



## HEARTH CONNECTION BELIEVES THAT EVERYONE DESERVES A HOME.

We work with government entities, community stakeholders, nonprofit partners and direct service providers to strengthen Minnesota's network of services for people experiencing homelessness.

### WHAT WE DO

Hearth Connection is a bridge between entities focused on addressing homelessness and housing issues with those focused on providing human services. Hearth Connection provides coordination and services for IT systems, personnel training, financial resources, and more so that **community-based providers can focus on delivering high-quality direct services**. In addition to working with local, state, federal and tribal partners, Hearth Connection manages a network of 32 service agencies in 46 Minnesota counties.

### WHY WE DO IT

Minnesota families, veterans and adults with disabilities who experience long-term homelessness often cycle through multiple health and human services systems without achieving lasting recovery or stability. **Hearth Connection believes that by enhancing coordination and integration of housing, healthcare and supportive services, individuals and families can achieve greater stability and long-term success.**

### WHO WE SERVE

Hearth Connection serves direct service agencies across the state. We focus on navigating administrative systems so these agencies can focus on what they do best – serving individuals and families holistically to address complex needs. While we continue to evaluate its ongoing impacts, COVID-19 has increased the instability of people on the brink of experiencing homelessness.

We serve **3,000+ participants** each year who have experienced an average of 2.4 years of continued homelessness.

- 37% are families with minor children
- 8% are unaccompanied youth
- 5% are veterans

Those struggling with long-term homelessness face increasingly complex challenges. Of the adults in our programs:

- Nearly 70% have histories of serious mental health issues
- 62% exhibit chemical dependencies
- 16% experience chronic health disorders or terminal illness

### HOW THE STATE OF MINNESOTA CAN HELP

**To continue this innovative work, the Long-Term Homeless Supportive Services Fund (LTHSSF) must be protected and fully funded.**

Current funding levels allow for only a patchwork approach to our services, as there are not enough resources. Hearth Connection has seven regional projects that have proven successful in ending long-term homelessness for families, single adults and unaccompanied youth by integrating supportive services and housing resources.

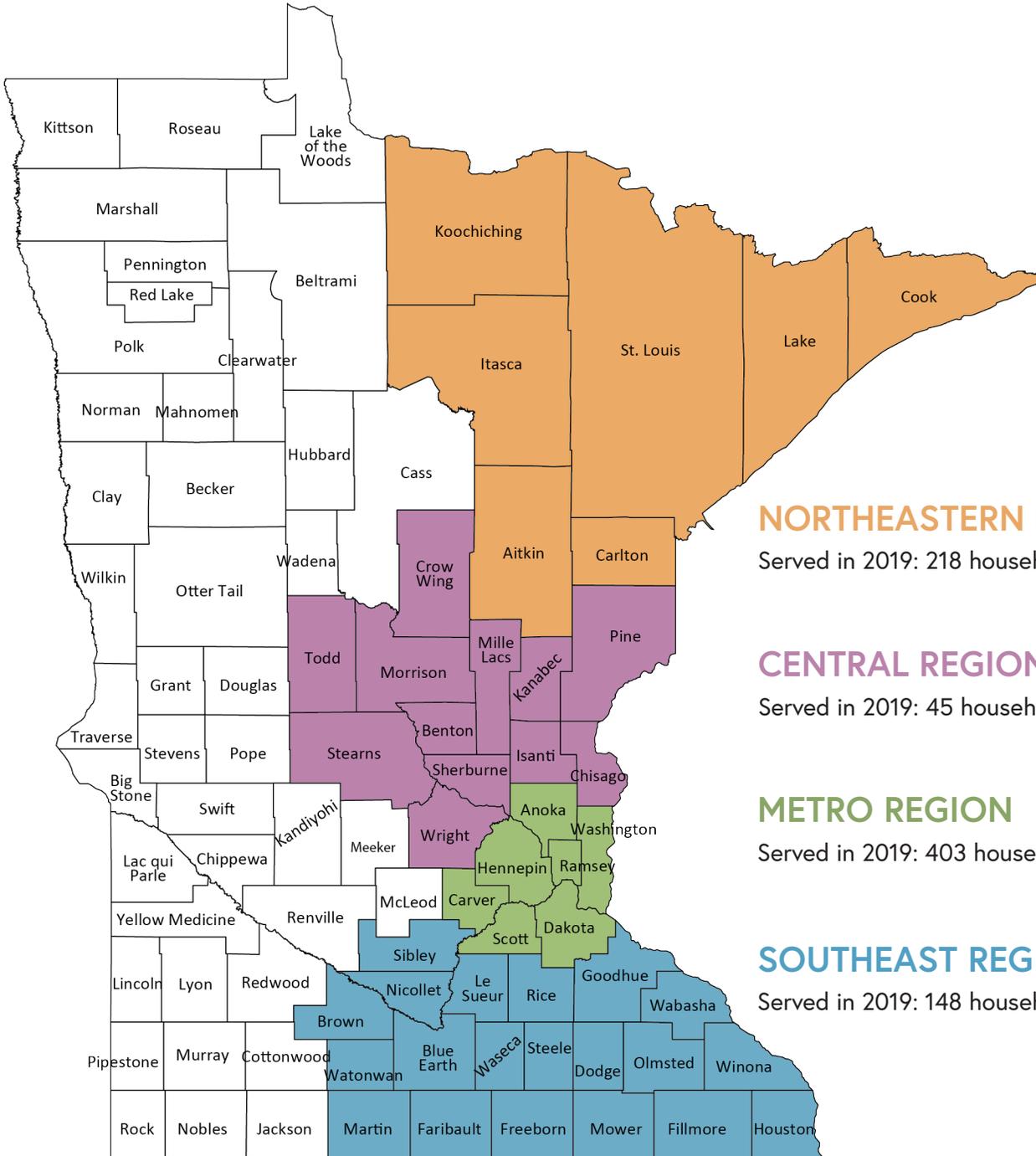
The success behind these programs lies in the combination of assisting with not only locating housing but also ensuring that individuals and families have the resources they need to remain in that housing.

Hearth Connection's legislative request will help the state leverage its limited resources to ensure that individuals and families are being effectively served by direct service providers and set toward success.

**Hearth Connection is requesting that the LTHSSF be increased by \$14 million per biennium to serve all households eligible for these services. This increase would:**

- **Meet the statewide need to help direct service organizations successfully navigate services and housing for eligible individuals and families; and**
- **Come at a critical time in our state's economy to support recovery throughout our state's population.**

# REGIONS SERVED BY THE LONG-TERM HOMELESSNESS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FUND



## NORTHEASTERN REGION

Served in 2019: 218 households; 331 individuals

## CENTRAL REGION

Served in 2019: 45 households; 120 individuals

## METRO REGION

Served in 2019: 403 households; 708 individuals

## SOUTHEAST REGION

Served in 2019: 148 households; 291 individuals



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## QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

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