



June 22, 2023

Commissioner Jodi Harpstead, Minnesota Department of Human Services

Dear Commissioner Harpstead,

The Minnesota Community Action Partnership Board (MinnCAP) of Directors on behalf of its 24 member Community Action Agencies (CAA's) writes to urge you to keep housing programs under the jurisdiction of the Office of Economic Opportunity by moving those programs to the new Department of Children, Youth and Families.

Many of the CAA's serving Minnesota operate housing programs under contract to DHS. This includes services provided under the Homeless Youth Act, the Emergency Services Program, and Transitional Housing. These programs allow CAA's to meet the shelter needs of unaccompanied homeless youth, short term housing to help people leave homelessness and find stable housing, and flexible funding to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness across the state.

As programs under current DHS management are allocated to the new department, we feel that it is critical that funding and administrative support remain with OEO to assure continued coordination of these vital programs between the state and local providers. We value our long-term relationship with the Department and the excellent support and leadership of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Finally, we appreciate the many factors that go into decisions around organizational restructuring and wish you and all Department staff the best as you manage through the transition. Please feel free to call on us as you may need during this period.

Sincerely,

Bill Grant, MinnCAP Executive Director

Cc: MinnCAP Board of Directors