Senators Sams, Frederickson, Dille, Metzen and Bakk introduced--
S.F. No. 1120: Referred to the Committee on Finance.

A bill for an act
relating to economic development; appropriating money
for a grant to the Blandin Foundation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. [APPROPRIATION.]

$250,000 in fiscal year 2006 is appropriated from the
general fund to the commissioner of employment and economic
development for a grant to the Blandin Foundation for the "get
broadband" program. This appropriation must be matched equally
by nonstate funds and is available until expended. Expenditures
made by the Blandin Foundation beginning December 1, 2004, may
be used as match for this appropriation. The "get broadband"
program must be designed to increase the use of broadband-based
technologies by businesses, schools, health care organizations,
government organizations, and the general public.
The Blandin Broadband Initiative is designed to catalyze broadband investment and use, to raise awareness about the value of broadband and to encourage public and private investment in rural broadband capacity. It is led by a 15-person strategy board representing private and public sector partners and stakeholders.

For more information about the Broadband Initiative visit www.blandinfoundation.org
BACKGROUND

The Get Broadband Program is being conducted by the Blandin Foundation under its Broadband Initiative, a statewide public-private partnership created to improve the economic vitality of Minnesota’s communities by encouraging the development of rural telecommunications markets and infrastructure. The Initiative supports the Foundation’s Community Economic Advantage strategy, which aims to help build strong local economies where the benefits and burdens are widely shared. It is guided by a 15-member strategy board made up of public and private industry leaders.

In partnership with leadership across Minnesota, through its Broadband Initiative, the Foundation seeks to:

- Increase awareness about the value of broadband telecommunications use and services,
- Increase business and residential use of broadband in rural communities,
- Increase public and private investment in rural broadband capacity.

The Foundation believes that broadband technology facilitates economic development and is important to the economic success of rural communities. Broadband technology has the potential to help transform rural communities into centers of innovation and technology. It holds the potential for rural communities to overcome their traditional disadvantages of a smaller labor force, fewer capital resources, reduced access to research institutions and greater distance from markets and supplies. Communities committed to expanding the use of broadband technology can increase their potential to retain jobs, grow new markets for business, strengthen health care delivery, enhance educational access and opportunity, and improve quality-of-life.

But despite its benefits and promise, broadband technology remains underutilized in many Minnesota communities. A recent Blandin Foundation study found that only 15 of the 80 percent of rural Minnesotans with access to broadband service subscribe.

The reality is that community leadership is necessary to advocate broadband’s public value – economic development, health care, education, governmental services – and to identify strategies to develop it. Building a market, by educating people, is a community’s responsibility. Communities that have undertaken broadband market development and education initiatives have achieved “take rates” as high as 70 percent. When citizens subscribe and broadband providers invest, opportunities for economic development are created. Everybody wins.
To help promote increased utilization of broadband in Minnesota’s rural communities, the Blandin Foundation has dedicated $250,000 toward broadband development. Community grants awarded will be funded under the guidance and oversight of the Initiative’s Strategy Board and the Blandin Foundation’s grant program staff.

**Program Goal**

To further the Broadband Initiative’s goals of increasing awareness about the value of broadband telecommunications use and services, increasing business and residential use of broadband in rural communities, and increasing public and private investment in rural broadband capacity, the Blandin Foundation is seeking communities that are committed to increasing their community vitality through the expanded use of broadband-based technologies.

**Program Stages**

The *Get Broadband* Program consists of the following stages:

1. **Organization:**
   - The community creates a steering committee consisting of senior representatives from the business, education, health care, government and consumer/residential sectors, plus other sectors that may be unique to each community.

2. **Survey:**
   - The community identifies its current level of broadband utilization and the demand for expanded service. The Blandin Broadband Initiative will conduct the survey.

3. **Goal Setting:**
   - The community establishes goals for levels of technology utilization, service and connectivity. The Blandin Broadband Initiative will provide some goal setting tools.
4. Education Events: The steering committee conducts a series of events that demonstrate available technologies, programs, and services that can increase the productivity, efficiency, and quality of life of community members. The Blandin Broadband Initiative will provide a *Get Broadband* Toolkit which includes CD’s, presentations, flyers, announcements, computer program demos and other multimedia materials that can be used at community education events.

5. Measurement: After conducting the broadband education events and programs, the increase in demand and utilization of broadband-based technologies is measured.

6. Future Direction: The community determines its appropriate strategy for continuing to incorporate new technologies into its community and promote a culture that welcomes and embraces change and new information technology.

**Blandin Foundation Support**

The Blandin Foundation will provide each *Get Broadband* community with the following support:

- **Program Guide**: A program guide will help each community organize and conduct each stage of the program.

- **Toolkit**: The *Get Broadband* Toolkit includes a collection of CD’s, presentations, flyers, announcements, interactive computer program demos and other multimedia materials that can be used at community education events.
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- **Toolkit**
  - The Get Broadband Toolkit includes a collection of CD’s, presentations, flyers, announcements, interactive computer program demos and other multimedia materials that can be used at community education events.
Funding

Blandin Foundation will provide each Get Broadband community with up to $15,000 in grant funds to support community education efforts. To access these funds, the community must deliver a one-to-one cash match.

Coaching and Convening

Get Broadband communities will come together to share information, experiences and resources. The communities will be coached on local leadership capacity development through workshops with experts on technology, marketing and applications.

COMMUNITY QUALIFICATIONS

Communities must identify a single grant recipient to receive and administer grant funds. (The lead organization may subcontract portions of project implementation to collaborating partners.) Eligible applicants must be organizations with a nonprofit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service. Units of government may apply if the purpose of the request goes beyond the limits of expected government services and taxpayer responsibility. To qualify for consideration, applicants must:

> Describe the market the project will serve. Multiple communities may self-identify as a single “market” for the purposes of this RFP, but they must describe the “connection” between the distinct communities.

> Represent a community or market located outside the seven-county metro area.

> Demonstrate a 1:1 local cash match for requested funding.

> Demonstrate local leadership commitment: A “steering committee” or “organizing committee” must be formed that includes senior representatives of the community’s major broadband markets, including, but not necessarily limited to representatives from large and small business, health care, education, government and residential markets. For example, the steering committee could include the mayor, chamber of commerce president, hospital administrator, school district superintendent, city administrator and the director of a local economic development organization. The steering committee members will likely be needed to develop individual working groups that serve their respective sectors.
EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR PROPOSALS

The Blandin Broadband Strategy Board will use the following criteria to evaluate proposals submitted under this program:

- **Basic eligibility:** Does the applicant meet the basic eligibility criteria described above (market, organization, etc.)?
- **Broadband goals:** Does the applicant demonstrate an understanding of the purpose of the Get Broadband Program?
- **Leadership team:** Does the applicant include senior leaders from the community’s different sectors?
- **Clear evidence of the commitment for matching funds.**
- **Evidence of Broadband Internet Service Provider involvement,** i.e., as a partner in the market education effort, program funder, etc.

TIMELINE

Three rounds of grants are anticipated in 2005:

- **February 25, 2005**
  First round Get Broadband Community Grant applications due.
- **May 20, 2005**
  Second round Get Broadband Community Grant applications due.
- **August 19, 2005**
  Third round Get Broadband Community Grant applications due.

For each round of grants, proposals must be received by 4:30 p.m. at the Blandin Foundation.
Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Gary Fields, Blandin Broadband Project Consultant, (651-698-7464; glfields@comcast.net) with any questions regarding this Request For Proposal (RFP); this includes transmitting draft versions of proposals for pre-submittal review.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Include a cover letter with each proposal that introduces your organization and your proposal, and makes a strategic link between your application and the goals of this RFP and the Blandin Broadband Initiative.

The maximum length of proposal narratives is five pages, plus any attachments.

Submit three printed copies of the proposal along with an electronic version of the proposed narrative (financial statements required with the submission need not be mailed electronically).

Proposals should be sent to:

Bernadine Joselyn
Blandin Foundation
100 North Pokegama Avenue
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

and, emailed to brjoselyn@blandinfoundation.org.

Respondents should use the format below. Be sure to include contact information including email addresses for responsible parties.

Please indicate if the project’s lead organization is a 501(c)(3) or a unit of government.

An officer of the project’s lead organization/fiscal agent should sign the grant application cover letter.
PROPOSAL FORMAT

I. Organization Information
   Brief summary of lead organization’s/group’s history, mission and goals.
   Brief description of organization’s/group’s current programs or activities, including any service statistics and strengths or accomplishments.
   Brief description of all participating organizations and groups. This should include: legal name, mission statement, services and programs, addresses, and staff contacts.
   Briefly describe the role of the lead and participating organizations and groups, inter-organizational coordination and collaboration during the project, and decision-making processes.

II. Program Elements
   Steering Committee. Describe the membership of the steering committee and the constituencies they represent. Include letters of commitment from each member as an attachment.
   Program Budget. Include the program budget, clearly identifying where Blandin funding and local funding will be applied.
   Matching Funds. Provide written evidence describing the availability of matching cash contributions for the program.
   Timeframe. Provide a schedule that shows when the major program stages will be conducted. All programs must be completed within one year.

III. Attachments (financial information required only of lead/fiscal agent organization)
   Most recent financial statement from most recently completed year, audited if available, showing actual expenses. This information should include a balance sheet, a statement of activities (or statement of income and expenses) and functional expenses.
   Organization budget for current year, including income and expenses.
   Project Budget, including income and expenses.
Additional funders. List names of corporations and foundations from which you are requesting funds to implement project activities, with dollar amounts, indicating which sources are committed or pending.

Brief description of key project implementers and/or staff, including qualifications relevant to the specific request.

A copy of the lead organization's (or fiscal agent's) IRS determination letter indicating tax-exempt 501(c)(3) status.

Letters of commitment from steering committee members.

Cover letter
Proposal narrative, including project budget
Lead organization budget

Financial statements from lead organization, preferably audited, showing actual expenses including:
Balance sheet
Statement of activities (income and expenses)
Statement of functional expenses
List of additional funders
Brief description of key staff
IRS determination letter if applicant is not a governmental agency
BLANDIN FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Applicants are encouraged to contact any of the following organizations for local sponsorship or assistance.

Broadband Service Providers

To find the service providers in your area, please contact any of the following trade organizations.

Private Telephone Companies

Minnesota Telecom Alliance  www.minnesotatelephone.org  651/291-7311
MN Assoc. for Rural Telecommunications  www.mnart.org  651/784-2001

Cable Companies

MN Cable Communications  www.mncca.com  651/651-0268

Municipal Telephone Companies

MN Municipal Utility Association  www.mmua.org  763/551-1230

Wireless Companies

Wireless Committee of the MTA  Scott Bergs  scott.bergs@midwestwireless.com  507/385-2360

University of Minnesota Extension Service

Technology Education accessE.info  Rae Montgomery; rae@umn.edu  www.accesse.info  612/624-2773
Community Economics & Leadership  Joyce Hoeltling  jhoeltin@umn.edu  612/625-8233
<table>
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<tr>
<th>MNSCU Campuses</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria Technical College</td>
<td>Kevin Kopischke</td>
<td>320/762-4404</td>
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<tr>
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<td><a href="mailto:kevink@alx.tec.mn.us">kevink@alx.tec.mn.us</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fond du Lac Tribal &amp; Community College</td>
<td>Candi Broeffle</td>
<td>218/879-0743</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:candibro@ezigaa.fdl.cc.mn.us">candibro@ezigaa.fdl.cc.mn.us</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bemidji State University</td>
<td>David Kingsbury</td>
<td>218/755-4900</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:dkingsbury@bemidjistate.edu">dkingsbury@bemidjistate.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hibbing Community College</td>
<td>Ken Simberg</td>
<td>218/262-6743</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:kennethsimberg@hcc.mnsu.edu">kennethsimberg@hcc.mnsu.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Lakes College</td>
<td>Rebecca Best</td>
<td>218/855-8143</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:rbest@clcmn.edu">rbest@clcmn.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Itasca Community College</td>
<td>Bonnie Henriksen</td>
<td>218/327-4203</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:bhenriksen@it.cc.mn.us">bhenriksen@it.cc.mn.us</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake Superior College</td>
<td>Pat Toland</td>
<td>218/733-5914</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:p.toland@lsc.mnsu.edu">p.toland@lsc.mnsu.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Minnesota State University, Moorhead</td>
<td>Jan Flack</td>
<td>218/236-2395</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:flackjan@mnstate.edu">flackjan@mnstate.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mesabi Range Technical College</td>
<td>Colleen Gerzin</td>
<td>218/749-7716</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:c.gerzin@mr.mnsu.edu">c.gerzin@mr.mnsu.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>MN West Community &amp; Technical College</td>
<td>Roger Fransen</td>
<td>507/537-7161</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:rogerf@cb.mnwest.mnsu.edu">rogerf@cb.mnwest.mnsu.edu</a></td>
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<td>Northland Community &amp; Technical College</td>
<td>Shari Olson</td>
<td>218/681-0869</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:shari.olson@northlandcollege.edu">shari.olson@northlandcollege.edu</a></td>
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<td>Mary Eaton</td>
<td>218/755-4264</td>
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<td>Northwest Technical College, Bemidji</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:mary.eaton@ntcmn.edu">mary.eaton@ntcmn.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Minnesota State University, Mankato</td>
<td>Kathy Trauger</td>
<td>507/389-1546</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:kathleen.trauger@mnsu.edu">kathleen.trauger@mnsu.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pine Technical College</td>
<td>Jason Spaeth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rainy River Community College</td>
<td>Tom Weegar</td>
<td>218/285-2202</td>
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<td>Ridgewater College</td>
<td>Noel Harness</td>
<td>320/214-3646</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Central Technical College</td>
<td>Larry Lundblad</td>
<td>507/389-7332</td>
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<td>Riverland Community College</td>
<td>Steve Bowron</td>
<td>507/379-3317</td>
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<td>Southwest State University</td>
<td>Jon Harback</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rochester Community &amp; Technical College</td>
<td>Michelle Pyfferoen</td>
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<td>Vermilion Community College</td>
<td>Ann Beste-Guldborg</td>
<td>218/365-7265</td>
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<td>St. Cloud State University</td>
<td>John Burgeson</td>
<td>320/308-3081</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winona State University</td>
<td>Barbara Larsen</td>
<td>507/457-5582</td>
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<td>St. Cloud Technical College</td>
<td>Dieter Pape</td>
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Regional Development Corporations

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<td>East Central RDC, Mora</td>
<td>Roger Ames</td>
<td>320/679-4065</td>
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<td>Arrowhead RDC, Duluth</td>
<td>John Chell</td>
<td>218/722-5545</td>
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<td>Northwest RDC, Warren</td>
<td>Leon Heath</td>
<td>218/745-673</td>
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<td>Mid-Minnesota Dev. Commission</td>
<td>Eugene Hippe</td>
<td>320/235-8504</td>
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<tr>
<td>Region 5 Dev. Commission,</td>
<td>Bob Hutton</td>
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<td>Upper MN Valley RDC, Appleton</td>
<td>Paul Michaelson</td>
<td>320/289-1981</td>
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<td>West Central MN Initiative,</td>
<td>Nancy Straw</td>
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<td>Workforce Centers</td>
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<td>Marketing/Program Consultants</td>
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<td>Community Technology Advisors</td>
<td>Bill Coleman</td>
<td>651/426-7741</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virchow, Krause and Company</td>
<td>Brandon Andries</td>
<td>952/835-1344</td>
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Community
For more information about the Initiative or the "Get Broadband" Program contact:

Bernadine Joselyn
Director, Public Policy & Engagement
broadband@blandinfoundation.org
218.327.8728

© 2004 Blandin Foundation
Senators Solon, Tomassoni and Saxhaug introduced—

S. F. No. 875  Referred to the Committee on Finance

A bill for an act
relating to natural resources; appropriating money for
silvicultural research.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1.  [APPROPRIATION.]

$200,000 in fiscal year 2006 and $200,000 in fiscal year
2007 are appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
of natural resources for a grant to the Natural Resources
Research Institute for silvicultural research to improve the
quality and quantity of timber fiber. The appropriation must be
matched in the amount of $200,000 each year, in cash or in-kind
contributions, from the forest products industry members of the
Minnesota Forest Productivity Research Cooperative.
The forest products industry is vital to Minnesota’s economy, accounting for a total of 6.9 billion dollars of economic activity and employing over 55,000 people in various job sectors within the state. The industry has come under increasing pressure from global competition in manufacturing and from rising costs for domestic wood production. In response to concerns about the competitiveness of the state’s forest products industry, a Governor’s Advisory Task Force on Competitiveness of Minnesota’s Primary Forest Products Industry recommended steps to increase the competitiveness of the state’s forest products sector. Among the top concerns identified by the Task Force was timber resource availability and price. Recently the price of pulpwood, the raw material used by Minnesota mills, has risen to the point where Minnesota has the highest wood prices in the United States. To address concerns over raw material supplies, the Task Force recommended support for research to increase forest productivity and thereby augment future fiber supplies.

In response to Task Force recommendations, industry representatives, public agencies and research organizations have joined forces to address critical research needs. The mission of the Forest Productivity Research Cooperative is to increase the economic value of Minnesota’s timber resource by improving the quality and quantity of fiber through silvicultural research and transfer of that technology to natural resource professionals and landowners. This will be accomplished by:

- Focusing on applied research in cooperation with industrial, public agency and other landowners
- Using resource analyses to guide research priorities and analyze impacts of results
- Developing techniques that have immediate impact and improve economic returns to landowners
- Technology transfer to natural resources professionals and landowners
- Promoting synergy with existing research efforts and knowledge

This effort is a collaboration of industry, university and government land agencies. At this time, project principals include Boise, Potlatch Corporation, International Paper, Minnesota Power, UPM-Kymmene, the University of Minnesota-NRRI and the St. Louis County Land Department. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the USDA Forest Service and the UM College of Natural Resources are cooperating agencies. Presently we are seeking support from the Legislature for a portion of the funds needed to support this effort. The total annual funding sought to fund this work is $200,000. This amount will be matched by member organizations in the form of cash and in-kind contributions of land for experiments and demonstrations, site maintenance and technical personnel.
Senators Kubly, Kierlin, Junghauer Saxhaug and Pappas introduced--
S.F. No. 677: Referred to the Committee on Jobs, Energy and Community Development.

A bill for an act
relating to economic development; providing for the
reopening of certain historical sites; appropriating
money.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. [APPROPRIATION.]

$.......
is appropriated from the general fund to the
Minnesota Historical Society for operation of the following
historical sites in 2005 and 2006: Kelley Farm, Hill House,
Lower Sioux Agency, Fort Ridgely, Historic Forestville, the
Forest History Center, and the Comstock House. This is a
ontime appropriation and is not to be added to the society's
base.

[EFFECTIVE DATE.] This section is effective the day
following final enactment.
Fiscal Note – 2005-06 Session

Bill #: H0698-0 Complete Date: 03/14/05

Chief Author: SEIFERT, MARTY
Title: HISTORICAL SITES REOPENED

Agency Name: Historical Society

This table reflects fiscal impact to state government. Local government impact is reflected in the narrative only.

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<tr>
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<td>General Fund</td>
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| Total FTE             | 39.50| 39.50|      |      |      |
**Bill Description**
This bill provides an appropriation for operations of seven historic sites that have had funding reduced and have been threatened with closure.

In 2003, the state-funded budget of the Minnesota Historical Society was reduced by $4.3 million. Previous base reductions increased this total reduction to over $5 million per year. In response to this reduction, cuts were made in all areas of the Society's operations, including historic sites. Because of community support, six of the seven sites were re-opened, at least temporarily. At his time, community groups are having a challenging time raising funds sufficient to keep these sites open.

This bill was introduced with a blank appropriation amount. The Society estimates that to provide a level of service, in terms of hours open to the public, equivalent to the level provided in 2004, for these seven sites, the cost would be $743,000. This level of service would still be substantially below the level of hours provided to the public in the 2002 sites season. In order to provide the level of service provided in the 2002 season an appropriation of $1,195,000 would be needed.

(It should be noted that funding and open hours were reduced at most other historic sites throughout the system as well.)

This bill states that this funding is one-time and is not added to the Society's base budget. The result of this language would be that the historic sites would experience uncertainty at the start of FY08, during the middle of the 2007 sites season.

**Assumptions**
For the purposes of this fiscal note, a level of service equivalent to the 2004 sites season is assumed. This level of service is substantially reduced from the 2002 season levels.

**Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula**
The total cost of operating these seven sites would be offset by admission and gift shop sales revenue, as shown in the “Revenues” portion of the fiscal note. This portion is broken into two sections, Special Revenue for state-owned sites and Gift for other sites. This total would amount to $458,000 each year, leaving a net cost to the General Fund of $743,000 each year.

**Long-Term Fiscal Considerations**
Providing funding for these historic sites would help to ensure their long-term financial stability. While local groups have helped to provide funding for these sites, this is an unpredictable and variable source of funding. Moving from year to year with uncertainty of the status of these sites does not help to ensure consistent visitation (and corresponding revenue) and makes marketing these sites even more challenging.

Agency Contact Name: David Kelliher (651-297-8085)
FN Coord Signature: DAVID KELLIHER
Date: 03/10/05 Phone: 297-8085

**EBO Comments**
I have reviewed this Fiscal Note for accuracy and content.

EBO Signature: KEITH BOGUT
Date: 03/14/05 Phone: 296-7642
Senators Dibble, Rosen, Anderson, Pariseau and Frederickson introduced--

S.F. No. 684: Referred to the Committee on Finance.

1 A bill for an act
2 relating to families; appropriating money for
3 emergency assistance and transitional housing.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
5 Section 1. [APPROPRIATION.]
6 $15,000,000 is appropriated from the general fund to the
7 commissioner of human services to be available until June 30,
8 2007. Of this appropriation:
9 (1) $9,000,000 is for transitional housing programs under
10 Minnesota Statutes, section 119A.43. Up to ten percent of this
11 appropriation may be used for housing and services which extend
12 beyond 24 months; and
13 (2) $6,000,000 is for emergency services grants under Laws
14 1997, chapter 162, article 3, section 7.
15 No more than five percent of this appropriation is
16 available for administering the grants. This appropriation is
17 in addition to any base appropriations funding and shall become
18 part of the agency's base.
Minnesota Youth Service Association
Committee on Public Policy and Advocacy
7601 42nd Avenue North, New Hope, MN 55427
phone (763) 592-5510, fax (763) 592-5550
"Pursuing public policy reform to increase opportunities and resources for homeless and runaway youth."

OFFER SUPPORT TO MINNESOTA’S HOMELESS YOUTH

State Funding Losses Result in Losses of Shelter and Services for Youth
All Minnesotans are aware of the budget cuts enacted in 2003 to help balance the state’s budget. The impact on youth services has been severe. A combination of federal, state, and local funding losses have resulted in losses of 32 emergency shelter beds, 137 youth housing units, and 48 case managers providing one-to-one support. This is to be an urgent matter since these losses have curtailed our ability to provide crisis intervention and support to Minnesota’s most vulnerable youth.

Governor’s Plan to End Long Term Homelessness Fails to Offer Solutions for Homeless Youth
While we applaud the Governor’s leadership in taking a bold stand against homelessness, we are concerned that the Report fails to address the needs of unaccompanied homeless youth and nationally recognized policies and best practices that prevent or end homelessness for this population. The State must play a crucial role in addressing homeless youth, since we know that many homeless youth were former foster youth. A state-wide survey of homeless youth conducted by the Wilder Research Center in 2003, found that 70% of all homeless youth had histories of out-of-home placements and yet became homeless before their 18th birthday. These are our youth, they wish to succeed, and they deserve our attention and support.

SUPPORT HOUSE FILE 2150, SENATE FILE 2004, and HOUSE FILE 1198, SENATE FILE 684
There is a current law that recognizes the need to support shelter, housing, and supportive services to homeless youth. Minnesota Statute Section 256K.35 has been on the books but has gone unfunded for three years. House File 2150 and Senate File 2004 seek to use existing TANF Reserves to fund a grant program through the Minnesota Department of Human Services. Currently, the State of Minnesota is sitting on a surplus of $40 million in TANF Reserves. House File 2150 would direct only $1.2 million each year to support needed community programs that offer hope, intervention, and family reunification to homeless and at-risk youth. Additionally, Senate File 684 and House File 1198 provide needed ongoing General Fund support for shelter and transitional housing which is a high priority if we are to meet the Governor’s Plan to End Long Term Homelessness in the next decade.

AMEND HOUSE FILE 1875
House File 1875 would repeal Minnesota Statute Section 256K.35, and dash any hope for the State to offer resources and partnership with community and faith-based organizations offering services to homeless youth. Please amend House File 1875 to keep Minnesota Statute Section 256K.35 alive. Community agencies rely on federal, local and private philanthropic support to offer shelter, housing, and support to vulnerable youth. The State needs to take some responsibility, given the intersection between youth in out-of-home placements and those who end up homeless.

THE HISTORY BEHIND MINNESOTA STATUTE SECTION 256K.35
Originally enacted in 2000, the statute provided recognition of the need for homeless youth programs to prevent sexual exploitation and out-of-wedlock pregnancies. The Department of Human Services combined Homeless Youth grants from the General Fund with TANF Reserves and Chafee Independent Living Funds (a federal program). Grants were first awarded in 2001 with the following levels: $537,564 in 2001, $966,188 in 2002, and $985,997 in 2003. The funds were used across a wide spectrum of agencies in Greater Minnesota and the Twin Cities and helped to leverage federal grants. In 2003, the TANF Reserves were allowed to sunset and the General Funds for Homeless Youth were block granted to counties. Unfortunately, counties have not responded with new grants to homeless youth programs.
WHY IS STATE SUPPORT NEEDED FOR HOMELESS YOUTH SHELTER AND SERVICES?
Partially, the State's child welfare systems have contributed to youth homelessness. Over 70% of all homeless youth surveyed by the Wilder Research Center in 2003 indicated that they had been in an out-of-home placement through child welfare and still ended up homeless before their 18th birthday. Additionally, youth continue to run from out-of-home placements and are never found. In 2000, 550 youth ran from placement, were not found, and had their cases closed. In 2001, 575 youth ran from placement, were not found, and had their cases closed. These children are under the jurisdiction and care of the State and counties and may now be homeless.

Additionally, community and faith-based organizations providing services to homeless youth rely on several sources of funding. When the state grants from the Minnesota Department of Human Services was eliminated (coupled with federal and local losses of funding) we saw the loss of 32 shelter beds, 137 youth apartments, and 48 full-time youth advocates. State funding is needed to provide crisis intervention, family reunification, shelter, housing, and life skills training to vulnerable youth. If we don’t catch the youth now in our services and help to support them in a crucial developmental stage, some may go on to the adult systems of disability, jail, or chemical dependency treatment. Furthermore, State support would allow agencies to leverage needed federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

WHAT IS THE LEVEL OF NEED?
In 2003 Twin Cities Metropolitan providers served over 3,000 homeless youth, while Greater Minnesota providers served over 1,700 youth. We struggle to serve this number with a continuum that includes just over 100 shelter beds and 360 transitional, supportive housing units. Many youth are turned away. A youth shelter in St. Paul reports turning youth nearly every night.

However, this is not just a “city” issue. In Bemidji, outreach workers with Evergreen Shelter saw 145 homeless and at-risk youth on the streets and provided emergency shelter and family reunification services to 600 youth in 2003; 100 pregnant and parenting teens and single homeless youth were also served in Transitional Housing. In Brainerd, a Lutheran Social Service youth shelter provided emergency shelter to 37 homeless youth in 2001. In Duluth, Lutheran Social Service’s shelter assisted 554 youth in 2001 with street-based outreach reporting an additional 250 youth needing services each day. In Owatonna, the Crossroads Shelter served 205 youth in 2001. In Dakota County, the Supportive Housing Unit served 38 homeless and at-risk youth in 2001 and 27 homeless and at-risk youth in 2003 (not counting an additional 134 heads of household under 22 years of age). Safe Haven (a transitional living program in Dakota County) had 319 phone calls for housing in 2003 and served 29 in 2003, of which 16 were homeless youth and 4 were chronically homeless.

GOVERNOR’S INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT TRANSITION FOSTER YOUTH IS LIMITED IN SCOPE
The Governor has proposed using $1.1 million out of the General Fund to support youth transitioning out of foster care. The initiative is limited in that it will only serve approximately 140 of the estimated 550 youth “aging out” of foster care. We are strongly supportive of this initiative, but it will not serve all foster youth needing housing support after leaving foster care at age 18, nor will it serve unaccompanied homeless youth who are not in the child welfare system.

The solution is easy. Please pass House File 2150, Senate File 2004, House File 1198 and Senate File 684 which take existing TANF reserves and General Fund revenues to fund critical support and shelter options to vulnerable youth and families.

CONTACTS:
Margaret Nathe
Director
Minnesota Youth Service Association
margaretnathe@hotmail.com
(763) 592-5510

Richard A. Wayman
Committee on Public Policy and Advocacy
Minnesota Youth Service Association
richard.wayman@freeportwest.org
(612) 730-7574
($ in thousands)

### Actual & Estimated Resources

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### Actual & Estimated Uses

#### Expenditures:

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#### Transfers to Other Funds

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#### Total Uses

|                                                | 373,571   | 368,736   | 363,386   | 356,572   | 356,572   | 356,572   | 356,572   |
|                                                | (17,000)  | (1,000)   | (1,000)   | (1,000)   | (1,000)   | (1,000)   | (1,000)   |
| **Cancelation***                               | 261,032   | 260,767   | 262,749   | 262,307   | 262,307   | 262,307   | 262,307   |
| **TANF Reserve**                               | 260,006   | 260,006   | 260,006   | 260,006   | 260,006   | 260,006   | 260,006   |
|                                                | 51,849    | 51,849    | 51,849    | 51,849    | 51,849    | 51,849    | 51,849    |

- Actual TANF award received by the state started October 1, 1997. F.Y. 2004-07 assumes a continuation of TANF funding amount as it exists in current law. The Authorization for TANF expired on September 30, 2002. Funding has been extended through several continuing resolutions. The most recent resolution expires March 31, 2005.
- High Performance Bonuses awarded by bonus year (FY1999: $9,424,075; FY2000: $2,592,312; FY2001: $2,993,030; FY2002: $13,399,244; FY2003: $13,399,244) spread over state fiscal years.
- With this fund balance begins the inclusion of a biennial-end cancellation estimate for TANF. The estimate is based upon consistent "run rate" of under spending in the non-forecasted TANF accounts, principally, allocated count...
- For FY 2005, the estimate is at a higher level, ramped up over its initial 18 month allocation period.
WHAT IS HMIS?

A Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a client-level database that combines information from many different homeless and social service providers. This is accomplished on a state-wide basis, usually through a Web-based technology. In Minnesota we are using privacy-secured software called ServicePoint (www.servicept.com).

The mission of Minnesota’s HMIS is to provide standardized and timely information to improve access to housing and services, and strengthen our efforts to end homelessness.

The goal for Minnesota’s HMIS is to eventually provide as comprehensive a picture of homelessness as possible, by incorporating all emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing providers, as well as other points of contact for people experiencing homelessness, such as outreach programs, drop-in centers, and food shelves.
**BENEFITS**

- Better services to clients. Through HMIS, more comprehensive case history and enhanced communications between service providers are possible.

- Easier data management for agencies. Minnesota's HMIS provides agencies with a fairly comprehensive client-level data management tool that meets reporting requirements for several state and federal homelessness-related funding programs—and produces HUD's Annual Progress Report.

- Improved planning to prevent and end homelessness. Minnesota's HMIS offers the state a chance to answer questions important to improving service effectiveness, including: How many people use services over the course of a year? What are the needs of these people? Do new initiatives result in measurable changes?

Finally, HMIS meets a federal mandate, thus improving Minnesota's chances of continuing to receive at least its current level of HUD homeless program funding—about $20 million annually.

**WHAT ABOUT THE RISKS?**

Like any system for managing data about individuals, HMIS includes risks to personal privacy. To address these risks, data privacy has been emphasized at every step in developing and implementing Minnesota's HMIS.

The system's data security model is based on client preference and allows licensed users to see only the client information that they have permission to see. Additionally, before being able to use the system, agencies and end-users must go through training and sign agreements to uphold rigorous data privacy standards. No information that would enable the federal government to identify particular individuals is sent to HUD through Minnesota's HMIS.
AGENCIES REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE
The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is requiring its grantees under the following programs to participate in HMIS:

- Supportive Housing Program (SHP)
- Shelter Plus Care (S+C)
- Section 8 Moderate Rehab for Single Room Occupancy (SRO)
- Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG)
- Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA; grantees that specifically target homelessness are required; others are encouraged to participate)

Minnesota, service providers that receive funding under the following programs are required to participate:

**Department of Human Services / Office of Economic Opportunity**
- Transitional Housing Program (THP)
- Emergency Services Program (ESP)
- Emergency Shelter Grant Program (ESGP)
- Rural Housing Assistance and Stability Program (RHASP)

**Minnesota Housing Finance Agency**
- Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP)
- Ending Long-Term Homelessness Initiative Fund (ELHIF) and other program funds designated for long-term homelessness

WHO RUNS HMIS?
Minnesota's HMIS is overseen by a Governing Council that includes representatives of each Continuum of Care region in the state, as well as various advocacy organizations and providers serving specific homeless populations (such as youth and veterans). Wilder Research administers all aspects of the HMIS project including managing the database, helping agencies use it effectively, and creating reports from the data that help us better understand homelessness and how to improve client services. Wilder Research is teaming with Minnesota Housing Partnership to provide training for HMIS users.
"HMIS is a great way to track the services and progress of the client. Everything is outlined and right in front of me -- case notes, goals and services utilized. It saves me time. Eventually, this system will even make intakes easier and less time-consuming, as I can look the client up in the system and retrieve data telling me the basic information and other services utilized in the past."

Michele Merxbauer
Three Rivers Community Action

To date Minnesota's HMIS has received funding from:
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Minnesota Housing Finance Agency
Minnesota Department of Human Services
Minnesota Department of Corrections
Minnesota Department of Health
Minnesota Department of Education
Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Home Board
Family Housing Fund
Greater Minnesota Housing Fund
Open Your Hearts to the Hungry and Homeless
Enterprise Foundation
U.S. Department of Agriculture

To get involved or find out more, visit Minnesota's HMIS on the Web at:

www.hmismn.org
e-mail: HMIS@wilder.org
February 2005

Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless
Working to ensure everyone has a safe, decent, affordable place to call home

Policy Brief: Reducing Turnaways at Homeless Shelters & Transitional Housing

Who is homeless?
- 39% of those who are homeless are children/unaccompanied youth.
- 34% of homeless adults (46%, women) reported they stayed in an abusive relationship because they had nowhere else to live.
- 47% of homeless adults reported a significant mental health problem.
- 59% are homeless for the first time in their life.
- 44% reported being homeless a year or more (37% being homeless more than a year in 2000).
- Homelessness disproportionately impacts communities of color—57% of homeless adults and 65% of homeless youth are people of color.
- 41% of homeless adults said they need to see a doctor for a physical health problem.

What does “homeless” mean?
A person is homeless if they (1) lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; or (2) have a primary nighttime residence that is a supervised, publicly or privately operated temporary living accommodation, including emergency shelters, transitional housing, and battered women's shelters; or (3) have a nighttime residence in any place not meant for human habitation, such as under bridges or in cars. This is based on the definition used by Congress.

What does “precariously housed” mean?
A housing situation is “precarious” if it is temporary or unstable. Examples include those living “doubled up” with friends or relatives. These individuals are not included in the homeless numbers.

Number of People Experiencing Homelessness in Minnesota
Wilder Research Center's Homeless in Minnesota 2003 estimates that on 23 October 2003, the total number of homeless and precariously housed persons in Minnesota numbered 20,347. The homeless persons estimate is 8,800 to 8,900, including nearly 2,000 individuals who are forced to “live on the streets.”

Each night, approximately 7,000 individuals are “fortunate” enough to receive shelter from a variety of homeless service providers across the state (e.g. emergency shelters, domestic violence programs, transitional housing programs), according to a number of quarterly shelter surveys conducted by the Department of Human Services over the past few years.
Problem:
Due to inadequate resources, **over 1,000 individuals are regularly turned away from shelter each night in Minnesota**. Children and unaccompanied youth regularly account for nearly half of those sheltered and turned away. People turned away from shelter often must rely on unsafe accommodations: a car, an abandoned building, "the streets". Unaccompanied youth and vulnerable adults are often forced to compromise their basic values in order to secure housing from someone who wants to take advantage of them.

Solution:
To stop turning away individuals and families from emergency shelter and transitional housing, the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless proposes appropriating an additional $6 million for the Emergency Services Program (ESP) and $9 million for the Transitional Housing Program (THP).

A variety of homeless service providers, utilizing a mix of public and private resources, assist thousands of individuals experiencing homelessness each night in Minnesota. They have the expertise to assist additional households back into affordable housing of their own. However, lack of adequate resources keep them from serving everyone in need.

THP provides supportive housing and supportive services to homeless individuals and families so that they can secure permanent stable housing. Participants are required to pay at least 25% of their household income for rent, and program stay is limited to 24 months. To conform to federal allowances and to allow transitional housing to assist households with higher vulnerabilities and barriers to the housing market, the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless proposes allowing 10% of THP funds to serve households beyond 24 months. ESP funds the operating costs of shelters and essential services to homeless families and individuals.

Both programs provide a variety of services, including: self-sufficiency case management, assistance to access permanent housing, child care, employment counseling and job placement, medical and psychological help, substance abuse treatment, transportation, financial assistance available from other programs, and other services needed to stabilize homeless households in housing.

**Transitional Housing Successes:**
- 95% of those who completed transitional housing moved into independent housing (average stay is 6 months).
- The number of participants utilizing MFIP decreased from 28.6% at entrance to 19.7%
- The percentage of adults living in temporary housing who are working is 51%.
- The average income per participant increased 26% from entrance to exit.

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**Guide to temporary housing programs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emergency shelters</th>
<th>Battered women's shelters</th>
<th>Transitional housing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Access</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk in or referred by a social service agency.</td>
<td>Walk in or referred by an agency or advocate.</td>
<td>Walk in or referred by a social service agency or shelter program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If space is limited, may be selected by lottery.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Services</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe sleeping space. Most open only evenings and overnight. Some sites provide other services like hot meals, health care, employment and housing information, and connections to other services.</td>
<td>Safe refuge for women and their children when fleeing an abusive situation. Legal advocacy and moral support for women while they work on a longer-term solution to their situation.</td>
<td>Housing and support services. Usually involves working with a case manager or service coordinator to set and address goals for family and housing stability. Most are family-focused, but some serve other specific populations such as veterans, single adults, or persons with special needs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time limits</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to 30 days.</td>
<td>Until safe housing can be arranged; usually up to 30 days.</td>
<td>Varies; ranges from 48 days to 24 months.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For further information contact the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless at: Tel: 612-870-7073 Fax: 612-870-9085 e-mail: home01@isd.net Web: www.mnhomelesscoalition.org
Policy Brief: Homelessness Prevention—Addressing Homelessness Before It Starts

Family Homeless Prevention & Assistance Program (FHPAP)

FHPAP is a flexible grant program designed to assist families, youth, and single adults who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness. The program has three objectives:

- Homelessness prevention
- Shortening the length of stay in emergency shelters, or time homeless, by getting households into safe, affordable housing
- Eliminating repeated episodes of homelessness

Number of Households Served

In the last biennium (July 1, 2001—June 30, 2003), FHPAP assisted 14,676 unduplicated households, including 41,053 total people, at an average cost of $503 per household. The median household income of recipients was $8,808. Over 23,000 of those served were children, including 642 unaccompanied youth. Approximately half of those assisted were stabilized in housing before becoming homeless, while the other half were given assistance to be re-housed after becoming homeless. FHPAP emphasizes prevention, when possible, as it is both more humane and more cost effective than assisting households after they have already become homeless.

FHPAP Philosophy

The program is based on the belief that this is a community problem and requires a community response, hence the requirement of broad participation on grantee advisory boards. The program challenges grantees to consider how they will overhaul the homeless system in Minnesota by coordinating school systems, service providers, legal aid staff, county commissioners, etc.

Prevention efforts vary greatly among service providers due to the flexibility allowed at the local level to determine how best to meet the program’s three main goals. Services have included cash assistance for back rents and security deposits; case management; landlord relations; and job training. Specified case management and referral services are also provided by grantees (or specialized sub-grantees) geared towards substance abuse, mental illness, and/or youth related issues.

A Model Program

FHPAP receives national recognition. Recently, the Illinois State Legislature established a Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program modeled after the Minnesota program. FHPAP was also chosen by the National Alliance to End Homelessness as a Best Practice in prevention.
Dakota County estimates that an episode of homelessness for a family costs $13,000 (emergency shelter costs, case manager salaries, supportive services costs, and HUD dollars for rental subsidies). Preventing a homelessness episode only costs between $1,400 and $3,500 (payment of back rent or mortgage, staff time, and other miscellaneous expenses). These prevention costs are covered by a range of sources in addition to FHPAP (e.g. client resources, county funds, leveraged staff time).

In Hennepin County, 94% of the singles that received correctional exit services from FHPAP had no shelter stays post-release.

Prevention works (outcomes from July 1, 2003—June 30, 2004):

- St. Louis County reports that 78% of the households that received assistance to retain housing remained stable in their housing as a result of FHPAP. Eighty percent of the households that were stabilized in housing through FHPAP remained in that housing 6 months after receiving services.

- Hennepin County’s program served 2,787 households. Of those who received prevention assistance, 96% of families and 95% of single adults without children did not have a shelter stay after receiving services.

- The HOPE program, serving Crow Wing, Todd, and Morrison Counties, had 50 households who enrolled in its program who reached their 6-month mark; of those households, 94% remained in housing.

- Southeastern Minnesota Housing Network, serving Rice, Goodhue, Wabasha, Steele, Dodge, Olmsted, Winona, Freeborn, Mower, Fillmore, and Houston Counties, provided prevention assistance to 74 households, of which 84% were in housing six months after entering the program.

- Ramsey County’s program served 1,370 households. In its family stabilization program, which reduces recidivism by stabilizing people in safe, affordable housing, 97% of families who entered these programs did not have a subsequent shelter stay.

Current Need, Funding, and Request:

- Since 2002, the cost per household has increased—this is partially due to the erosion of Emergency Assistance, higher housing costs, and slightly higher income households requiring prevention resources. Due to these added pressures on the program, providers served 18% fewer households in 2003 due to lack of state resources.

- Currently, there are sixteen FHPAP projects, which cover 57 of Minnesota’s 87 counties. The current funding is at $7.43M for two years (through 2005). Fifty-five percent (55%) of that $7.43M goes to metro areas, and 45% to Greater Minnesota. Current grantees requested over $1.5 million more for the biennium than was allocated by the State. In addition, the program lost $250,000 in TANF resources in the current biennium.

- Prevention should be a statewide strategy. A long-term funding strategy should allow MHFA to increase the funds available to existing grantees and to help new regions design successful homeless prevention plans.

- The Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless supports a $4 million increase to work toward meeting our goal to have an adequately-funded, statewide program. Resources should be used to increase the funds available to existing grantees and to help new regions design successful homeless prevention plans.

For further information contact the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless at: Tel: 612-870-7073 Fax: 612-870-9085 e-mail: home01@isd.net Web: www.mnhomelesscoalition.org
Minnesota’s HMIS: Participating agencies

- American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO), Duluth
- Anoka County Community Action Program, Blaine
- Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, Virginia
- Ascension Place, Minneapolis
- Avenues for Homeless Youth, Minneapolis
- Bi-County Community Action Program, Bemidji
- Breaking Free, St. Paul
- Cabrini House, Minneapolis
- Carver County HRA, Chaska
- Catholic Charities, multiple cities
- Central MN Housing Partnership, St. Cloud
- Central MN Task Force on Battered Women, St. Cloud
- Church of St. Stephen’s, Minneapolis
- Churches United for the Homeless (CHUFTH), Moorhead
- Churches United in Ministry (CHUM), Duluth
- Community Action Center of Northfield, Northfield
- Community Emergency Assistance Program (CEAP), Brooklyn Park
- Dakota County Community Development Agency, Eagan
- Dakota County Community Services-Supportive Housing Unit (DCCS-SH), West St. Paul
- Dakota Woodlands, Eagan
- East Metro Women’s Council, White Bear Lake
- Elim Transitional Housing, Minneapolis
- Emma Norton Services, St. Paul
- Families Moving Forward (FMF), Minneapolis
- Fargo-Moorhead Dorothy Day House of Hospitality, Inc.
- Freeport West, Minneapolis
- Harriet Tubman Center, Minneapolis
- Hastings Veterans Home, Hastings
- Heartland Community Action Agency, Willmar
- Hennepin County, Minneapolis
- Home of the Good Shepherd, St. Paul
- Housing Coalition of the St. Cloud Area, St. Cloud
- Houston County Women’s Resources, Hokah
- Inter-County Community Council (ICCC), Oklee
- KOOTASCA Community Action, International Falls
- Lakes and Pines Community Action Council, Inc., Mora
- Legal Aid Service of NE Minnesota, Duluth
- Life House, Duluth
- Listening Ear Crisis Center, Alexandria
- Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS), St. Paul
- Mental Health Resources, Eagan
- Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MAC-V)
- Minnesota Valley Action Council, Mankato
- Minnesota Veterans Home, Minneapolis
- Model Cities of St. Paul, St. Paul
- Motivation, Education, and Training (MET), Willmar
- New Foundations, Inc., St. Paul
- New Pathways, Cambridge
- Northwest Community Action (NWCAA), Badger
- Northwestern Mental Health Center, Crookston
- Olmsted Community Action Program, Rochester
- Our Saviour’s Housing, Minneapolis
- Partners for Affordable Housing (PAH), Mankato
- Perspectives-SHP, St. Louis Park
- Peta Wakan Tipi, St. Paul
- Prairie Community Services, Hancock
- Prairie Five Community Action Council, Montevideo
- Range Mental Health Center (RMHC), Virginia
- Range Transitional Housing (RTH), Virginia
- Red Wing Area Coalition for Transitional Housing
- Resource, Inc., Minneapolis
- Rise, Inc., Spring Lake Park
- Rochester Area Family Y, Rochester
- RS Eden, St. Paul
- Safe Haven for Youth, Prior Lake
- Salvation Army, multiple cities
- Scott Carver Dakota CAP (SCD CAP), Shakopee
- Scott County Human Services, Shakopee
- Semcac, Rushford
- Simpson Housing Services, Minneapolis
- Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, St. Paul
- Southwestern MN Opportunity Council, Worthington
- St. Cloud HRA, St. Cloud
- St. Louis County, Virginia
- Steele County Transitional Housing, Owatonna
- Theresa Living Center, St. Paul
- Three Rivers Community Action, Zumbrota
- Tri-Valley Opportunity Council (TVOC), Crookston
- Urban League, St. Paul
- Violence Intervention Project, Thief River Falls
- Volunteers of America (VoA), multiple cities
- Washington County, Stillwater
- West Central Minnesota Communities Action, Inc. (WCMA), Elbow Lake
- Western Community Action, Marshall
- White Earth Reservation Tribal Council, White Earth
- Women’s Advocates, St. Paul
- Women’s Transitional Housing (WTH), Duluth
- Worthington HRA, Worthington
- Wright County Community Action (WCCA), Maple Lake
- Youthlink, Minneapolis
- YWCA of Duluth, Duluth
- YWCA of Fargo-Moorhead, Fargo-Moorhead
- YWCA of St. Paul, St. Paul
- Zumbro Valley Mental Health (ZVMH), Rochester

Database administrator: Wilder Research, Saint Paul, Minnesota

Last updated March 2005
Minnesota’s HMIS: Governing Council
Current membership, April 2005

Continuum of Care representatives
Anoka: Barb Wold, Anoka County
Central: Brenda Engelking, Central Minnesota Housing Partnership
Dakota: Jane Lawrenz, Dakota County Community Services Division (Implementation Group Chair)
Hennepin: Pat Crosby, Hennepin County
Northeast: Patty Beech, Northeast Continuum of Care
Northwest: John Pugleasa, Beltrami Area Service Collaborative
St. Louis: Ken Hall, Range Transitional Housing
Scott/Carver: Judson Kenyon, Scott-Carver-Dakota CAP Agency
Southeast: Mary Ulland-Evans or Michele Merxbauer, Three Rivers Community
Southwest: Becky Riess, Western Community Action, Inc.
Ramsey: Jim Anderson or Shannon Kennedy, Ramsey County
Washington: Tina O'Malley Bayonet, Washington County Social Services
West Central: Diane Walker, West Central Minnesota Community Action

State agency representatives
- Minnesota Housing Finance Agency: Jamey Burden, Family Homeless Prevention & Assistance Program
- Department of Human Services: Isaac Wengerd, Office of Economic Opportunity

Elected-at-large members
- Michael Dahl, Executive Director, Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless
- Marcia Otte, Family Services Director, Mahube Community Council
- Steve Long, Lakes and Pines Community Action Council
- LaRae Roeder, Salvation Army
- Christy Snow Kaster, Metro-wide Engagement on Shelter and Housing (MESH)
- Richard Wayman, Streetworks Collaborative for Homeless Youth and the Runaway and Homeless Youth Coalition
- Kathleen Vitalis, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans
Senators Dibble, Kubly, Jungbauer, Sams and Anderson introduced--
S.F. No. 1166: Referred to the Committee on Finance.

A bill for an act
relating to housing; appropriating money for the
bridges rental housing assistance program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. [BRIDGES RENTAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE;]

APPROPRIATION.]

$3,400,000 in fiscal year 2006 and $3,400,000 in fiscal
year 2007 are appropriated from the general fund to the Housing
Finance Agency for the bridges rental housing assistance program
under Minnesota Statutes, section 462A.2097. These
appropriations are in addition to any base appropriations for
this purpose and shall become part of the agency's base.
nAMI
Minnesota
BRIDGES HOUSING PROGRAM

What is Bridges?
Bridges provides temporary support for people with serious persistent mental illness while they are waiting to get on federal Section 8 rental subsidy program. With Bridges, like Section 8, a low-income person with mental illness rents an apartment at the regular market rate and pays 30% of his/her income for rent. The program pays the balance. The goal of the program is to provide stability in the lives of its recipients.

Last biennium the state allocated approximately $1.6 million per year of the biennium for the Bridges program.

Who qualifies for Bridges?
Applicants for Bridges must have a serious and persistent mental illness. Families can apply, but an adult member of the family needs to have a serious and persistent mental illness. Household income needs to be under 50% of the area median income. Bridges was designed for and priority is given to persons who are:

- Homeless,
- Residing in a Regional Treatment Center (RTC) or served through state operated services,
- Residing in community-based intensive treatment facilities (IRTS),
- Living in Board and Lodge, Board and Care, Nursing Homes, Apartment Training programs, Shared Housing, Transitional Housing or
- Living in substandard and/or rent burdened (more than 50% of household income).

Why is Bridges important?
Without access to affordable housing, people enter more costly programs. Presently more than 20% of the people at each level of treatment - inpatient, state regional treatment center, intensive residential treatment - are waiting to move to the next lower and less expensive level of treatment but at due to the lack of affordable housing. And, presently, 50% of people with mental illness at Anoka Regional Treatment Center do not need to be there. Related to this, according to the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation in their 2003 study 52% of people with long-term homelessness have a serious and persistent mental illness and 24% have a dual diagnosis of both mental illness and chemical dependency.

Is Bridges cost effective?
Providing people with a serious and persistent mental illness with safe, stable housing allows them to focus on recovery and employment. Their lives are improved and there is significant public savings, particularly if supportive services are available. It costs the state $390 per month for a Bridges Housing subsidy. It costs the state $459 per day to keep a person in Anoka. In-patient hospital stays range from $459 to $857 per day.

Conclusion
Currently some counties are not keeping a waiting list for the Bridges program. They feel it is futile. People that the Bridges program would serve are precariously housed and move often so it would be difficult, if not impossible, to find them. An official with Hennepin County describes the situation there as: “staggering – overwhelming”. In January of 2005, MN Housing Finance Agency records show 345 active participants in the Bridges program. The program is now serving 298 fewer households compared to 2001 while the need is more acute.

Simultaneously, the federal Section 8 housing program is stagnate (especially in the Metro area) and has been so for quite some time. The Section 8 waiting lists are generally not open. So, as a result, in the last couple of years Bridges participants are staying on the Bridges program and not moving quickly onto Section 8 – which is resulting in no real new activity in terms of the Bridges program assisting new or additional households.

In order to meet the waiting list and unmet needs, an additional $3.4 million dollars beyond the current amount allocated in the Governor’s budget is needed in each of the next two fiscal years.
Senator Dibble introduced--
S.F. No. 1813: Referred to the Committee on Finance.

A bill for an act relating to housing; appropriating money to the Housing Finance Agency for the Homeless Management Information System.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. [APPROPRIATION.]

$800,000 is appropriated from the general fund for the fiscal biennium ending June 30, 2007, to the Housing Finance Agency for the nonprofit capacity building program to administer the state's Homeless Management Information System.
Senators Anderson, Dibble, Rosen, Gerlach and Frederickson introduced--
S.F. No. 683: Referred to the Committee on Finance.

A bill for an act
relating to housing; the Housing Finance Agency;
appropriating money to the family homeless prevention
and assistance program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
Section 1. [APPROPRIATION.]
$4,000,000 is appropriated to the Housing Finance Agency
from the general fund for the fiscal biennium ending June 30,
2007, for transfer to the housing development fund for the
family homeless prevention and assistance program under
Minnesota Statutes, section 462A.204. This appropriation is in
addition to any other appropriation and shall become part of the
agency's base.