

State Policy Agenda

Updated March 31, 2020



Beacon
INTERFAITH HOUSING COLLABORATIVE

What We Affirm

When all people have access to stable housing, our communities are stronger and healthier. Everyone needs a place to call home they can afford, especially during the current public health crisis.

Minnesota was already in a housing crisis before COVID-19, with thousands paying over half of their income to housing costs. Now is the time we must come together and invest so that all people have a home.

What We Need to Do

Pass Emergency Rental Assistance Now

\$100 million for the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program

No one should lose their home because of COVID-19. Hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans have lost their job or source of income, and even with federal relief and unemployment, some will not be able to pay rent. Though Minnesota's eviction moratorium means renters won't lose their homes right now, rent will continue to come due. We are heading toward an eviction crisis if we do not act.

We need to act immediately and pass \$100 million in emergency COVID-19 funds for housing supports through the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP). \$100 million could provide \$400 emergency assistance for 250,000 families.

Invest in Building Homes

\$500 million in Housing Bonds in the 2020 state legislative session

Minnesota is a leader in investing our state bonding dollars in creating homes for people who need it the most, like people leaving homelessness. Beacon has been awarded bonding dollars for five of our recent developments: Prior Crossing in Saint Paul; 66 West in Edina; Lydia expansion in Minneapolis; Bimosedaa in Minneapolis; and American House renovation in Saint Paul.

We are counting on these funds for Vista 44, Prairie Pointe, and family supportive housing in north Minneapolis. If the legislature does not pass a bonding bill, these homes will not be created at a time we need them most. Even in these economic times, a bonding bill makes sense because it creates more work, sustaining construction jobs, and it is economical for the state to borrow money at a time of low-interest rates.

Bring It Home, Minnesota

Housing Stability for All (HF 3205 / SF 3394)

The current crisis is showing more acutely that Minnesota is in a housing crisis. 550,000 Minnesotans, many of them children, live in a household struggling every month to pay the rent in the "best of times." One financial crisis (or a pandemic) could tip them over the edge.

We know a solution to our housing crisis. We need a statewide rental subsidy program so that everyone has a rent they can afford. Rent subsidy brings housing stability to families and communities. It's time to Bring It Home, Minnesota.

For more information, contact Beacon's director of public policy, Ben Helvick Anderson 612.760.3129 bhelvickanderson@beaconinterfaith.org Congregations, please contact your organizer.