



In 2023, Minnesota lawmakers passed the largest investment ever made by the state to prevent and end homelessness—including priorities led and endorsed by Catholic Charities to support our direct service programs and address systemic inequities in housing.

More than \$2 billion in state funding will help strengthen and expand emergency shelter operations for those experiencing a homelessness crisis, enhance tenant protections and homelessness prevention programs, stabilize nonprofit supportive housing providers, increase the supply of deeply affordable and accessible housing, and more.



## Legislation Signed into Law

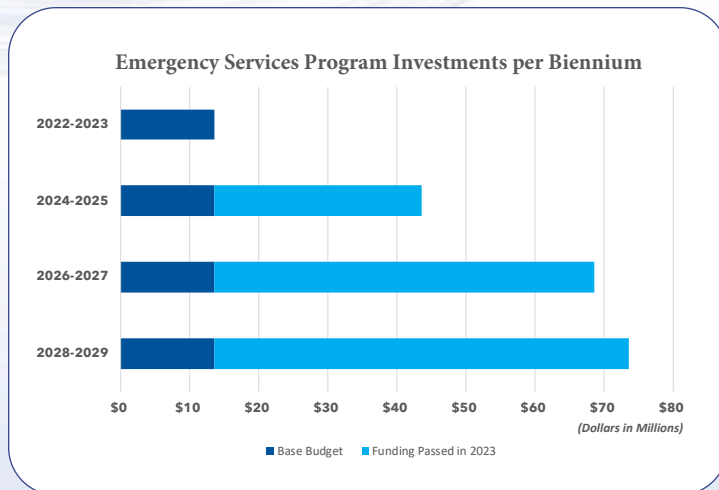
*Flexible Funding for*

### Emergency Shelter Operations

Catholic Charities’ advocacy helped secure historic increases to the **Emergency Services Program (ESP)** and **Homeless Youth Act (HYA)**, the state’s primary and most flexible funding sources to support youth and adults experiencing homelessness. These long-overdue investments will help support safety net operations and services like housing navigators, medical and mental health help, employment counseling and job placements, and more—as well as the shelter workforce behind them.

Building on these base investments is \$22.8 million in one-time funding championed by Hennepin County and the Ramsey

Continuum of Care to maintain shelter capacity and services previously funded by federal dollars. Of this, Catholic Charities will receive a total of \$3.7 million to support emergency day services and overnight shelter operations.



### Reforming Housing Support

Housing Support pairs housing assistance with case management services and basic necessities like food, bed and linens, and laundry, making it one of the state’s best tools to prevent and end homelessness. Inequities in how the state treats individuals’ income, however, means that individuals with disabilities and veterans could be forced to

Housing Support reform limits the amount of income tenants must pay towards rent to

**30%**



pay as much as 90% of their monthly income toward their housing, leaving them with just \$121 for other expenses. Catholic Charities led legislation capping at 30% the amount of “unearned income” (including Social Security Income and veterans benefits) tenants must pay towards their housing expenses, effective October 2024 for individuals living in community settings. This will help more individuals exit homelessness and help those with housing keep it.

Lawmakers also passed legislation establishing 3-month presumptive eligibility for Housing Support for individuals discharged from the corrections system and increased the Housing Support supplemental service rate to \$494.91. These investments will help prevent homelessness for more at-risk individuals and increase public support for providers like Catholic Charities who offer case management services to help residents maintain safe, stable housing.



*Dedicated Funding for*  
**Homeless Elders**

Catholic Charities’ Homeless Elders program helps low-income older adults experiencing homelessness find stable housing by providing intensive case management and assistance navigating Minnesota’s aging

and disability services. It’s a unique program serving the region but has a standing waitlist averaging 60 individuals and 3-4 months, leaving already vulnerable individuals at risk for poorer health outcomes and premature death.

A one-time, direct appropriation of \$1.5 million to Catholic Charities will help increase capacity and reduce waiting periods for aging Minnesotans in need.

*Pandemic Relief for*  
**Nonprofit Supportive Housing Providers**

\$50 million in one-time funding for a **Stable Housing Organization Relief** fund will provide budget relief to nonprofit housing providers like Catholic Charities that experienced significant financial impacts due to the pandemic. The investment recognizes the unique role nonprofit housing providers play in Minnesota’s housing continuum and will help preserve the supply of supportive housing units for people at risk of homelessness and with low incomes.



Lawmakers also passed \$25 million in one-time funding for a **Strengthening Supportive Housing** fund to help supportive housing providers cover tenant-focused services, like front desk staff and security costs, to better serve individuals and families who reside in permanent supportive housing.





Addressing

## Housing Discrimination

Lawmakers passed numerous protections intended to address housing discrimination, stabilize renter households, and prevent homelessness, including but not limited to:

- Requiring a 14-day notice prior to filing an eviction for non-payment of rent.
- Limiting eviction reporting until a final judgment is made and expanding expungement requirements.
- Allowing tenants to end a lease for medical issues.
- Requiring landlords to disclose non-optional fees in leases and advertisements.

A set of provisions known as the **Clean Slate Act** will automate criminal record expungements for certain non-violent offenses that already qualify for expungement under Minnesota's current petition process. These reforms will help ensure individuals exiting the corrections system have a fair second chance to find housing and work as they return to their communities.

## Building More Housing

A one-time, \$200 million state investment in housing infrastructure will boost Minnesota's efforts to increase the supply of deeply affordable and accessible housing across the state. Funding can provide loans and grants for the development of permanent supportive housing, preservation of existing housing, senior housing, single family homes, and manufactured home park infrastructure.

## Other Notable Investments

- Establishment of a statewide **recuperative care program**, allowing for Medicaid reimbursement of care provided to individuals experiencing homelessness who were discharged from the hospital but who aren't well enough to recover on their own on the streets.
- \$100 million for **emergency shelter capital** to increase the number of shelter beds across the state and improve the safety and habitability of existing shelters.
- Establishment of a statewide **rental assistance program** ("Bring it Home"), which will provide vouchers to an estimated 5,500 low-income renters to ensure they don't pay more than 30% of their income toward rent.
- Increasing **Childcare Assistance Program (CCAP)** payment rates to the 75th percentile, to help expand affordable childcare options for low-income working families and help providers better recruit and retain quality staff.
- Increasing **community-based mental health** rates by 3%, to support timely access to quality mental health care, such as that provided to youth by Catholic Charities' day treatment program.
- Increasing the monthly **General Assistance (GA)** rate to \$350. GA is a state benefit for very-low-income adults without children. This is the first time the rate has been increased since 1986.



56

out of 67 State Senators received messages from constituent advocates in support of Catholic Charities' advocacy agenda.



83

out of 134 State Representatives received messages from constituent advocates in support of Catholic Charities' advocacy agenda.



## Outreach and Impact

Catholic Charities advocates sent **nearly 1,000 messages** to lawmakers in support of bold investments in housing and homelessness this year. We added more than **175 new advocates** to our network and, with their help, reached more than 80% of senators and more than 60% of representatives from legislative districts across Minnesota.



We held dozens of meetings with legislators, testified before legislative committees, and shared regular updates on all our priorities and the latest Capitol happenings with the public. Each week during session, **over 500 people** tuned in to our legislative updates on social media.

Our advocacy and the expertise of our staff and the individuals we serve was recognized by media outlets throughout the year. Highlights include:

- “These Minnesotans get shelter at a price too steep,” Star Tribune, February 5, 2023.
- “Storm led homeless day center to stay open all night: Catholic Charities Opportunity Center kept its doors open 36 hours straight as other homeless day centers closed in during the storm,” KARE 11, February 23, 2023.
- “Catholic Charities CEO says it needs state support to grow,” FOX 9, March 30, 2023.

- “Minnesota business leaders back proposed \$220-plus million homelessness proposal,” MinnPost, May 2, 2023.
- “Minnesota nonprofits urge legislators to boost funding for homeless services,” Star Tribune, May 3, 2023.
- “Nonprofit affordable housing developers say they’re in dire straits,” Finance & Commerce, May 3, 2023.

## Moving Forward

The investments made by the 2023 Legislature are aimed at tackling big problems and will benefit thousands of people—including those served by Catholic Charities—but we know our work isn’t yet done. Much of the funding is one-time, and ending homelessness will continue to require strong relationships with public and private partners. We invite you to join us as we work to build on this success and create opportunities for people to thrive.

## More Information

To learn more about Catholic Charities’ advocacy, visit [cctwincities.org/advocate](https://cctwincities.org/advocate), scan the QR code below or contact Lorna Schmidt, Director of Public Policy & Advocacy, at [lorna.schmidt@cctwincities.org](mailto:lorna.schmidt@cctwincities.org).



CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
Twin Cities

