

Position Statement

2021

Support Legislative Proposal by Dakota County to Expand Housing Support Demonstration

Proposal

Issue:	Allows metro-wide access to Housing Support Demonstration units and increases total capacity to serve additional people experiencing homelessness in the region.
Implementation Strategy:	Expand Housing Support Demonstration Capacity to all seven metro counties and expand the number of available beds.

Systemic Priority Alignment (highlight all that apply and explain why)

- Equity
- Integrated Services
- Fiscal Framework

Comments: It will increased access to affordable housing across all Metro Counties.

Relevant Committee (highlight all that apply and explain why)

- Adult Services
- Behavioral Health
- Children's Services
- Modernization
- Policy
- Self-Sufficiency

Why: Access to affordable housing is a key barrier to individuals and families leading stable and productive lives.

Rationale/Background:

The Housing Support Demonstration project under 2561.04 Subd. 3(a)(3) allows for the use of Housing Support as traditional rental assistance (30% of income toward rent) and support services for persons experiencing homelessness. Statute current limits this use of Housing Support to Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin and Ramsey Counties and to 226 total people or "supportive housing units". This has been in place since 1997 and has been successful providing housing stability.

- Add Carver, Scott and Washington Counties to expand to all metro counties and align the Housing Support Demonstration project to the seven participating counties in the Metro Supportive Housing Cooperative Agreement. Through this Cooperative Agreement, the metro counties are jointly administering the Housing Support Demo Project.
- Expand capacity to allow for increased capacity across the metro area.
- Remove language requiring discharge from a facility and language requiring 70% people served with a specific disability to align with eligibility under the new MA service (256B.051 Subd 2e).

Proposed Statute Language

(3) notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision 2a, for up to 500 supportive housing units in Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, ~~or Ramsey County~~, Scott or Washington counties for homeless adults with a mental illness, a history of substance abuse, or human immunodeficiency virus or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. For purposes of this section, "homeless adult" means a person who is living on the street or in a shelter or ~~discharged from a regional treatment center, community hospital, or residential treatment program~~ and has no appropriate housing available and lacks the resources and support necessary to access appropriate housing. ~~At least 70 percent of the supportive housing units must serve homeless adults with mental illness, substance abuse problems, or human immunodeficiency virus or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome who are about to be or, within the previous six months, have been discharged from a regional treatment center, or a state contracted psychiatric bed in a community hospital, or a residential mental health or chemical dependency treatment program.~~ If a person meets the requirements of subdivision 1, paragraph (a) or (b), and receives a federal or state housing subsidy, the housing support rate for that person is limited to the supplementary rate under section 256I.05, subdivision 1a, ~~and is determined by subtracting the amount of the person's countable income that exceeds the MSA equivalent rate from the housing support supplementary service rate.~~ A resident in a demonstration project site who no longer participates in the demonstration program shall retain eligibility for a housing support payment in an amount determined under section 256I.06, subdivision 8, using the MSA equivalent rate. ~~Service funding under section 256I.05, subdivision 1a, will end June 30, 1997, if federal matching funds are available and the services can be provided through a managed care entity. If federal matching funds are not available, then service funding will continue under section 256I.05, subdivision 1a;~~



MACSSA

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Approved on: