCP.

Please ensure Minnesota makes progress toward funding a section 1115 HRSN demonstration waiver so that we can take advantage of the opportunity to receive 50% federal Medicaid match on these critical services and infrastructure investments.

Thank you,

Allina Health	Minneapolis Health Department
AspireMN	Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers
Avivo	Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs
Bob Tavani House Medical Respite	Minnesota Association of County Health Plans
Catholic Charities Twin Cities	Minnesota Hospital Association
Children's Minnesota	Minnesota Medical Association
Coalition of Recovery Investment	Native American Community Clinic
Collective Action Lab	Open Arms of Minnesota
Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)	PRISM
Fairview Health Services	Ramsey County
Greater Minnesota Housing Fund	RS EDEN
HealthPartners	Second Harvest Heartland
Hennepin County	Stratis Health
Hennepin Healthcare	Therapeutic Services Agency
Housing Matters	Trellis
Jewish Family & Children's Service of Minneapolis	Zumbro Valley Medical Society
Knute Nelson/Walker Methodist	
Legal Services Advocacy Project	
Metro Meals on Wheels	