

2019 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

SB 2263

2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Red River Room, State Capitol

SB 2263
1/22/2019
Job # 31170

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature: Justin Velez

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

To provide an appropriation to the department of commerce for homeless shelter grants.

Minutes:

Attachments # 1-8

Vice Chairman O. Larsen: Opens the hearing on SB 2263

Senator Kathy Hogan, District 21. Introduced SB 2263. Testifying in favor of SB 2263. Please see **Attachment #1** for testimony.

(02:33-09:15) Christina Sambor, on behalf of the North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People. Testifying in favor of SB 2263. Please see **Attachment #2** for testimony.

Senator O. Larsen: Statistically with the data, where did they go? Where did these 7,000 people/beneficiaries go?

Christina Sambor: One of the other impacts from the cut in funding, to be quite frank with the committee, when you see this kind of drop off in direct services, it also cuts off the ability for us to collect data and to do those kind of surveys. I can say as a resident of Bismarck I think we have seen an increase of visible homelessness in the community. When we look at lacking sufficient funding to even provide nights of shelter we also lack staff that can go out and study and find out what is happening to the people we are not able to serve.

Senator Anderson: When one of our homeless shelters in Bismarck closed they had one of the individuals they were helping on the news. And he had been in subsidized rental property for 17 years. How do we prevent that from happening when we are putting money into these homeless shelter? I am not exactly sure why they closed. This is an example on why the public is not real crazy about supporting people in homeless shelters like that.

Christina Sambor: It's a complex question and I think that there are certain people in our society that will need help longer than I think a lot of people are comfortable seeing us sustain funding. I think about people in our own families sometimes that will always need our help and support. What we see sometimes is that there are people in our communities that need that same level of support but don't have a family unit to provide that. I think that a lot of the

policy issues that have been taken up by this committee this session and looking at improving access to more intensive supports and improving access to peer support and things that can help people make a difference in their lives. I think that one of the catch 22's is if we just provided just enough funding to just keep shelters opens and not do some of the additional case work. I can speak from my experience with YouthWorks, when we work with youth between the ages of 18-22 that are struggling with homelessness that goes along with intensive case management. We are working with that youth to make positive and permanent connections, education, vocational, and employment options so that we can get involved early so that we don't end up with someone who is chronically homeless for the rest of their lives. We have Cody Shuler here from the Fargo/Moorhead coalition that can speak better to your concern.

Madam Chair Lee: I would be interested to know whether or not that individual had mental illness or a substance abuse issue, any number of those kinds of things because on average families receive one and a half months of assistance. There is a really good project going on with a partnership between the YWCA and Lutheran Church of the Cross, and they are doing apartments. The church has made available part of their property to build this structure on. I actually drove by to pay attention to it and its coming along great but it's for people who are transitioning out of the supports of the Y and put into secure housing. There will be services available and will allow them to move on eventually to their own independence. A lot of the facilities that provide sleeping space, don't want the residents to be there all day. I didn't realize until about 2 years ago at a chamber of commerce event when I talked to the Fargo Public Libraries staff what a tremendous issue it is with the homeless in all of the libraries. They are sensitive to the problem but they also have issues with what's happening with that.

Senator K. Roers: Just an example, I took a tour of the Bright Sky apartments and they said that they will actually have some people who have that really long term need but then it actually ends up cheaper to put them in that supportive housing and allow them to continue to drink then it is to utilize some of the more emergency services at a much higher cost. It is kind of like providing them primary care versus letting them use the emergency room all the time.

Christina Sambor: I think Cody will provide some of that information as well, some of these problems are costly no matter how we deal with them. Fargo is doing a great job collecting data that shows the cost savings that happens from housing people. I think it's more the exception than the rule that these long term folks that need support over a long period of time but Fargo is doing nice work in collecting financial data that shows that those front end supports and securing homelessness save an immense amount of money in terms of ER visits and incarceration.

Madam Chair Lee: And YouthWorks does a great job by the way.

Senator Clemens: We hear a lot about the workforce problem in North Dakota. I'm sure your making efforts during the day to try to encourage some of these people to the workforce during the daytime hours. It seems to me that there would be a substantial amount that want to work and there are a lot of jobs available.

Christina Sambor: My background is with working with YouthWorks and homeless youth so what I would like to do is just ask Cody Schuler answer your question when he comes up if that is ok. What I can speak to you in terms of YouthWorks programming is that part of the federal funding that we get and all the programs we do, is that we set specific goals and work towards educational and employment attainment and that is part and parcel of working with our program and receiving housing. You have to work with a case manager that is helping you set educational goals and understand what you are looking for and want to qualify for housing through our program. On our end we are trying to work with people who are young and struggling and making sure that we are meeting the immediate need for housing while also meeting longer term needs that will help them have a sustainable and happy lifestyle.

(19:30-24:55) Cody Schuler, Executive Director of the Fargo-Moorhead Coalition to End Homelessness. Testifying in favor of SB 2263. Please see **Attachment #3** for testimony.

Senator Anderson: It seems to me that every time the mayor starts a coalition to end homelessness the numbers that we count increase and it seems the more services we have provided the further backwards we go.

Cody Schuler: The Fargo-Moorhead coalition has been in existence since 1989 and that coalition was started by our shelters at that time to better work together. What our coalitions have done across the state is connect our services better together to work to find solutions. In Fargo, when we as a coalition the better that we work together we have been able to match the growth in homelessness and what has happened is by bringing our partners around the table we found solutions like creating a medical respite program which has greatly reduced millions of dollars in savings in Fargo because there is a place for individuals experiencing homelessness after they have been in the ER if they can't return to shelter because of their medical needs there is a place for them to go, rather than longer hospital stays or going back on the street. I would say that when we come together in this state what I have seen in communities when coalitions form around an issue like homelessness we recognize the issue and are able to bring people together to break down barriers and be able to work better together.

Senator Hogan: Tell me about the availability of low and moderate income housing because I think sometimes access and finding low income housing is a huge barrier isn't it?

Cody Schuler: I believe that in Fargo we have a lot of available apartments in Fargo but many of them are ones that I can't afford as a full time employee of the coalition. There is a lack of affordability. Our section 8 vouchers in Fargo I believe the last time I checked with them, we are talking multiple years of a waiting list, up to four years in some cases.

Senator Hogan: Explain what section 8 is and how it works.

Cody Schuler: Section 8 are vouchers provided by the federal government to our housing authority that then provides cash rental assistance.

Senator Hogan: So if someone was homeless and they couldn't get subsidy for housing they had to wait four years they are going to end up homeless even if they are working because they can't afford the rent.

Cody Schuler: If your fortunate to be sheltered during that time what we have also learned is that statistics show that the longer you are in shelter, the harder it is to provide stable housing in the long term.

Senator Hogan: Do you have any sense of how many of the homeless people that are served through your coalition, have jobs and are working?

Cody Schuler: I can tell you that we are currently processing the data that was collected in October that is going to shed some light on the current population is like. I can tell you that in 2015 we believe it was something like 49% of the people experiencing homelessness at that time were reporting employment as their main source of income.

(31:35-35:53) Mark Heinert, Homeless Programs Manager at Youthworks. Testifying in favor of SB 2263. Please see **Attachment #4** for testimony.

Senator O. Larsen: How many of these folks have decided to go to the military?

Mark Heinert: I would probably say 5-10%

Senator Clemens: When you have a person staying at one of your places. Do you show them how to get health insurance, job opportunities, access to rides, etc.? Is that being offered to people coming in?

Mark Heinert: It is, however we know the longer someone stay in a shelter the more it costs and the less effective it becomes. We actually saw from 2016-2018 an increase in stay. Yes, we need to have funds to provide that. We are working to survive just like our clients are working to survive. Food, clothing, and shelter. We need to put more funds in. We can provide mentorship and support, if we had the funding.

(36:45-00:00) MiLinda Turner. Testifying in favor of SB 2263. Please see **Attachment #5** for testimony.

Senator Hogan: How did you connect with Youthworks?

MiLinda Turner: My freshman year of high school my teachers set up a meeting with Youthworks for me, and from there I have pretty much worked with all the programs they had.

Senator Hogan: So they nurtured you through that transition from high school to adulthood.

MiLinda Turner: Yes.

(42:35-49:17) Obadiah Pipeboy, Testifying in favor of SB 2263. Please see **Attachment #6** for testimony.

Senator Hogan: I'm interested in your plan to join the military. How did you get to that decision?

Obadiah Pipeboy: When my mom spent some time in prison so I grew up with my Grandpa and he was a hardcore marine. If there was one thing I learned from him was to thrive through chaos. I'm joining the army mainly because I can't swim as much as a marine. I'll be front lines infantry then hopefully transfer to a technician job with plumbing. In 10 years from now you will Pipeboy's Plumbing throughout the area.

Senator Clemens: I just want to give you encouragement. I am a veteran I spent two years in the Army. I know the Native Americans have a high regard for veterans and you will not regret going into the military and I think it will open up a great lane for you whether you stay there or go back into civilian life. I appreciate your testimony and just giving you the encouragement.

(51:47-53:40) Renae Moch, Director for Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health. Testifying in favor of SB 2263. Please see **Attachment #7** for testimony.

Senator Hogan: I appreciate that Public Health recognizes that this is an issue. Does your Public Health Organization talk about it?

Renae Moch: Just to give you an example, we have, similar to Fargo, Missouri Valley Homeless Coalition that's kind of redeveloping themselves and working to address the issue. I know that Minot has a shelter as well. When it comes to planning for the type of facility that we need in Bismarck we are kind of all in the planning stage right now to see what we can do to address the gaps that have been identified. I know that when we had gone through our crisis when the shelter was closed here, we kind of worked with the other cities across the state of North Dakota to see what we could do in the interim until Sunrise United Way's shelter had opened. Just kind of collaborating and communicating and keeping that line of communication open between all of us is what I have seen.

Senator Hogan: I commend Public Health for being a partner at this table because I think it is a Public Health safety issue as well.

Madam Chair Lee: People should be able to come to a place and recognize the value and pay it forward.

(55:46-56:27) Amber Ruzicka, United Way. Presenting testimony for Jena M. Gullo, Executive Director, Missouri Slope Area Wide United Way. Testifying in favor of SB 2263. Please see **Attachment #8** for testimony.

Madam Chair Lee: With the changes in priority with the United Way where I am (Fargo) into things other than that base of Maslow's pyramid. I'm interested to know what United Ways involvement is or is that in jeopardy at all as you might be looking at changes in the priorities in the Bismarck/Mandan area?

Amber Ruzicka: Our priorities have pretty much stayed consistent, and we really just see ourselves as a problem solver in our community. So when the shelter closed we felt that this

was an opportunity for us to step up along with our coalition to help our community. We are also a big player in our back pack program to ensure kids are not going hungry on the weekends and making sure they are coming to school ready to learn and able to read. Those along with helping our elderly in our community are still a lot of our foundation and what we focus on at our United Way?

Madam Chair Lee: Closes the hearing on SB 2263

2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Red River Room, State Capitol

SB 2263
1/22/2019
Job # 31234

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature: Justin Velez

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

To provide an appropriation to the department of commerce for homeless shelter grants.

Minutes:

No Attachments

Senator Hogan: I think this whole situation is directly related to both lowering our jail population and an appropriate use of hospitals. I think it's hard to prove like Free Through Recovery how we lower costs in the long run. The trouble is the infrastructure isn't here as well as it is in Free Through Recovery. I looked at those numbers and particularly in the mental health and drug abuse issues and the homeless stuff with this population. Also low and moderate income housing is really one of the big issues, it's hard to get access to.

Madam Chair Lee: I have become more convinced about housing first as we move through things in the last couple of years because if they don't have a stable place to sleep at night then they aren't going to get launched with a job. There's also people that there are obligations as far as interviews for jobs and applying for any other programs. There is a contract in place that a recipient or an applicant for TANF grants understands that there will be no additional cash payment for having an additional child under that program. It has been extremely effective we have reduced the number of people on benefits by welfare to work, I think it's a great program. If there is any access to other benefits that is being considered in some of these cases, there are other requirements for those individuals as well. It also has a 20% disregard for maintenance of effort on 20% for people who may have a disability and can't work or someone who is caring for an individual with a disability. The point is that there will always be some that cannot work.

Senator Hogan: I have such a large homeless population in my district, when I went door to door I was in the gardner and the graver which are simple room occupancy kind of apartments where many people with pretty significant either developmental or mental health issues, long term chronic illness. The interesting thing to me was, in that one day I ran into four people in these two apartments who had been patients at the state hospital when I worked there in the late 60's and early 70's. I recognized them and they recognized me, but they were people with very severe mental health issues. It was fascinating to talk to them because they typically went to the salvation army for lunch, two of them were active in the mental health social club but they were in and out of homelessness until they got this low

income housing subsidy. Many of the people who are served through this are people who 20 years ago would have been at the state hospital.

Senator K. Roers: I think one of the challenges with this is, you can't do everything for everyone. What amount of money is the right amount of money and what services being the right services and I think that you also have this stigma attached with this population especially when you do have those long term people who are creating this bad image for the scenarios like we heard today? It is a challenge for me, especially like I talked about yesterday not understanding that bigger picture on the appropriations side to understand how much is enough money and how much is too much money. I don't know what to do.

Senator Anderson: Unfortunately, I think this business is a bottomless pit. They would use as much money as we would give them and they would still have more homeless people. Pretty soon they will start coming from other states to take advantage of the services. I travel to some big cities and there are lots of people living on the streets and fortunately those climates are warmer than here. I just have the feeling that they are better served by the non-profits and the churches than they are by putting state money into it. We all talk about we can save money long-term but that never happens.

Madam Chair Lee: The problem is that; we can't know if it did save money or not because we don't have a control group that has it along with the group who has the effort made. I think those young people who were there today, they were so thrilled to be on the senate floor this afternoon and excited and proud of the way they presented. How do you get somebody launched in a way that is better? There is a lot of space around the state that doesn't have anything like Youthworks. When Ruth Myers closed here we were told there were people that were given one-way bus tickets to Fargo so that they could flood our homeless facilities because we had more facilities. It becomes kind of a circular pit here.

Senator K. Roers: When the appropriation went down and the grant funding went away, I feel like how did we decide which got what money? I feel like the things that we are saying are the most successful are the ones that got the no funding and its difficult, I work at a hospital so I understand you still have to have the hospital but we all know the preventative care is what prevents you from needing the hospital. When you only have so much money how do you funnel the money into preventative care and say sorry there's no hospital care.

Senator Hogan: This bill goes to the commerce department, which was a little questionable because this was as part of the housing issue.

Madam Chair Lee: Of course it was because we thought we had a better chance of getting it passed there.

Senator Hogan: The whole issue of housing development because it was a work force issue. It's interesting that this has never been seen as a human service. This has been seen as an economic development and housing issue in commerce.

Madam Chair Lee: I will slightly disagree because it was definitely seen by a fair number of folks that it was a human services issue but it wasn't going anywhere. If we moved it into this

adjacent lane and made it part of the work force and housing needs throughout the state, we had a better chance of it being collaborative with that.

Senator Hogan: And this group works very close with the housing finance agency.

Madam Chair Lee: It concerns me when I see the chart about the fact that we went from 98,977 total nights of shelter provided to zero in one year. That's kind of a big deal to me. Its cold out there, and the places that I see like the New Life Center has put a big addition on, Churches United had an additional significant space provided and their goal is to help people get out of there.

Senator Hogan: When you travel to the south, the homeless population is growing in many areas because affordable housing stopped there and many of them have jobs.

Madam Chair Lee: Pam Sagness is here so we can move on to other cheery topics.

(13:15) Madam Chair Lee and the Senate Human Services Committee move from discussing SB 2263 to SB 2115.

2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Human Services Committee
Red River Room, State Capitol

SB 2263
1/23/2019
Job # 31347

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature: Justin Velez

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

To provide an appropriation to the department of commerce for homeless shelter grants.

Minutes:

No Attachments

Madam Chair Lee: We talked about SB 2263 yesterday so this should be fresh in our mind. We wanted to restore the funding that was deleted during our financial down turn last session. Just for purposes of discussion, it may not end up at 1.5 million when it gets to appropriations. I am not interested in them doing our work of determining what the proper policy is but I think that there might be some sympathy for the idea to continue these programs.

Senator Anderson: As I understand this now, there is no money in the budget currently for these homeless shelter grants. Is that correct?

Senator Hogan: I think there is \$300,000 right now.

Senator Anderson: My personal opinion about this is, I think the homeless business should be handled by the churches and the non-profits. I'm not too crazy about putting state money into it.

Madam Chair Lee: I just want to remind you all of what Senator Tom Fisher said many years ago which is; "When you take everyone into your home that needs help in your family and you take care of them from the day they are born to the day they die, and you also take in the people who need your services but they don't have a family to take care of them, and when everybody else does that too, we will no longer need the department of human services and the services they provide." I think there is some importance to the homeless shelter grant, no doubt about that. I think there is more than what the churches and the private sector can do in some of these cases but they are a big player in these things. The YWCA is I think the biggest one in the state, so there is a lot being done privately along with Churches United for the homeless and the new life center in that area.

Senator Hogan: I was really touched by the funeral homes this morning. The families where there is no one to even identify and direct the plans and the significant increase in that group,

which was another view of the hospital has had someone die or the police picks someone up, there is no one there anymore. Its kind of stunning.

Madam Chair Lee: Its really a shame.

Senator Hogan: It was directly related to this problem.

Senator Clemens: Just a comment to go along with what Senator Hogan is saying, it seems like as our society degenerates all the dominos start falling. That's all I have to say about that.

Senator O. Larsen: To move it forward, I know that the 1.5 million dollars is not do able, but I know that prior to coming to session we were able to come together with the non-profit of counties. They talked about the men's shelter in Minot and some of those groups and I was able to tour the women's domestic violence shelter, which was actually a new facility. They are actually having a campus which is expanding and I know that these grants and stuff are helping them so, it's my hope to take of half of that budget for now and I know we have \$300,000 that was on the line item but if we could start with half of that and move it out of here at least it will continue to show that we want to help move it forward and be a part of the process. Im not for moving it out of here as a do not pass.

Madam Chair Lee: at \$750,000?

Senator O. Larsen: Yes, I think that's my amendment with that. I move to change the amount in the bill to \$750,000.

Madam Chair Lee: Is there a second?
Seconded by Senator Hogan

ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN

**5 YEA, 1 NAY, 0 Absent
AMENDMENT ADOPTED**

Madam Chair Lee: We have the amended bill in front of us. Do we have someone who would like to move forward with the amended bill?

Senator O. Larsen: I motion to move SB 2263 a **DO PASS, AS AMENDED, REREFER TO APPROPRIATIONS.**

Madam Chair Lee: Is there a second?
Seconded by Senator Clemens

ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN

**5 YEA, 1 NAY, 0 Absent
MOTION CARRIES 5-1
Senator O. Larsen will carry SB 2263 to the floor.**

Senate Human Services Committee

SB 2263

1/23/2019

Page 3

Madam Chair Lee: Closes the hearing on SB 2263.

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Adopted by the Human Services Committee

January 23, 2019

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1201

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2263

Page 1, line 6, replace "\$1,500,000" with "\$750,000"

Renumber accordingly

**2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2263**

Senate Human Services Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: Change amount from \$1.5 million to \$750,000

- Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar
- Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Sen O. Larsen Seconded By Sen. Hogan

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chair Lee	x		Senator Hogan		x
Vice Chair Larsen	x				
Senator Anderson	x				
Senator Clemens	x				
Senator Roers	x				

Total (Yes) 5 No 1

Absent 0

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2263**

Senate Human Services Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar

Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Sen. O. Larsen Seconded By Sen. Clemens

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chair Lee	X		Senator Hogan	X	
Vice Chair Larsen	X				
Senator Anderson		X			
Senator Clemens	X				
Senator Roers					

Total (Yes) 5 No 1

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sen. O. Larsen

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2263: Human Services Committee (Sen. J. Lee, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (5 YEAS, 1 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2263 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 6, replace "\$1,500,000" with "\$750,000"

Renumber accordingly

2019 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2263

2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee
Harvest Room, State Capitol

SB 2263
2/1/2019
Job # 32002

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature: Rose Laning/ Mary Jo Wocken

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of commerce for homeless shelter grants.

Minutes:

Testimony Attached # 1 – 9.

Legislative Council: Levi Kinnischtzke & Sheila Sandness
OMB: Stephanie Gullickson

Vice-Chairman Krebsbach called the committee to order on SB 2263.

Senator Kathy Hogan: State Senator, District 21, Fargo, North Dakota

Testimony Attached # 1 – bill introduction. Want to restore half of the funds that were cut. The original bill requested \$1.5 Million, the Senate Human Service Committee reduced that to \$750,000 but it's the intent that the basic structure for the funding be continued to be used as it was previously established in the Department of Commerce.

Senator Dever: The Commerce budget is in the House. Is it your intention that the funds in this bill be added to that bill?

Senator Hogan: It may be important to leave the money in this bill so we have it when we get to conference. **Senator Dever:** I understand that the bill was amended in Senate Human Services to reduce the money. **Senator Hogan:** To \$750,000.

Senator Mathern: The amendment that the House placed on this to reduce this amount. The Senate would be sending over a bill that was smaller than they were discussing and I am just wondering if this shouldn't be changed back to the original amount?

Senator Hogan: Here for committee & myself and the answer will be different for which hat I have on. I think I have to say the Committee recommended \$750,000. I would want \$1.5 M.

Senator Mathern: Why did the committee reduce it? **Senator Hogan:** I think the committee was anxious when this bill was heard that we had sent you all those behavioral health bills. Guilt for sending so many bills.

Senator Poolman: I'm on the bill, but how are the grants are awarded? Could you just talk a little bit about is it a formula, is it block grant, how does it work?

Senator Hogan: I want them to explain that. I don't want to misrepresent. I have a vague idea but I am not the technical expert.

**Cody Schuler, Executive Director, Fargo-Moorhead Coalition to End Homelessness;
Board of Directors, North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People**

Testimony in support of SB 2263 - Attached # 2. (5:26-16:41)

16:47 **Senator Bekkedahl:** Your housing navigation program is that a statewide program or something you implemented in Fargo/Moorhead area alone and is it federal issue? How does another area get access to a housing navigation program that you have?

Cody Schuler: It's a private program funded by United Way of Cass Clay and Presentation Sisters. It was started by using evidence based best practices and us as a community recognizing that we need more of that kind of programing. This started as a pilot program and we've had two consecutive years of results to get these kinds of numbers to show what that is. Any kind of community could start this kind of program and we could fund it with anything from NDHG to any other private funding. There is not a lot of HUD funding necessarily that would be available for it, but the pieces that are HUD funded under GERD are in line philosophically with that kind of program that we've seen at Presentation Partners.

Senator Bekkedahl: So the model is there and anyone else can use it?

Cody Schuler: Yes, anyone can use it. We have all the pieces in place in Fargo.

Senator Mathern: What would it literally take out of this bill as a grant to the Williston community to replicate what we have in Fargo?

Cody Schuler: It would take significantly more. The Housing Navigation Program – that probably about \$250,000, but would like to have ½ million. The problem there is that they don't have any shelter, there has been some resistance to providing shelter. But using the Housing First model we are able to move individuals directly from the street into the housing and by-pass expensive emergency shelters. Would be preferable if we could build the systems. When you look at that need, to fund the homeless services across the state and in those rural areas what we really probably need to do is not have \$1.5M for the biennium, but probably have \$1.5 to \$2M each year of the biennium to be able to actually fund. In 2013, there was \$2M for the biennium. We need to ask for more than what was actually requested initially.

Senator Dever: Sometimes money funded thru agency is pass-thru. Does dept. decide how the money is distributed or is that done by some other entity?

Cody Schuler: That selection process is thru DOC (Commerce) how those grants are made and that selection process. On our side of it, in fact my agency has never received NDHD funds either so I am unfamiliar with answering that question.

Shantel Dewald, North Dakota Department of Commerce, Division of Community Services. Program Administer for the ND Homeless Grant as well as a few other grants we have in our office. We have a scoring criteria that we have set for the ND Homeless grant. We fund on a few different categories, need for funding, plan for distribution of funds, collaboration efforts with providers and services, applicants' involvement in their local coalition and use of the HMIF system, then the applicants' involvement in providing services for homeless and at-risk of homeless and the use of the Housing First model. We are a pass-thru agency, so we do not receive administrative dollars. (21:34-22:27)

Senator Dever: The different groups apply for the dollars and then you distribute and when you're out, you're out.

Shantel Dewald: We fund based on our fiscal year so it starts July 1, to June 30, and so we distribute the funds in that time. We have a competitive grant application round so we receive applications from the applicants and then we score and rank them and distribute funds based on their scoring.

Senator Poolman: Do you have maximum amount that you will grant or if someone wants \$1M dollars, if they score highest do they get what they asked for, how does that work? How do you decide who gets what? I understand that you're ranking them in terms of score but in terms of dollar amounts, how do you do that?

Shantel Dewald: We do have a maximum of \$50,000 based on the \$300,000 that we were given last biennium. That amount was higher previously in previous biennium's. I think we were closer to a max of around \$100,000 in prior rounds of funding since that was cut we did put a maximum of \$50,000.

Erin Prochnow: CEO, YWCA Cass Clay (24:45-30:44)
Testimony in support of SB 2263 - Attached # 3.

Mark Heinert: Homeless Program Manager, Youthworks Social worker
Testimony in support of SB 2263 - Attached # 4. (31:37-37:21)

David Schadegg: Living in the Youthworks housing (37:42-41:12) Testimony in support of SB 2263 - Attached # 5.

41:30 **Senator Krebsbach:** It seemed to me on p.2 of your testimony you say additionally 41% of the 19 years old former foster youth are homeless. We tried to deal with this last session because we know that when kids are once done with the foster parents, they are kind of left on their own. Have you seen any changes since I think we did do something?

Mark Heinert: There is movement of services for youth after they leave foster care. We have not actually seen a reduction though in the number of foster youth currently, however, we may see that change as time evolves. There is a lot of cross over within that, there are several groups that are over-represented within our organization foster-youth, juvenile corrections youth, people of color, members of LGBT community are all over represented within that and so I believe there is still more work that needs to be done in order to address the foster care challenges.

Senator Dever: Thanked David and understand that life is hard. I am curious as to whether you could give me some sense of how common it is? I know the transitional age is very difficult.

Mark Heinert: We see about 1000 youth that are in risk or running away or are homeless. On the homeless alone that are over 18, between that age of 18-21 we're identifying about 100-200 on each community of Bismarck and Fargo that are coming into our organization. We are not able to house all of those, but those are the individuals that we are seeing that are within in that demographic. So many like David are young parents. They are youth themselves being young adults, but its further complicated by trying to help them be good parents themselves and meet the basic needs of their children.

Senator Krebsbach: What is the average age of the homeless and do most fall in the category of 25 and younger, 25 to 50, 50 and over?

Mark Heinert: Youth and children represent about 40% of the population that was homeless. We'll try to get those exact numbers to you.

Erin Prochnow: 55% are children at YWCA. So about 750 children and the majority of them are school aged children but they range from newborns as we have on average 6 women who are pregnant a month in our shelter. So all ages, but usually school age.
Handed out information sheet. Testimony Attached # 6

Cody Schuler: Executive Director, Fargo, Moorhead Coalition to End Homelessness. Later this month we did a survey in Fargo in particular of the entire population where we were able to directly interview around 300 individuals experiencing homelessness. We have some of t data which is currently being processed at NDSU. That data is a little bit behind because they were closed for a couple of days because of the cold. We will be able to provide you with some statistics particular around Fargo and maybe even some statewide data from the statewide data base.

Sherrice Roness: Homeless Liaison, Bismarck Public School District, Bismarck, ND
Testimony in support of SB 2263 - Attached # 7 (46:48-52:49)

Jena M. Gullo, Executive Director, Missouri Slope Areawide United Way, Bismarck, ND
Testimony in support of SB 2263 - Attached # 8. (53:28-58:55)

Adam Tautkus, living at United Way Homeless Shelter (59:00-1:01:34)

No written testimony. I've been homeless for quite a while I would say and usually living in a car because the problem is not always financial, it has a lot to do with credit. I like day labor. I came to ND for the oil boom, had a CDL and did some fracking. Well after the fracking I hoped I could always rely on day labor. So one night in West Fargo, I parked in a closed road drinking with a friend, there went my license. They don't ask questions they figure I might get reckless or something. No they grab you, throw you out the car take your keys and take you to jail. I lost my license, my car, my stuff, and so now I have nothing. For a long time because I have been homeless for many years I've always lived in my cars, and it's not been a big deal, used the gym for showers, but I never didn't have a car. That is like a security there like a lock box. Nobody ever messes with cars your clothes and stuff are safe. Without the vehicle there goes your little mobile home. Now you've got no options and you're sleeping outside on the grass and now its constantly getting into fights over in Fargo because all I had was the clothes on my back. To this day I still don't have identification. I had to turn down an interview at the TSA on Wednesday actually, but I don't have the documents anymore. They are in my car. Basically without United Way, I would literally would be walking around with the shirt on my back and I wouldn't have anything. So, at least I have an address, I can have things come to me, so there is a backup there. I am no longer as helpless. There is more

walking involved. I went from having everything in a day to nothing and that's kind of what the shelters are for, a backup. All the sympathy I didn't have before because you're eating right next to a homeless guy who tells you he is homeless, like I am too, but you don't realize that you have all these other things that he needs to work to get. It's not just as easy as getting a license cause now you need a car, insurance, plates, credit. Good luck getting a place when you tell them you do day labor. It's not going to happen. It's a good short term stepping stone, can get you out.

Korey Reece, staying at the YMCA (1:01:45-1:02:51) No written testimony.

Originally from Texas, to chase the oil and gas. Professionally I do crane and rigging and I had a job in Fargo but when I was in Fargo, unfortunately I was staying at YMCA and my locker was broken into so I lost my driver's license, my social security card, my journeyman documents, all my key documents that I had to have to take this job and function in it. That is what put me in the state of homelessness. Car was broken into. Thanks to people at the United Way. With Jena and people at United Way, it's hard when you hit bottom. I stand in support of this bill, and want to thank everyone at the United Way.

Gary Waswick, living at United Way Homeless Shelter (1:02:56-1:04:38).

No written testimony. I come to United Way and they asked me to speak. But I came from Minot and I hit rock bottom. I called the prison camp the men's emergency shelter but I had a apartment for a while and lost that, and was on the street. Thank God for the United Way emergency shelter because I was on the street in October. Now it's cold out but then it was cold and my nickname is Cowboy, and the officer goes you've got to move on. So I can move on without my suitcase but you want me to. The main thing is you've got to stand your ground and set goals and don't give up and have faith. When I came down here I had a very bad attitude. I was at Kroll's having coffee, and the FBI called home.

Senator Krebsbach: Cowboy, could you do me a favor? Could you give me your legal name for the record? My name is Gary Waswick.

Lorraine Davis, Native American Development Center (NADC), Bismarck, ND (1:05:24-) Founder and Executive Director of the Native American Development Center. Testimony in support of SB 2263 Attached # 9.

Homelessness comes from poverty and for tribal people as we know historically there is intergenerational trauma that has led to indigenous generational poverty. Today not all of our members have adopted the monetary system so those are the things that we work on as far as things like community development financial institution. We are an emerging native CDFI, which provides consumer loans and mico-enterprise loans. We are not a bank or FDIC ran we're funded by the Department of Treasury. We're specifically funded to serve Native American communities throughout the state of North Dakota. With that not only are we able to provide those loans, financial education and counseling is required as part of that. To me that is the step going forward along with this permanent support of housing model. But we can't do that unless there is homeless shelter funding. That very first step, if you look at the community as a need of continuum of care, the first level is a homeless shelter in a community. The second level is transitional housing something like Welcome House or Ruth Meiers, United Way would be the example of the emergency shelter. Transitional would be the other two. Permanent support of housing would be something that we are pursuing a

multi-family housing project working with the tribes. It is unique it's unprecedented in our state of North Dakota. It's rare in other states. But we can get it done and we're working with the Housing Finance Agency. So by doing that we are able to provide permanent support of housing in being able to do that beyond just the financial literacy and counseling would be able to do our cultural activities. So we're actually revitalizing our culture. Which is very significant for us because it's part of the mental health crisis that we've been experiencing for generations is our culture language being taken away from us, so then we have identity crisis. So that is what we are bringing back but at the same time we're learning and adopting mainstream societies way of life. So there is a win-win for everybody in our communities.

Shaydee Pretends Eagle, Native American Development Center (NADC), Bismarck, ND
No written testimony. (1:08:48-1:10:33) I am 20 years old and I've experienced homelessness about 5 times. I experience adolescence in homelessness. I can't thank the Native American Development Center and Youth Works for what they've done for me and help provided for me. There's no way I would probably have made it out of certain situations not without the assistance of these two groups. I was homeless when I was 8 years old, when I was 16, when I was 18 and when I was 20. I landed myself in a domestic violence relationship in order to stay out homelessness, and as of right now my mother at 53 years old, got told she has to be out of her apartment in 5 days during this polar vortex. If you can only imagine and have a loved one and see them go through this and to know that you can't really do anything to help them, this is what helps them. This is what they get by and to function. I hope you see it from a moral standpoint. Because as human beings that's what we do. We have to help each other.

Senator Krebsbach: Closed the hearing on SB 2263

Chairman Holmberg: The budget for the Department of Commerce is not in the Senate, it's in the House. They have a currently as you've been told the current budget consisted of \$300,000 of this current biennium cut back from the biennium before was pretty drastic, was a pretty drastic cutback. The Department of Commerce has 3 as I understand it, 3 areas of that deal in homelessness. It has the Homeless Shelter Grant and right now it's \$300,000, the House committee is talking about putting it to \$1.5 billion but don't count chickens his early. They have the Community Development Shelter Plus Grant plus Care of \$750,000 and that is federal funds; and they have the Community Development Emergency Shelter Grants program at \$1.03M and that is federal funds mostly federal funds in a small amount of general funds. But those are issues that we don't have before us so we can't really do much reacting at this time. So, we thank all who came to testify. This committee will certainly be looking at the entire picture of homelessness which has this bill. It gets awkward when we have a bill over here, that actually is over in the House, but that's the way life is, we just react to it appropriately. We aren't going to do anything right now today on the bill. I want to thank you all for coming out. The weather warmed up for you at least, and that was helpful.

2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee
Harvest Room, State Capitol

SB 2263
2/6/2019
JOB 32237

- Subcommittee
- Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature Alice Delzer
--

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for The Department of Commerce regarding homeless shelter grants. (DPA)

Minutes:

1. Proposed Amendment # 19.0816.02001

Chairman Holmberg: called the Committee to order on SB 2263. Roll call was taken. All committee members were present. Adam Mathiak, Legislative Council and Stephanie Gullickson, OMB were also present. We have 8 bills coming to us. We are doing the policy bill for DPI tomorrow. we only have 7 more days to do all 60 bills. We will have time to do our subcommittees. SB 2263 is a duplicate of the department of commerce for homeless grants bill.

V. Chairman Krebsbach: moved Amendment # 19.0816.02001. 2nd by Senator Robinson.

Chairman Holmberg: called for a voice vote on the amendment. It carried.

Senator Robinson: Moved a Do Pass as Amended. 2nd by V. Chairman Wanzek.

Chairman Holmberg: Call the roll on a Do Pass as Amended on SB 2263. A Roll Call vote was taken. Yea: 14; Nay: 0; Absent:0. This goes back to Human Services. Senator Oley Larsen will carry the bill. The hearing was closed on SB 2263.

19.0816.02001
Title.03000

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
the Senate Appropriations Committee
February 6, 2019

SA
(50)

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2263

Page 1, line 6, replace "\$750,000" with "\$1,500,000"

Renumber accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

This amendment increases the general fund appropriation for homeless shelter grants by \$750,000, from \$750,000 to \$1,500,000.

Date: 2-6-19
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2263

Senate Appropriations Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: go back to \$ 1.5 M

- Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar
Other Actions: Reconsider

Motion Made By Krebsbach Seconded By Robinson

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Holmberg			Senator Mathern		
Senator Krebsbach			Senator Grabinger		
Senator Wanzek			Senator Robinson		
Senator Erbele					
Senator Poolman					
Senator Bekkedahl					
Senator G. Lee					
Senator Dever					
Senator Sorvaag					
Senator Oehlke					
Senator Hogue					

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

*Voice Vote
approved*

Date: 2-6-19
Roll Call Vote #: 2

2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2263

Senate Appropriations Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar

Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Robinson Seconded By Wanzek

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Holmberg	✓		Senator Mathern	✓	
Senator Krebsbach	✓		Senator Grabinger	✓	
Senator Wanzek	✓		Senator Robinson	✓	
Senator Erbele	✓				
Senator Poolman	✓				
Senator Bekkedahl	✓				
Senator G. Lee	✓				
Senator Dever	✓				
Senator Sorvaag	✓				
Senator Oehlke	✓				
Senator Hogue	✓				

Total (Yes) 14 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment G. Larsen Human Services Committee

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

goes back to Human Services

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2263, as engrossed: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Holmberg, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2263 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 6, replace "\$750,000" with "\$1,500,000"

Renumber accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

This amendment increases the general fund appropriation for homeless shelter grants by \$750,000, from \$750,000 to \$1,500,000.

2019 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2263

2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee
Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2263
3/5/2019
33252

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Risa Bergquist

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of commerce for homeless shelter grants.

Minutes:

Attachment 1-4

Chairman Delzer: Called the meeting to order for SB 2263,

-3:15 Senator Kathy Hogan, District 21, Fargo: (see attachment 1)

3:33-5:40 Janelle Moos, Executive Director of CAWS North Dakota: (see attachment 2)

6:15-8:20 Mark Heinert, Homeless Programs Manager Youth works (see attachment 3-4) I brought testimony for myself as well as the testimony from Erin Prochnow, CEO at YWCA Cass County.

Chairman Delzer: Further testimony in favor of SB 2263? Any opposed? Hearing none we will close the hearing on SB 2263. Committee what are your intentions?

Representative Bellew: I'll make a motion for a Do Not Pass.

Representative Monson: I will second that.

Chairman Delzer: This is simply because it is in the Commerce Budget. Any discussion for the Do Not pass? Hearing none we will take the roll.

A Roll Call vote was taken. Yea: 15 Nay: 2 Absent: 4

Motion Carries Representative Monson will carry the bill.

Chairman Delzer: With that we will close this meeting.

Date: 3/5/2019
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2263**

House Appropriations Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar
 Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Representative Bellew Seconded By Representative Monson

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Delzer	X				
Representative Kempenich	X				
Representative Anderson	X		Representative Schobinger	X	
Representative Beadle	X		Representative Vigesaa	A	
Representative Bellew	X				
Representative Brandenburg	A				
Representative Howe	X		Representative Boe	A	
Representative Kreidt	X		Representative Holman		X
Representative Martinson	X		Representative Mock		X
Representative Meier	X				
Representative Monson	X				
Representative Nathe	A				
Representative J. Nelson	X				
Representative Sanford	X				
Representative Schatz	X				
Representative Schmidt	X				

Total (Yes) 15 No 2

Absent 4

Floor Assignment Representative Monson

Motion Carries

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2263, as reengrossed: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Delzer, Chairman)
recommends **DO NOT PASS** (15 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 4 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
Reengrossed SB 2263 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2019 TESTIMONY

SB 2263

SB 2263
1/22/14
#1 B.1

TESTIMONY
Senate Human Services Committee SB 2263
January 22, 2019
Senator Kathy Hogan

Chair Lee and members of the Human Service Committee, my name is Kathy Hogan. I represent District 21 the heart of Fargo. My District is also the home to many individuals who experience both intermittent and chronic homelessness. It has homeless services including soup kitchens, drop in-centers, transitional housing as well as several shelters.

Prior to the financial crisis of 2015, the funding for homeless shelters had a been available in the Department of Commerce. This bill simply restores the funding that was cut, and it is the intent that the basic structure for this funding be continued as it was previously established.

Madam Chair, there are several people who will testify on this program and the needs of the homeless population in ND. I would be more than willing to answer any questions.

SB 2263

1/22/19

1 Pg. 2

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2298

Page 1, line 2, replace "youth" with "children"

Page 1, line 5, replace "6,000,000" with "1,600,000"

Page 1, line 7, replace "6,000,000" with "1,600,000"

Page 1, line 9, replace "youth" with "children"

Page 1, line 9, after the period insert "The department is authorized two full-time equivalent positions to implement and manage the 1915i Medicaid state plan for children."

Renumber accordingly

Testimony of Christina Sambor, North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People

Senate Human Services Committee

SB 2263

January 22, 2019

Chairwoman Lee and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christina Sambor, and I am here on behalf of the North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People. Since its formation in 1989, NDCHP has been committed to serving North Dakota communities across the state, bringing advocacy, education, data collection, and resource development, to our membership of over 70 different agencies. I come before you today to advocate for the importance of the North Dakota Homeless Grant to the homeless programs in North Dakota and to ask this committee for a “do pass” recommendation on SB 2263, which would restore the funding level for the NDHG to \$1.5M.

I have provided you with an informational handout that we have created to illustrate the impact of the NDHG. The impacts of the cut in funding during the 2017 legislative session were dramatic, and have negatively impacted data collection efforts, service numbers, and the stability of homeless services in North Dakota. Erin Prochnow, CEO of the YWCA planned to be here today to share with you some of the impacts of the cut in funding on the YWCA. I have submitted her written testimony along with mine for the committee’s review. The YWCA’s experiences highlight the impacts of the 2017 funding cut. The YWCA witnessed an 86 % reduction in NDHG state funding between the 2015 and 2017 biennia, and as a result, saw a 79% (113 vs 24) reduction in individuals served in homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing. As Erin’s full testimony will show you, homelessness prevention often involves very modest amounts of support provided to someone to help them get through a tough time and avoid losing their housing in the process. It is an effective and economical approach. The NDHG is a critical part of providing that support.

As I reflected on what to share with you today, I thought of a dear friend and colleague of mine who is a survivor of trafficking, has struggled with maintaining housing, and testified before the legislature in the 2017 session. She talked about how proud she was, once she got support and stability in her life, to pay taxes, which isn’t something that gets most of us jumping out of bed in the morning. I think for her it really signaled that she was contributing to society in a way she had never been able to before. I thought about the fact that some of the groups we know struggle with homelessness the most are kids who have aged out of foster care, and veterans. I thought about a study I read recently that found that the factor

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1/22/19
#2 pg.2

most necessary to making someone vulnerable to human trafficking was a complete lack of a healthy support system in their life. All of these thoughts led me to this one: homelessness is not a character issue. In my experience, people who struggle with homelessness do not do so because they are lazy or bad people. They struggle with homelessness because they experienced significant trauma and developed an addiction, they were leaving a violent partner, or they have a mental illness and lacked supportive people in their lives. Most of the things that contributed to their homelessness occurred not through bad choices, but because they did not enjoy the safety and support that so many of us have. I do think supporting this bill is a moment for our state to display the character that I know we possess. We all know that the cuts that occurred to many budgets last year were the result of difficult economic times. Happily, we are no longer in that position. I sincerely hope that we can see the importance in restoring a very modest amount of funding to support vulnerable North Dakotans now that we have more money to go around.

Lastly, I know many of you in this room care very deeply about improving the state of behavioral health services in North Dakota. As part of the effort to improve overall mental health services and support for those struggling with addiction, the NDCHP would ask this committee to also consider how important it is to restore a sufficient level of support to the efforts to prevent and address homelessness. Ensuring people are housed and safe is paramount, and we cannot forget about this important first step of improving our behavioral health crisis. Please, support the NDHG and the homeless providers around the state today, restore the funding to \$1.5M, and recommend a "do pass" on SB 2263.

NORTH DAKOTA HOMELESS GRANT



\$1.5 million fund for homeless prevention and emergency shelter administered by the North Dakota Department of Commerce in the 2015-2017 biennium.



In 2016, over \$2million in requests came to the ND Department of Commerce. \$750,000 was available and awarded.



After nearly being eliminated in the budget in the 2017-2019 biennium, the legislature appropriated \$300,000 for the program.

Twenty-nine homeless programs and domestic violence shelters received state grant funding in 2015-17, but the number of grant awards fell to eight in 2017 and 12 in 2018, according to the Department of Commerce website. The dollar amount of the grants also decreased significantly.

Bismarck Tribune - January 16, 2019

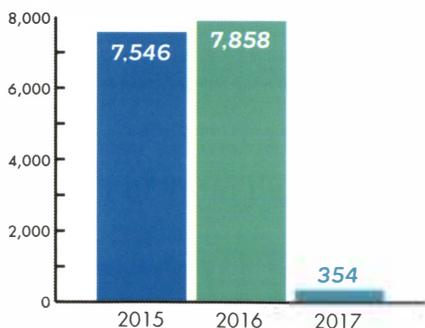
If the NDHG is not increased back up to \$1.5 million homeless prevention and shelter services in North Dakota will continue to be negatively impacted.
(There are minimal state funds provided as part of an Emergency Solutions Grant federal match)

1. Current funds (\$300,000) for assistance are not adequate and regularly run out before the year ends.
2. Shelter bed utilization has never gone below 90% during the two biennia the grant has been in existence. *Most shelters have been at or over capacity.*
3. Some communities, such as Fargo, have needed to create overflow programs hosted at churches to address this constant need.
4. Many agencies utilize these funds as federal match.

“Agencies across the state have had to make those tough decisions about whether they’re going to reduce the number of clients served or whether they’re going to reduce the number of services provided to those clients.”

-Mark Heinert, manager for homeless programs for Youthworks in Bismarck

Number of Total Beneficiaries



Total Nights of Shelter Provided

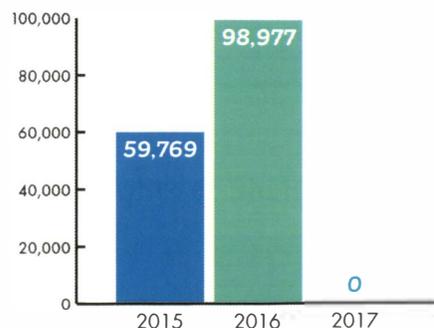


Chart data provided by North Dakota Department of Commerce

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1/22/19
#2 P5.4

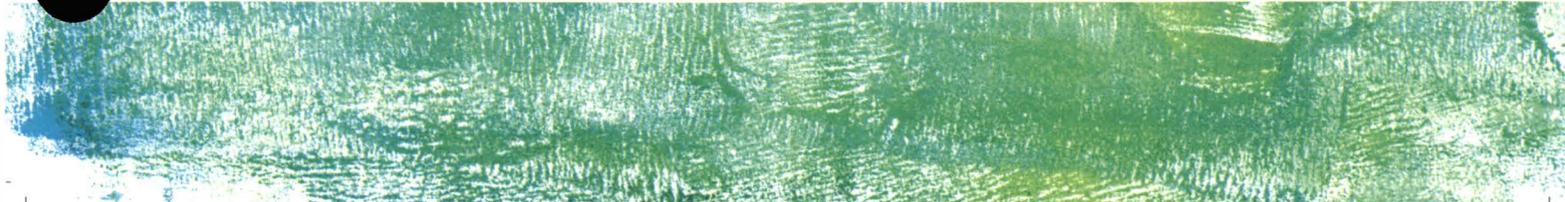
SNAPSHOT OF PROGRAMS THAT DEPEND ON THE NDHG

- Eight providers of emergency shelter for those experiencing housing crisis.
- Eight providers of emergency shelter for women experiencing homelessness due to domestic violence.
- More than a dozen programs providing assistance for preventing homelessness. Many of these programs are critical in rural areas where emergency homeless services are limited.
- Fraser, Inc. and Youthworks (*programs in youth homelessness*). Those experiencing chronic homelessness as adults often had their first instance of homelessness as youth. Addressing youth homelessness can break cycles and potentially reduce homelessness long term.
- YWCA of Cass Clay providing services to women and children, including those experiencing domestic violence.
- New Life Center, serving men in Fargo for 110 years.
- Gladys Ray Shelter and Veterans Drop-in Center, often serving the hardest to serve.
- The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is North Dakota's federally mandated database. HMIS is already under funded and proper functionality and data integrity could be jeopardized. This is concerning because the award of federal funds are dependent upon the data collected in HMIS.
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families through Community Action Partnership.

SNAPSHOT STORY FROM YWCA IN FARGO

A woman served in the program for three months of back rent seven years ago who reached out with a \$1,500 donation to the program in 2018 because we helped her. This is her story.

"You helped me around seven years ago with three months of rent. I had fell on hard times and the YWCA helped me. I promised myself and the man upstairs that if I ever got a chance to give back to the YWCA that I would. Well recently my brother passed away and he was a "penny pincher". The minute I found out that I would be coming in to some money I knew what I wanted to do with it. I knew that I wanted to give back to the YWCA for all of the help and kindness they showed me. You treated me with respect and dignity and never judged me. Because of your help I was able to stay in my apartment for all of these years and I have a full time job and am doing really well. I have never forgotten you and I always keep the YWCA and its staff in my prayers. Thank you for caring about me."



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1/22/19
#2 pg.5

**Testimony from Erin Prochnow, CEO, YWCA Cass Clay
North Dakota Senate Human Services Committee
January 22, 2019
SB 2263**

Introduction:

Good morning Chairwoman Lee and members of the committee, my name is Erin Prochnow, CEO at YWCA Cass Clay. Our agency offers the largest Emergency Shelter serving women and children in the state of North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. We have been providing services in our community for over 110 years, spending the past 40 years providing emergency shelter and housing services to women and their children escaping domestic violence and abusive situations.

If SB 2263 is approved, the North Dakota Housing Grant (NDHG) will help women and families served by YWCA escape abuse, move out of homelessness, and live independent lives.

Homeless Prevention:

YWCA supports a philosophy of empowerment, aiming to not only provide shelter to the homeless, but work to empower women and prevent homelessness altogether. Homeless Prevention Initiatives should be inclusive of a variety of supportive housing options and short-term assistance covering basic expenses like deposits, rent, and utility payments. By helping with these needs, YWCA believes homelessness can be prevented before it happens.

Prior NDHG Funding:

In the last legislative session, funding to support NDHG was reduced by 80% from the previous biennium. Today, YWCA Cass Clay is asking for your assistance in restoring this funding stream.

SB 2263
1/22/19
#2 pg. 6

At YWCA we witnessed an 86% reduction in NDHG state funding between the 2015-2016 and 2017-2018 bienniums (\$102,150 vs \$14,000) and as a result a 79% reduction in individuals (113 vs 24) served in homeless prevention and rapid rehousing. The people that need this assistance are struggling to get by and often live paycheck to paycheck. HPRP is a lifechanging and effective program that serves people through preventative efforts.

Prevention is Life Changing:

People like Kelly, who YWCA served seven years ago with three months of rental assistance, are a good example of the power of prevention. Kelly wrote a note of gratitude to YWCA last fall, seven years after receiving \$1,500 in HPRP assistance. With Kelly's note was a donation for \$1,500. The note read:

“You helped me around seven years ago with three months of rent. I had fell on hard times and the YWCA helped me. I promised myself and the man upstairs that if I ever got a chance to give back to the YWCA that I would. Well recently my brother passed away and he was a “penny pincher”. The minute I found out that I would be coming in to some money I knew what I wanted to do with it. I knew that I wanted to give back to the YWCA for all of the help and kindness they showed me. You treated me with respect and dignity and never judged me. Because of your help I was able to stay in my apartment for all of these years and I have a fulltime job and am doing really well. I have never forgotten you and I always keep the YWCA and its staff in my prayers. Thank you for caring about me.” Kelly, served by YWCA in 2012

As you can tell from Kelly's story, the HPRP program has proven results, **preventing** people from becoming homeless in the first place and often helping women become rehoused as quickly as possible.

In the 2015-2016 biennium, YWCA was able to serve 113 women and children through the HPRP

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program. On average, families received one and a half months of assistance, on average totaling \$915 to each family to help with rent or a rental deposit. Of those served at that time, 87% were still maintaining their stable housing three months after receiving assistance. Simply stated, the program is effective, and client centered.

In the past two years, YWCA served 24 women and children with one month of assistance, on average providing just over \$500 in rental support. Many more families could be prevented from becoming homeless or rehoused more quickly with the funding restored.

People must be a Priority:

Our priorities as a state must be to care for the most vulnerable among us including women and their children escaping unthinkable circumstances. Without these programs, thousands of North Dakotans, including women and children who have been victims of violence will be homeless. As the state's largest shelter serving women and children, we know this to be true, in 2018 we served 1,375 women and children and were at or above capacity 60% of the time.

Please take action today. The more than 120 women and children being safely sheltered and housed by YWCA today, and hundreds of other North Dakotans facing homelessness across the state, are counting on you.

Thank you.

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#3 pg.1

Testimony in Support of SB 2263

*Cody J. Schuler Executive Director, Fargo-Moorhead Coalition to End Homelessness
Board of Directors, North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People*

North Dakota Senate Human Service Committee

January 22, 2018

Chairwoman Lee and members of the Committee, my name is Cody Schuler, Executive Director of the Fargo-Moorhead Coalition to End Homelessness. I am also a member of the Board of Directors of the North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People. I speak today in support of Senate Bill 2263 concerning funding of the North Dakota Homeless Grant (NDHG).

Over the past three biennia, the North Dakota Homeless Grant (NDHG) has provided vital funds for service providers across our state addressing the issue of homelessness. These dedicated service providers are not just meeting the immediate needs of those in an emergency housing crisis, they are working to prevent and end long-term homelessness. However, the 80% reduction in funds has greatly impacted that work in my community and across the state. Shelters in Fargo remain at capacity and funds that prevent people from falling into homelessness regularly run short. Over half of those seeking prevention assistance are routinely turned away due to lack of funds.

Based on the annual point in time count required by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Wilder Survey of Homelessness, and ongoing emergency shelter data, it is estimated that upwards of 1,000 people experience homelessness on any given night in the Fargo-West Fargo metro area. This number includes those who are sheltered, unsheltered, and who are homeless but "doubled up" with friends, family, or acquaintances. (This is just a snapshot of my community. Due to a shortage of outreach efforts across the state, counts in other regions of the state are often inaccurate, but reported shelter bed utilization remains high statewide.) In many cases emergency shelter is the only thing keeping individuals and families from freezing to death during our cold winters.

NDHG does not just meet emergency needs in shelter, but provides vital prevention dollars. Preventing homelessness is more cost effective than providing shelter and takes less of a toll on families. These prevention dollars are crucial to the work of reducing and ending long-term homelessness.

Funding homeless services and providing prevention dollars is the smart way to do the right thing. The Housing Navigation program at Fargo's Presentation Partners in Housing is demonstrating that when people who have experienced chronic homelessness are housed with proper supports, not only do they

find the human dignity that comes with having a place to call home, there is a cost savings to the community at large. This program utilizes the Housing First model and has tracked the use of services of 20 participants before and after stable housing. In 2018 this program demonstrated nearly \$320,000 of savings to our community. Admissions to detox services dropped by 92%. Ambulance rides were lowered by 88%, a savings of over \$130,000 alone. Emergency room use dropped by 71%, a savings of over \$136,000. And nights in emergency shelter were reduced by 99%. This is one small program investing in the lives of people and having a profound impact on those individuals and on wider medical and shelter costs savings. Imagine the impact that could be made with increased NDHG dollars across the state.

At a time when issues of addiction, recovery, and behavioral health are on the rise, it is important to remember that stable housing is key to addressing all these other concerns. When sleeping in a car, on the street, or even in emergency shelter, one cannot address health concerns, addiction, or mental health issues. If we do not provide adequate homeless services in our state, investment in addressing these other important issues is lost for a population desperately in need of help.

In closing, I want to acknowledge that NDHG funds don't just impact direct services and individual lives. These funds are also needed for proper data collection and reporting. Data is a key component in preventing and ending long-term homelessness. Without good data we cannot address gaps in services or ensure that we are funding programs that have the best outcomes and are making the greatest impact. NDHG can ensure that service providers are properly resourced so agency data quality does not suffer. NDHG can also aid in ensuring that the perpetually underfunded, federally mandated Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data base is properly functioning for state and federal reporting.

While the causes of homelessness can range from trauma such as job loss, domestic violence, and addiction issues, to disabilities and health challenges, the only solution to homelessness is housing. NDHG provides critical funds that not only help those in crisis find shelter but ultimately connects people to find or remain in housing. Therefore, NDHG is not simply aid or programs, it is part of the solution to ending long-term homelessness in North Dakota.

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Mark Heinert
Homeless Programs Manager, Youthworks
Testimony in support of SB 2263
Senate Human Services Committee

January 22, 2019

Chairwoman Lee and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mark Heinert, and I am here today to deliver testimony in support of SB 2263. I have been a licensed social worker in North Dakota for 28 years, serving runaway and homeless youth for the last 22. I am the Homeless Programs Manager at Youthworks, a private, non-profit, youth serving agency serving Runaway and Homeless Youth in North Dakota. I am also involved in North Dakota and West Central Minnesota's Coordinated Access Referral and Evaluation System (CARES) for the homeless, serving as the past chair of the governing board.

The North Dakota Homeless Grant (NDHG), which began in 2013, has provided funding to assist agencies in providing housing and support services for the homeless. The funding began with \$2 million for the 2013 – 2015 biennium, then provided \$1.5 million for the 2015 – 2017 biennium. This amount was reduced by 80% to \$300,000 in 2017 – 2019. Youthworks had utilized funding from NDHG to provide housing and support services to approximately 60 young adults (age 18 – 21) and their children annually from 2013 to 2017. An additional 80 - 100 youth received homeless prevention services and other supports. Unfortunately, in the 2017 – 2019 biennium, Youthworks did not receive any funds from NDHG to support this mission.

Youthworks has a history of success raising funds from federal sources which require local match. Without the support of the NDHG (or other local funds), Youthworks is

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in jeopardy of losing upwards of \$500,000 in federal grant funds, which are dedicated to serving homeless youth.

As homeless providers coordinate housing and services for the homeless, the most vulnerable in our population are served first. This includes the elderly, victims of domestic violence, trafficking victims, former foster youth, people with disabilities, and all children. One out of every three homeless young adults served by Youthworks are former foster youth.

I encourage you to consider the needs of the most vulnerable in our population first. The most cost-effective way of helping vulnerable homeless people is to provide supportive housing, which is what Youthworks and other agencies are using NDHG funds for.

“On an annual basis it costs between \$12,000 and \$25,000 to place homeless people in supportive housing. In contrast, it costs about \$35,000 to \$150,000 for the person to remain homeless. This is based on the cost of emergency room visits, police calls, emergency shelter, food, etc.”

- Former HUD Secretary Shaun Donavon - 2012

Passing SB 2263 is a good step towards dealing with the “big picture” of homelessness in North Dakota. We must invest in providing emergency and supportive housing and supports, so that we can help people transition into longer term stability. It is the right thing to do both from a humanitarian perspective, but also from a fiscal perspective. I therefore urge this committee to recommend a “do pass” on SB 2263.

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Testimony of MiLinda Turner

Senate Human Services Committee

SB 2263

January 22, 2019

Good Morning:

My name is MiLinda Turner I am 20 years old. I was born in Louisiana, raised in Georgia, and I moved to Fargo back in 2012. I enjoy helping others and hanging out with friends. I'm working full time right now at a Optio solutions - it's a call center. The most important thing in my life would be my family and pets. My future goals are to start school for social work and open an ice cream shop someday.

I worked really hard to separate myself from negative family patterns. I focused on school and getting ahead in life, and finished high school early. I have my own apartment and enjoy living on my own and supporting myself. I'm working on building a career in a social work related field so that I can help others the way that others have helped and supported me to get me to where I am today.

Youthworks helped me with housing and food, hygiene kits when I needed support. They also gave me my first job doing what I love the most. They asked me to be on the youth advisory board. I think if they didn't do these things, I would not have seen my potential and how far I can go. I have seen Youthworks help a lot of my friends meet their goals. I think if Youthworks was not here there would be a lot of youth struggling to find their way and their purpose in life.

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Testimony of Obidiah Pipeboy

Senate Human Services Committee

SB 2263

January 22, 2019

Hello and Good Morning!

My name is Obadiah Pipeboy I am Native American enrolled with MHA, 20 years of age, and I live and go to school in Fargo. I also have son who is a year old.

I come today because I live in a transitional housing unit provided by Youthworks. I first had contact with their street outreach program when they visited my school. They provided snacks and drinks which struck up a conversation about what they do. I never thought I would intend to use their services until being homeless was reality for me. Being homeless all began from having a tough relationship with my mom. We were always distant but never enemies. She taught my little brother how to drive and then bought him a car. This is a source of a lot of pain I feel everyday. Even with my own money and many attempts to be on better terms so I could obtain a license all she said was no. Emotional outbreaks, poor money management, and addiction was followed.

During this time my little brother since birth moved away, the mother of my child (a four year relationship) told me I might not be the father, and my mom began asking for rent money. I was working during the summer but with winter coming I just stopped and gave up. I never considered city transit because I thought the relationship with my mom would improve with time. But living with my mom by myself was unbearable. I take partial responsibility because I didn't make it easy. I paid upfront about 4,000 dollars on my own apartment for 6 months. I also get disbursements checks from oil wells about 4 times a year a \$1,000 each which I spent on food, bills, and alcohol. After living alone for a few months it wasn't long till I began to isolate myself. I would constantly be under the influence mostly on my own and on the weekends I would throw parties. I would hardly get any work done at school and that is if I even showed up. I was notified in January that I would half to either move at the end of the month or pay. With no money left I contacted Youthworks during the usual time they show up at school and asked for help. All transitional housing units were full but they put me on a waiting list and referred me to other options. One of which was a homeless shelter which even the word disgusted me. I had too much pride to accept the fact I was about to be homeless.

I moved back to my moms after telling her I would get a job. After about a month I still had no job and our relationship hasn't improved. So I moved to my uncles in Wisconsin where I spent another 6 months working with him to save up money for a car once I get back to Fargo. Living there I was completely sober, he was my boss so I never missed a day of work, and I became apart of their family. I had responsibilities around the house and had alot of time with my cousin who influence my character to be somebody she can look up too. Thinking I might have a kid on the way an anti-social drunk wouldn't suffice. I never sat at a table to eat dinner before. Nobody was on their phones so neither was I. I didn't even know there was a time for dinner; its at six. After working my first day my cousin asked me a question. To this day I feel the same feelings like it was yesterday. I couldn't breathe, my head overwhelmed scrambling for answers but none of them could come out. She asked, "how was your day?" after a brief moment of silence I replied with a playful "Great, thank you for asking!". For 6 months I lived like that and it was life changing. Living there was not a permanent option for me because I just had a son THAT IS MINE to go back too. Once I did, I got a job and starting paying my mom rent. Our relationship still didn't improve even after I thought I was a different person. With no help with a license, I quickly fell back into addiction with my car money. I walked out on my job, and destroyed my moms office desk. She told me I had find a new place to stay so I moved out. The mother of my child took me in until I could find a new place to stay because I wasn't emotionally stable to be around our son either.

A second attempt with Youthworks was a success. Never a time to be more grateful because they got me in right before thanksgiving. My mom always said it was the white mans holiday and called it "thanks-taking" but all I got was a home and spent the time eating with the staff and other youth. I am now receiving help with my addiction and anger management. I have a job, i'm back in school, and will be learning independent living skills which all ensure a promising future for my son and I. Thanks to Youthworks I have a new home and motivation beyond measure to be the person somebody like my six-year-old cousin can still look up too. Everybody has a story and thats mine. Without Youthworks I wouldn't know the condition of my health and the future of my son could've been at a severe disadvantage. I can't wait to tell him the about the come up. Thank you for listening and thank you for having me here.

SB 2263
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chair
Senator Oley Larsen, Vice-Chair
January 22, 2019
9:00 AM

Chairman Lee, Members of the Committee:

My name is Renae Moch and I am the Director for Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health.

I am providing written testimony on behalf of the City of Bismarck and the Gold Star Community Task Force in support of SB 2263. The Gold Star Community Task Force consists of Burleigh and Morton County stakeholders working to address behavioral health and substance abuse issues in our community.

Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health collaborated with local hospitals to complete a community health needs assessment in 2018. The most dramatic increase in concern from the 2015 to 2018 assessment relates to mental health and substance abuse issues. On a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being critical attention needed, homelessness had a score of 4.44 in 2018, compared to 3.33 in 2015.

Mental Health & Substance Abuse Prevention

(Most dramatic increase in concern from 2015 to 2018 relates to mental health & substance abuse issues.)

	2018 CHNA	2015 CHNA
Drug Use & Abuse	4.53	3.75
Homelessness	4.44	3.33
Housing accepting people with chemical dependency, mental health, criminal history, domestic violence issues	4.33	N/A
Abuse of prescription drugs	4.27	4.13
Alcohol use & abuse	4.19	3.54
Substance use by youth	3.97	3.88

Through the Gold Star Community Task Force efforts, community gaps were identified and reflected an urgent need for homeless sheltering services in the Bismarck-Mandan-Burleigh-Morton area. We currently have an emergency shelter, but there is no "low barrier" shelter accepting individuals under the influence of substances which leaves individuals like this with no sheltering options.

The City of Bismarck is unique. We are the capital city and have the State Penitentiary and a Burleigh-Morton County jail giving us a disproportionate number of adults at risk for homelessness, yet we have far fewer resources than other communities our size.

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Appropriations allocated to homeless shelters in North Dakota would provide our community with a revenue source to assist in the development of a low-barrier emergency homeless shelter to assist individuals not served by other shelter facilities in our area.

BISMARCK/MANDAN SHELTER INVENTORY - FALL 2018

NAME	POPULATION SERVED	LOCATION	#of Beds/Units (Max Capacity)
Abused Adult Resource Center	Victims of domestic violence.	Bismarck	38 emergency, 25 transitional housing, 7 permanent supportive housing
Ruth Meiers Hospitality House	Transitional living for individuals & families	Bismarck	47 current beds and 77 under development
Welcome House	Family Shelter	Bismarck	19 for Single Female households with children
Youthworks	Emergency shelter ages 12-17 & transitional housing age 18-21	Bismarck	20 transitional, 5 emergency
United Way - Sunrise	Emergency shelter for men, women and children. Does not accept individuals under the influence of substances.	Bismarck	Total beds = 68 Women and Children (8 beds, 8 overflow) Men (32 beds, 20 overflow)

Thank you for the opportunity to express support for SB 2263.

Renae Moch, MBA, FACMPE
Director, Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health
City of Bismarck
701-355-1540
rmoch@bismarcknd.gov

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1/22/19
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To: Senator Judy Lee, Chairwoman of the Human Services
Committee
From: Jena M. Gullo, Executive Director, Missouri Slope Areawide
United Way
Date: January 22, 2019
Re: Support of SB2263 Homeless Shelter Grants

Thank you, Chairwoman and distinguished members of the
committee, for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the
homeless population in our capital city of Bismarck, North Dakota.

The homeless are often invisible and forgotten throughout many of
our North Dakota communities.

This was quite evident at the start of last winter, when the only
emergency homeless shelter in Bismarck closed their doors. There
was no one to step in to avert this crisis. Vulnerable people were left
on the streets to die.

Although out of our normal scope of services, United Way began
meeting with and sheltering homeless men, women and children
every night since October 27, 2017. If we had not done so, there's
no doubt that lives would have been lost. I vividly recall desperate
people coming in from the cold with their fingertips black from
frostbite.

Through the support of donors, volunteers, and honestly, through
the grace of God, United Way opened a permanent homeless shelter
for men, women and children on March 1, 2018.

This past year, we have helped 762 unique homeless individuals and
provided 15,716 nights of shelter.

Over 70% of the clients we have served are from North Dakota.
Their life and everything that they know is right here.

Unfortunately, United Way has only received \$14,000 in state support to keep our shelter doors open. An emergency shelter is a vital and necessary component for individuals and families that do not have a safe alternative. It's the first step to gaining stability and access to services.

The complexities of homelessness are many, with the vast majority of our clients plagued with mental illness, trauma, abuse, and addiction. Criminal records and poor credit follow those released from the state penitentiary, limiting affordable housing options and employment opportunities. Unfortunately for many, jail is not a deterrent, but often a way of survival. The practice of arrest and jail that has caused a growing number of homeless people to be incarcerated is an expensive one. When a community like Bismarck is lacking quality services, other unnecessary expenses are regularly incurred, such as the over utilization of emergency rooms and law enforcement.

There is widespread evidence of the negative impact of homelessness on children. Homeless children are far more likely to experience health, developmental, and behavioral problems than their housed peers. They are more likely to have poor attendance, fall behind in school, and perform worse on academic measures. Last school year, there were 450 homeless students in the Bismarck and Mandan Public Schools.

We can change that. But without consistent and quality service delivery, the cycle of poverty will not be broken.

Sustainable funding for effective homeless programs is needed. Investments need to be targeted. In some parts of North Dakota, functional and efficient systems need to be built. We're up for the challenge.

In this last half of the year, 96 homeless individuals moved into permanent housing and 50 individuals moved into transitional housing. While this success on a shoestring budget is important, we know that with appropriate funding we could make even greater strides in transforming many more lives, and ultimately lowering the cost of homelessness in our state.

Please join me in fighting for Melanie and her 8 year old son, Dayton, who escaped a violent home filled with drugs. And Robert, who battles schizophrenia, and is to work every morning by 5:30am after walking over 2 miles. He has difficulty managing his symptoms and holding down a job, so he primarily does day labor. And Amy, who was living in her car with her two children while working to support her family. She'd walk the kids across the street to get them ready for school in the bathroom at the gas station.

Thank you for your support of SB2263. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I may be of further assistance.

Jena M. Gullo
Executive Director
Missouri Slope Areawide United Way

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TESTIMONY
Senate Appropriations Committee SB 2263
Feb 1, 2019
Senator Kathy Hogan

Chairman Holmberg and members of the Appropriation Committee, my name is Kathy Hogan. I represent District 21. This is also the home to many individuals who experience both intermittent and chronic homelessness. My District has homeless services including soup kitchens, drop in-centers, transitional housing as well as several shelters.

Prior to the financial crisis of 2015, funding for homeless programs had a been available in the Department of Commerce. This bill simply restores half of the funding that was cut. It is the intent that the basic structure for this funding be continued as it was previously established.

Chairman Holmberg, there are several people who will testify on this program and the needs of the homeless population in ND. I would be more than willing to answer any questions.

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pg 1

Testimony in Support of SB 2263

*Cody J. Schuler Executive Director, Fargo-Moorhead Coalition to End Homelessness
Board of Directors, North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People*

ND Lobbyist #367

**North Dakota Senate Appropriations Committee
February 1, 2019**

Chairman Holmberg and members of the Committee, my name is Cody Schuler, Executive Director of the Fargo-Moorhead Coalition to End Homelessness. I am also a member of the Board of Directors of the North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People. I speak today in support of Senate Bill 2263 concerning funding of the North Dakota Homeless Grant (NDHG).

Over the past three biennia, the North Dakota Homeless Grant (NDHG) has provided vital funds for service providers across our state addressing the issue of homelessness. These dedicated service providers are not just meeting the immediate needs of those in an emergency housing crisis, they are working to prevent and end long-term homelessness. However, the 80% reduction in funds has greatly impacted that work across the state. Shelters remain at capacity and funds that prevent people from falling into homelessness regularly run short. In my community alone, over half of those seeking prevention assistance are routinely turned away due to lack of funds.

Based on the annual point in time count required by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Wilder Survey of Homelessness, and ongoing emergency shelter data, it is estimated that upwards of 1,000 people experience homelessness on any given night in the Fargo-West Fargo metro area. This number includes those who are sheltered, unsheltered, and who are homeless but "doubled up" with friends, family, or acquaintances. (This is just a snapshot of my community. Due to a shortage of outreach efforts across the state, counts in other regions of the state are often inaccurate, but reported shelter bed utilization remains high statewide.) In many cases emergency shelter is the only thing keeping individuals and families from freezing to death during our cold winters.

Increasing NDHG funding is imperative for addressing homelessness in our state. Services across the state are underfunded and in some, particularly rural areas, there is a near to complete absence of services. Most services are in our urban centers, chiefly in the eastern part of the state. Due to the lack of services across the state is common for the most affordable thing for a community to do is provide transportation for people experiencing homelessness to one of these urban centers where shelters are already full, and resources stretched.

#2

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The unmet need of homeless programs can be demonstrated by past requests of NDHG funding. The table below shows the funding needs have remained twice the amount available

	Applications for NDHG	Funded
2013	\$2,447,038	\$1,250,000
2014	\$2,428,268	\$750,000
2015	\$2,148,174	\$750,000
2016	\$2,187,524	\$750,000
2017	\$409,500	\$150,000
2018	\$280,500	\$150,000

Maintaining and increasing homeless response systems such as shelter and prevention services and increasing affordable housing and supports for vulnerable populations is the only way to move beyond “band-aids” on the issue of homelessness and moving to actually reducing and ending long-term homelessness. NDHG is key to this larger picture of ending long-term homelessness—making homelessness rare, brief, and one-time for individuals and families in our state.

NDHG does not just meet emergency needs in shelter but provides vital prevention dollars. Preventing homelessness is more cost effective than providing shelter and takes less of a toll on families. These prevention dollars are crucial to the work of reducing and ending long-term homelessness.

Funding homeless services and providing prevention dollars is the smart way to do the right thing. Homelessness costs our communities a lot of money. People experiencing homelessness often make up less than 10% of the population but consume 50-60% of resources. HUD estimates that a person experiencing chronic homelessness can cost a community \$30,000-50,000 a year. Properly funded housing solutions can drop those costs by half or more. The Housing Navigation program at Fargo’s Presentation Partners in Housing is demonstrating that when people who have experienced chronic homelessness are housed with proper supports, not only do they find the human dignity that comes with having a place to call home, there is a cost savings to the community at large. This program utilizes the Housing First model and has tracked the use of services of 20 participants before and after stable housing. In 2018 this program demonstrated nearly \$320,000 of savings to our community. Admissions to detox services dropped by 92%. Ambulance rides were lowered by 88%, a savings of over \$130,000 alone. Emergency room use dropped by 71%, a savings of over \$136,000. And nights in emergency shelter were reduced by 99%. This is one small program investing in the lives of people and having a

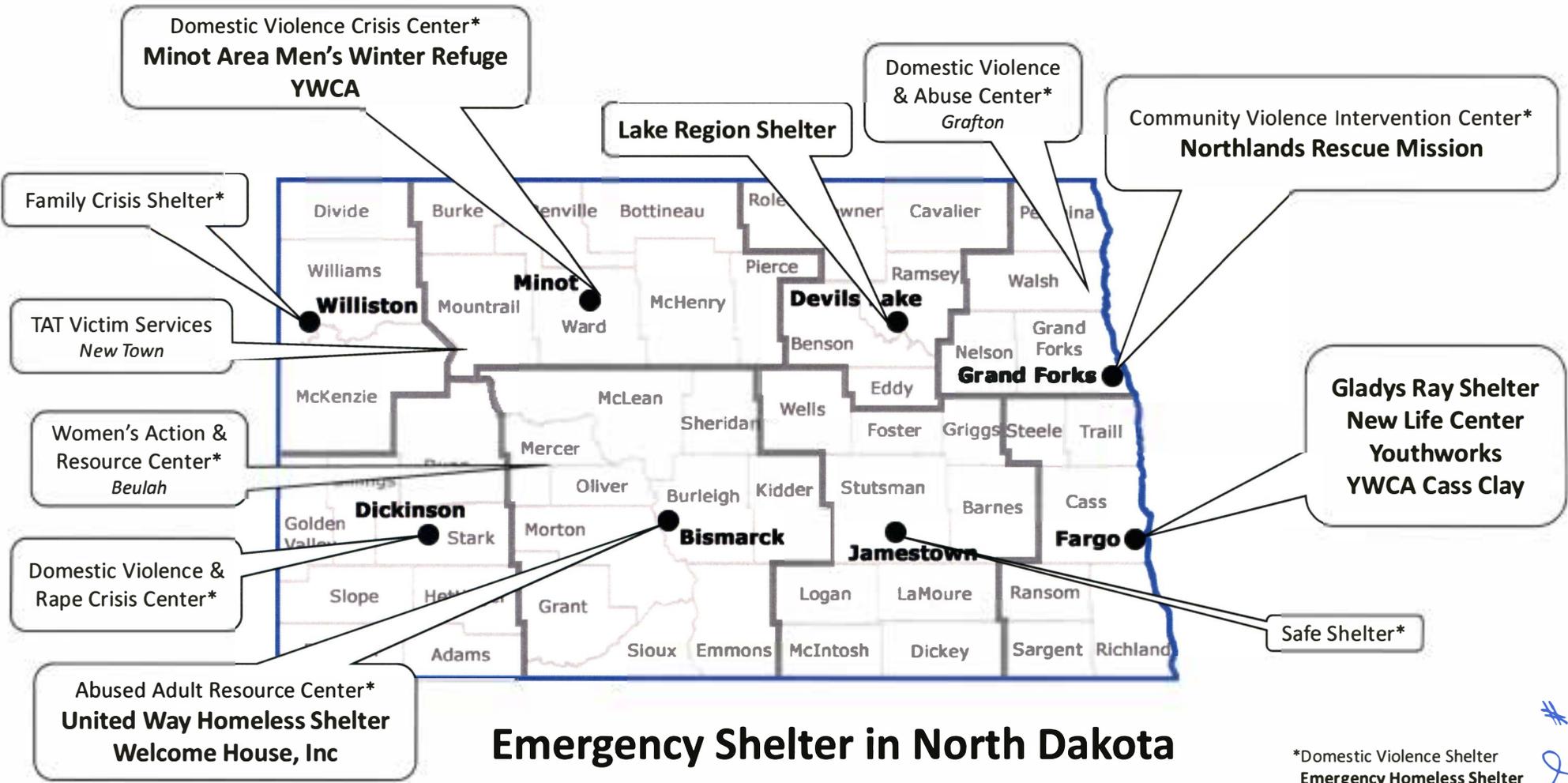
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profound impact on those individuals and on wider medical and shelter costs savings. Imagine the impact that could be made with increased NDHG dollars across the state.

At a time when issues of addiction, recovery, and behavioral health are on the rise, it is important to remember that stable housing is key to addressing all these other concerns. When sleeping in a car, on the street, or even in emergency shelter, one cannot address health concerns, addiction, or mental health issues. If we do not provide adequate homeless services in our state, investment in addressing these other important issues is lost for a population desperately in need of help.

In closing, I want to acknowledge that NDHG funds don't just impact direct services and individual lives. These funds are also needed for proper data collection and reporting. Data is a key component in preventing and ending long-term homelessness. Without good data we cannot address gaps in services or ensure that we are funding programs that have the best outcomes and are making the greatest impact. NDHG can ensure that service providers are properly resourced so agency data quality does not suffer. NDHG can also aid in ensuring that the perpetually underfunded, federally mandated Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data base is properly functioning for state and federal reporting.

While the causes of homelessness can range from trauma such as job loss, domestic violence, and addiction issues, to disabilities and health challenges, the only solution to homelessness is housing. NDHG provides critical funds that not only help those in crisis find shelter but ultimately connects people to find or remain in housing. Therefore, NDHG is not simply aid or programs, it is part of the solution to ending long-term homelessness in North Dakota.



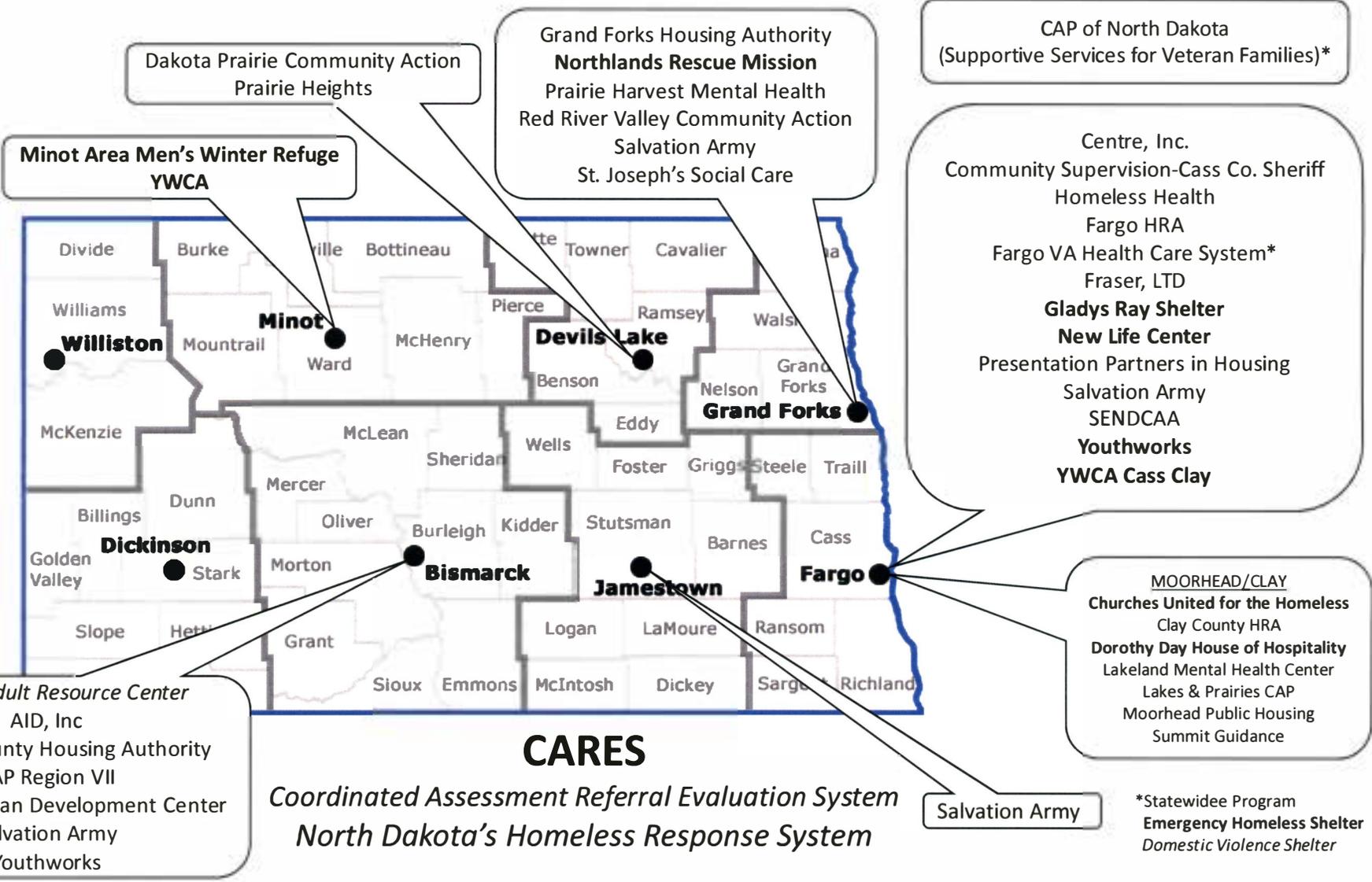
Emergency Shelter in North Dakota

*Domestic Violence Shelter
Emergency Homeless Shelter

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#2



*Statewide Program
Emergency Homeless Shelter
Domestic Violence Shelter

NORTH DAKOTA HOMELESS GRANT

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\$1.5 million fund for homeless prevention and emergency shelter administered by the North Dakota Department of Commerce in the 2015-2017 biennium.



In 2016, over \$2million in requests came to the ND Department of Commerce. \$750,000 was available and awarded.



After nearly being eliminated in the budget in the 2017-2019 biennium, the legislature appropriated \$300,000 for the program.

Twenty-nine homeless programs and domestic violence shelters received state grant funding in 2015-17, but the number of grant awards fell to eight in 2017 and 12 in 2018, according to the Department of Commerce website. The dollar amount of the grants also decreased significantly.

Bismarck Tribune - January 16, 2019

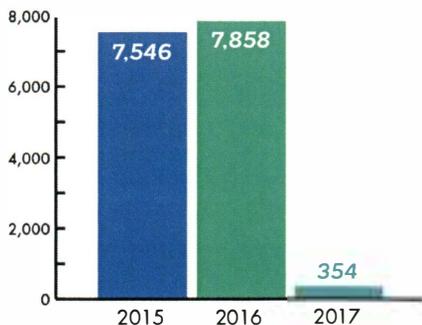
If the NDHG is not increased back up to \$1.5 million homeless prevention and shelter services in North Dakota will continue to be negatively impacted.
(There are minimal state funds provided as part of an Emergency Solutions Grant federal match)

1. Current funds (\$300,000) for assistance are not adequate and regularly run out before the year ends.
2. Shelter bed utilization has never gone below 90% during the two biennia the grant has been in existence. *Most shelters have been at or over capacity.*
3. Some communities, such as Fargo, have needed to create overflow programs hosted at churches to address this constant need.
4. Many agencies utilize these funds as federal match.

"Agencies across the state have had to make those tough decisions about whether they're going to reduce the number of clients served or whether they're going to reduce the number of services provided to those clients,"

-Mark Heinert, manager for homeless programs for Youthworks in Bismarck

Number of Total Beneficiaries



Total Nights of Shelter Provided

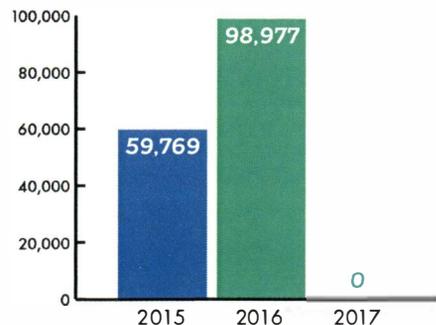


Chart data provided by North Dakota Department of Commerce

SNAPSHOT OF PROGRAMS THAT DEPEND ON THE NDHG

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- Eight providers of emergency shelter for those experiencing housing crisis.
- Eight providers of emergency shelter for women experiencing homelessness due to domestic violence.
- More than a dozen programs providing assistance for preventing homelessness. Many of these programs are critical in rural areas where emergency homeless services are limited.
- Fraser, Inc. and Youthworks (*programs in youth homelessness*). Those experiencing chronic homelessness as adults often had their first instance of homelessness as youth. Addressing youth homelessness can break cycles and potentially reduce homelessness long term.
- YWCA of Cass Clay providing services to women and children, including those experiencing domestic violence.
- New Life Center, serving men in Fargo for 110 years.
- Gladys Ray Shelter and Veterans Drop-in Center, often serving the hardest to serve.
- The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is North Dakota's federally mandated database. HMIS is already under funded and proper functionality and data integrity could be jeopardized. This is concerning because the award of federal funds are dependent upon the data collected in HMIS.
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families through Community Action Partnership.

SNAPSHOT STORY FROM YWCA IN FARGO

A woman served in the program for three months of back rent seven years ago who reached out with a \$1,500 donation to the program in 2018 because we helped her. This is her story.

"You helped me around seven years ago with three months of rent. I had fell on hard times and the YWCA helped me. I promised myself and the man upstairs that if I ever got a chance to give back to the YWCA that I would. Well recently my brother passed away and he was a "penny pincher". The minute I found out that I would be coming in to some money I knew what I wanted to do with it. I knew that I wanted to give back to the YWCA for all of the help and kindness they showed me. You treated me with respect and dignity and never judged me. Because of your help I was able to stay in my apartment for all of these years and I have a full time job and am doing really well. I have never forgotten you and I always keep the YWCA and its staff in my prayers. Thank you for caring about me."



North Dakota Homeless Grant

	Admin ¹	Homeless Prevention ¹	Rapid Rehousing ¹	Essential Services ¹	HMIS ¹	Total	# of Total Beneficiaries	Total Nights Provided Shelter	# of Agencies Funded
2015	\$13,650.00	\$125,200.00	\$127,500.00	\$450,000.00	\$33,650.00	\$750,000.00	7,546	59,769	29
2016	\$46,635.00	\$451,841.00	\$384,866.00	\$1,183,833.00	\$120,349.00	\$2,187,524.00	7,858	98,977	29
2017	\$0.00	\$79,000.00	\$21,000.00	\$0.00	\$50,000.00	\$150,000.00	354	0	8
2018	\$0.00	\$69,000.00	\$81,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150,000.00	354*	0*	12

*2018 funding ends June 30, 2019. Beneficiaries are based on 2017 funding.

¹Admin: Salaries for staff engaged in program administration

Homeless Prevention: To prevent an individual or household from becoming homeless, and moving into an emergency shelter or an unsheltered situation. Includes rental assistance, utilities in arrears, moving costs, etc.

Rapid Rehousing: To help homeless individuals or households transition as quickly as possible into permanent supportive housing. Includes rent deposits, rental assistance, utility deposits, etc.

Essential Services: Includes renovation and operation expenses for shelters as well as reimbursement for case management, child care, education and employment assistance, outpatient, and mental health services provided to individuals and families who are homeless.

HMIS: Hardware, equipment, software costs (license fees), staff salaries and training necessary to contribute data to the HMIS designated by the North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People.

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**Testimony from Erin Prochnow, CEO, YWCA Cass Clay
North Dakota Senate Appropriations Committee
February 1, 2019
SB 2263**

Introduction:

Good morning Chairwoman Holmberg and members of the committee, my name is Erin Prochnow, CEO at YWCA Cass Clay. Our agency offers the largest Emergency Shelter serving women and children in the state of North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. We have been providing services in our community for 112 years, spending the past 40 years providing emergency shelter and housing services to women and their children escaping domestic violence and abusive situations. YWCA supports SB 2263.

Homeless Prevention:

Mr. Chairman, a man facing homelessness died two weeks ago in your community in the back end of his pick-up truck that he was heating with a propane tank trying to stay warm from the elements. This is a death that I believe could have been prevented with the appropriate supports through NDHG. Today, I implore you to increase the funding level to \$1.5 million. This action was taken by the House Appropriations Subcommittee last week while discussing the Department of Commerce budget; they voted to restore the funding for NDHG to \$1.5 million. Today, I request you vote to do the same with SB 2263. We make this request because there is a demonstrated need in our state.

YWCA supports a philosophy of empowerment, aiming to not only provide shelter to the homeless, but to prevent homelessness altogether. Homeless prevention initiatives

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should be inclusive of a variety of supportive housing options and short-term assistance covering basic expenses like deposits, rent, and utility payments. By helping with these needs, YWCA believes homelessness can be prevented before it happens. And, it works!

Prior NDHG Funding:

In the last legislative session, funding was reduced by 80% from the previous biennium to support NDHG. Today, YWCA Cass Clay is asking for your assistance in restoring this funding stream.

At YWCA we witnessed an 86% reduction in NDHG state funding between the 2015-2016 and 2017-2018 biennium's (\$102,150 vs \$14,000) and as a result a 79% reduction in individuals (113 vs 24) served in the program. The people that need this assistance are struggling to get by and often live paycheck to paycheck. HPRP is a lifechanging and effective program that serves people through preventative efforts.

Prevention is Life Changing:

People like Kelly, who YWCA served seven years ago with three months of rental assistance. Kelly wrote a note of gratitude to YWCA last fall, seven years after receiving \$1,500 in HPRP assistance. With Kelly's note was a donation for \$1,500. The note read:

"You helped me around seven years ago with three months of rent. I had fell on hard times and the YWCA helped me. I promised myself and the man upstairs that if I ever got a chance to give back to the YWCA that I would. Well recently

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my brother passed away and he was a "penny pincher." The minute I found out that I would be coming in to some money I knew what I wanted to do with it. I knew that I wanted to give back to the YWCA for all of the help and kindness they showed me. You treated me with respect and dignity and never judged me. Because of your help I was able to stay in my apartment for all of these years and I have a fulltime job and am doing really well. I have never forgotten you and I always keep the YWCA and its staff in my prayers. Thank you for caring about me." Kelly, served by YWCA in 2012

As you can tell from Kelly's story, the HPRP program has proven results, **preventing** people from becoming homeless in the first place and often helping women become rehoused as quickly as possible. In the 2015-2016 biennium, YWCA was able to serve 113 women and children through the HPRP program. On average, families received one and a half months of assistance, on average totaling \$915 to each family to help with rent or a rental deposit. Of those served at that time, 87% were still maintaining their stable housing three months after receiving assistance. Again, the program is effective.

This past August, YWCA helped a woman pay one month of rent. Her hours were cut at her place of employment. Once she learned this, she was able to contact YWCA who paid one month of rent for \$575 with the support of NDHG. This client has not asked for further assistance to date. Had she become homeless, her stay in emergency shelter

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for one month at YWCA equates to \$44/day times 30 days totaling \$1,320. Not only is homeless prevention effective and the right thing to do, it is economical.

People must be a Priority:

Our priorities as a state must be to care for the most vulnerable among us including women and their children escaping unthinkable circumstances. Without these programs, thousands of North Dakotans, including women and children who have been victims of violence will be homeless. As the state's largest shelter serving women and children, we know this to be true, in 2018 we served 1,375 women and children and were at or above capacity 60% of the time. Many believe homelessness an issue only facing urban communities, based on who we serve at YWCA I can tell you, women from every corner of North Dakota from Fargo all along I-94 through Casselton, Tower City, Jamestown and Bismarck and beyond to rural communities of Dunseith, Belcourt, Grafton and many more are served by YWCA. This is not an urban issue or a rural issue, this is a humanity issue.

NDHG works and is a preventative measure we can take to stop homelessness before it begins. Please take action today. The more than 120 women and children being safely sheltered and housed by YWCA today, and hundreds of other North Dakotans facing homelessness across the state, are counting on you. Thank you.

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Mark Heinert
Homeless Programs Manager, Youthworks
Testimony in support of SB 2263
Senate Appropriations Committee

February 1, 2019

Chairman Holmberg and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mark Heinert, and I am here today to deliver testimony in support of SB 2263. I have been a licensed social worker in North Dakota for 28 years, serving runaway and homeless youth for the last 22. I am the Homeless Programs Manager at Youthworks, a private, non-profit, youth serving agency serving Runaway and Homeless Youth in North Dakota. I am also involved in North Dakota and West Central Minnesota's Coordinated Access Referral and Evaluation System (CARES) for the homeless, serving as the past chair of the governing board.

The North Dakota Homeless Grant (NDHG), which began in 2013, has provided funding to assist agencies in providing housing and support services for the homeless. The funding began with \$2 million for the 2013 - 2015 biennium, then provided \$1.5 million for the 2015 - 2017 biennium. This amount was reduced by 80% to \$300,000 in 2017 - 2019. Youthworks had utilized funding from NDHG to provide housing and support services to approximately 60 young adults (age 18 - 21) and their children annually from 2013 to 2017. An additional 80 - 100 youth received homeless prevention services and other supports. Unfortunately, in the 2017 - 2019 biennium, Youthworks did not receive any funds from NDHG to support this mission.

Youthworks has a history of success raising funds from federal sources which require local match. Without the support of the NDHG (or other local funds),

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Youthworks is in jeopardy of losing upwards of \$500,000 in federal grant funds, which are dedicated to serving homeless youth.

As homeless providers coordinate housing and services for the homeless, the most vulnerable in our population are served first. This includes the elderly, victims of domestic violence, trafficking victims, former foster youth, people with disabilities, and all children. In 2017, 36% of the homeless youth served by Youthworks are former foster youth. Additionally, 41% of 19-year old former foster youth in ND report being homeless in the last two years.

According to a 2015 Minnesota study by Foldes Consulting, LLC, an estimated \$211,059 in lifetime savings results from enabling a youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness to transition to a productive and self-sufficient lifestyle. Success with only 2.7 percent of Runaway and Homeless Youth will offset the cost of all of the housing and transformative programs that were provided in 2011 in Minnesota. Supporting youth out of homelessness resulted in lower costs of crime, lower public expenditures on healthcare and public assistance, less funding for housing supports, and lower public costs for education.

I encourage you to consider the needs of the most vulnerable in our population first. The most cost-effective way of helping vulnerable homeless people is to provide supportive housing, which is what Youthworks and other agencies are using NDHG funds for.

“On an annual basis it costs between \$12,000 and \$25,000 to place homeless people in supportive housing. In contrast, it costs about \$35,000 to \$150,000 for the person to remain

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homeless. This is based on the cost of emergency room visits,
police calls, emergency shelter, food, etc.”

- Former HUD Secretary Shaun Donavon - 2012

Passing SB 2263 is a good step towards dealing with the “big picture” of homelessness in North Dakota. We must invest in providing emergency and supportive housing and supports, so that we can help people transition into longer term stability. It is the right thing to do both from a humanitarian perspective, but also from a fiscal perspective. I therefore urge this committee to recommend a “do pass” on SB 2263 for the amount of 1.5 million dollars.

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David Schadegg
Testimony in support of SB 2263
Senate Appropriations Committee

February 1, 2019

Chairman Holmberg and Members of the Committee:

Hi my name is David Schadegg, I currently live in the Youthworks housing program due to being homeless. I am currently working at CHI St. Alexius. I'm currently back in school at BSC , I hope to complete the RN program. I enjoy coming home and spending time with my 2 month old daughter. It is really important that I follow through with school , so I can one day I have a great job to be able to provide for my daughter and make sure she has a bright future. I hope to be finished with school in the near future and still be working at the hospital.

I have add and adhd , so it is really hard for me to concentrate. I really had to work super hard to make sure I could get stuff done . When I realized how difficult it was, I came to the realization that I had to get medication. So I had to make sure I went to the doctors to get medication to help me. I also have severe anxiety so I get really anxious a lot of time. So it was really hard for me to get stuff done. I have honestly learned get help from the doctor was the best thing I have ever done . Now that I'm back on my medication I have seen myself able to concentrate more. I have not been as anxious and I have not had trouble getting stuff done .

I have been working with Youthworks since 2014 , when I was a troubled youth. Youthworks really helped me focus on getting a job and going back to school. They have also helped me change so much as a person! When I was younger I was bullied a lot , so I was constantly in the principals office . It didn't help that I lived in

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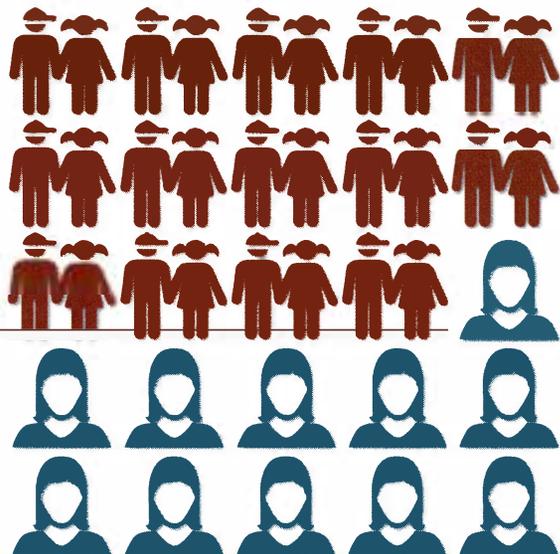
the small town of turtle lake, ND. It was really clicky and was hard for me growing up. It was really difficult with all the problems I already was struggling with . I was going down a bad path constantly getting into fights and have the school involve local law enforcement. They were threatening me to have me sent to YCC . One day the law enforcement was called and thank god it wasn't the same officers . When they got there and talked with me , one of them had mentioned Youthworks and had taken me there. From that day they have done nothing but help me . They are always so kind and understanding. I think we should vote yes for the North Dakota Homeless Grant so that agencies like Youthworks can receive funding because they help our youth and young adults so much !

eliminating racism
empowering women



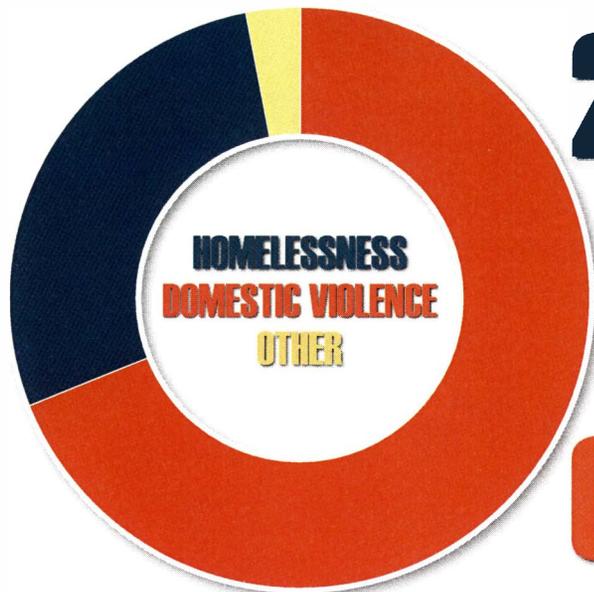
2018 Emergency Shelter IMPACT REPORT

1,375 SERVED



55% CHILDREN 45% WOMEN

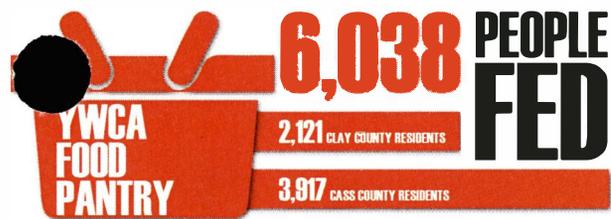
WHY WOMEN & CHILDREN SEEK SERVICES



28%

3%

69%



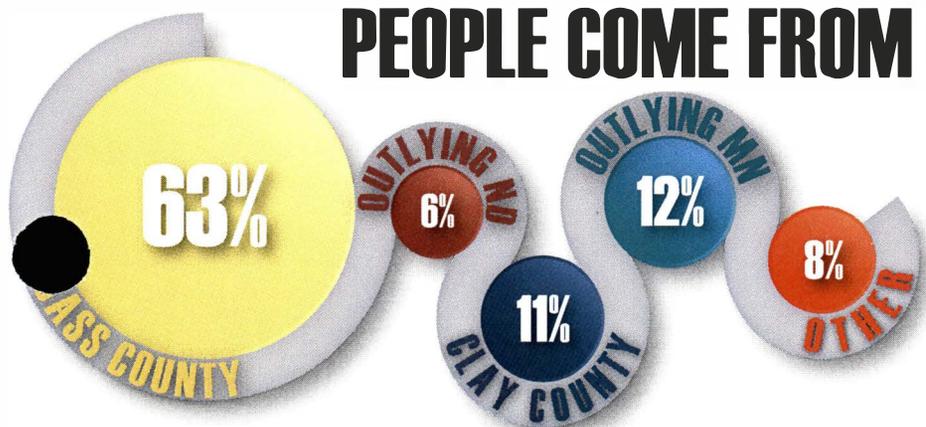
23,362 NIGHTS OF SHELTER



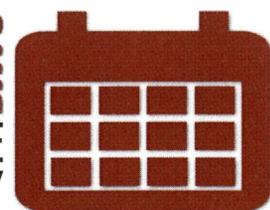
- 6% HISPANIC
- 26% NATIVE AMERICAN
- 9% MULTIRACIAL/ OTHER
- 25% AFRICAN AMERICAN
- 2% ASIAN/ PAC. ISLANDER
- 32% WHITE/ CAUCASIAN

DEMOGRAPHICS

PEOPLE COME FROM



39 DAYS AVERAGE STAY



40 HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS SERVED

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Senate Bill 2263

- Good Morning Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, My name is Sherrice Roness and I would like to thank you for listening to my testimony today. I am the Homeless Liaison for the Bismarck Public School District and I'm in favor of this bill.
- My current job is to locate and identify the students in our school district who are in transition or homeless and provide them services to ensure their education is adequate and stable. This is quite the challenge, when the families' residence is not adequate and stable. My job is working every day...with these families..trying to help them find the basics of food and shelter.
- This has become increasingly harder to do. One of the reasons is that we do not have a 24 hour staffed Emergency Shelter available to those in need. I am speaking on behalf of the families, as that is what I specifically work with, but it does pertain to all ages of people in crisis. The current shelter being funded by United Way, does not allow occupants to be in the shelter during the day, due to lack of funding for staffing. This is ok for the students that attend school during the day during the school year, but there is no place for the parents, or younger siblings, to be other than finding public places to hang out at such as the mall, library, and the hospitals. Eventually, some of these businesses won't allow them anymore. Obviously with the recent temperatures, this was

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a concern. Luckily, United Way and other programs in town stepped up and offered to house people during the day; but that is only temporary.

- If you approve this bill, the money that is allocated towards homeless shelter grants would assist in not only having staff 24-7, but the services that could come from that are huge in helping these families try to get their own place or move towards a more permanent plan. Staff that could become case-managers and work with them during the day on getting jobs, applying for services, applying for housing options, etc.
- This money could help assist in the shelter getting a landline, so the occupants can use that landline to put down for a phone number on their job applications. Currently there is not a phone there, so occupants cannot communicate with the outside world for services if they do not have a cell phone of their own that has minutes. Which you can imagine, would make getting a job to try and better your situation almost impossible.
- Another huge barrier that this money could assist with is transportation. Through my program, I can provide transportation to students for their educational needs, but that does not help with parents needing to sign up for services, go to interviews, continue drug/alcohol or mental health treatment, doctor's appointments, getting to food pantry's, and I could go on and on. Think of yourself and if you didn't have a car to get to work today and you had no money. You would probably find a friend to agree to take you, but then that friend bails on you and now you have missed work, which now you are probably fired. Taxi's cost money. CAT passes cost money and it is not the ideal

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situation to have to leave 2 hours before your appointment so you can get on and exchange buses to get to your destination, and then do it all over again on the way home. This money could provide taxi vouchers or even fund a "shuttle" that can assist with this need.

- We, (as a community), want to help promote these families to lift themselves back up and get out of temporary housing, but if we cannot give them that stability of taking care of the basics for their family during that crisis stage where there is a need for Emergency housing, we might as well hand them a sleeping bag and a bag of food and send them back out into the street.

I want to leave you with this visual. As of today, in my program, I serve 398 students who are in transition or homeless. These socks represent those students, one pair for each student. This is right here, in our community, and this doesn't even touch the number of adults experiencing homelessness. 398 is also bigger than the population of Max, ND.

- Thank you for your time



Missouri Slope Areawide United Way

515 N 4th St • PO Box 2111 • Bismarck, ND 58502-2111

Phone: 701.255.3601 • Fax: 701.255.6243

Visit our website at MSAUnitedWay.org

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To: Senator Ray Holmberg, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee
From: Jena M. Gullo, Executive Director, Missouri Slope Areawide United Way
Date: January 30, 2019
Re: Support of SB2263 Homeless Shelter Grants

Thank you, Chairman and distinguished members of the committee, for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the homeless population in our capital city of Bismarck, North Dakota.

The homeless are often invisible and forgotten throughout many of our North Dakota communities.

This was quite evident at the start of last winter, when the only emergency homeless shelter in Bismarck closed their doors. There was no one to step in to avert this crisis. Vulnerable people were left on the streets to die.

Although out of our normal scope of services, United Way began meeting with and sheltering homeless men, women and children every night since October 27, 2017. If we had not done so, there's no doubt that lives would have been lost. I vividly recall desperate people coming in from the cold with their fingertips black from frostbite.

Through the support of donors, volunteers, and honestly, through the grace of God, United Way opened a permanent homeless shelter in Bismarck for men, women and children on March 1, 2018.

This past year, we have helped 762 unique homeless individuals and provided 15,716 nights of shelter. Over 70% of the clients we have served are from North Dakota. Their life and everything that they know is right here. Many homeless clients arrive to Bismarck due to lack of services in their hometown in rural North Dakota.

Unfortunately, United Way has only received \$14,000 in state support to keep our shelter doors open. At a cost of \$27 per night, and an average of 50 men, women and children served each evening, the state funded approximately 11 nights of shelter this year. This statewide need to serve the most vulnerable population in our communities cannot be left up to the nonprofit sector alone. An emergency shelter is a vital and necessary component for individuals and families that do not have a safe alternative. It's the first step to gaining stability and access to services.

The complexities of homelessness are many, with the vast majority of our clients plagued with mental illness, trauma, abuse, and addiction. Criminal records and poor credit follow those released from the state penitentiary, limiting affordable housing options and employment opportunities. Unfortunately for many, jail is not a deterrent, but often a way of survival. The practice of arrest and jail that has caused a growing number of homeless people to be incarcerated is an expensive one. When a community like Bismarck is lacking quality services, other unnecessary expenses are regularly incurred, such as the over utilization of emergency rooms and law enforcement.

The 40% ND Tax Credit multiplies your impact. For many individuals, an investment of \$5,000 to the MSA United Way Endowment Fund could cost as little as \$1,600 after tax savings.

LIVE UNITED

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There is widespread evidence of the negative impact of homelessness on children. Homeless children are far more likely to experience health, developmental, and behavioral problems than their housed peers. They are more likely to have poor attendance, fall behind in school, and perform worse on academic measures. Last school year, there were 450 homeless students in the Bismarck and Mandan Public Schools.

We can change that. But without consistent and quality service delivery, the cycle of poverty will not be broken.

Sustainable funding for effective homeless programs is needed. Investments need to be targeted. In some parts of North Dakota, functional and efficient systems need to be built. We're up for the challenge.

In this last half of the year, 96 homeless individuals moved into permanent housing and 50 individuals moved into transitional housing. We've had far too many success stories of families and individuals now living independently, getting their children to school, and securing employment to bring before you today. While this success on a shoestring budget is important, we know that with appropriate funding we could make even greater strides in transforming many more lives, and ultimately lowering the cost of homelessness in our state. Tanya, a single mom of three children, came into our shelter as a fragile, hopeless and defeated woman. She is now strong, able to be a great mom, and thriving at a local university.

Please join me in fighting for Melanie and her 8 year old son, Dayton, who escaped a violent home filled with drugs. And Robert, who battles schizophrenia, and is to work every morning by 5:30am despite having to walk over 2 miles in the cold. And Amy, who was living in her car with her two children, while working to support her family. She'd walk her kids across the street to get them ready for school in the bathroom at the gas station. She and her children are now in a stable apartment. She has a better job, and even health insurance for her family.

Thank you for fighting for those who often don't have a voice through your support of SB2263. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I may be of further assistance.



Jena M. Gullo
Executive Director
Missouri Slope Areawide United Way

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SB 2032 Testimony—02-01-19

Hello Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lorraine Davis. I am the Founder and Executive Director of the Native American Development Center. I support SB ~~2032~~²²⁶³ because I have experienced homelessness as a tribal member moving from the reservation to the Bismarck-Mandan area. I created the Native American Development Center to provide culturally responsive services and longer-term housing to tribal members whom are ready to transition into permanent housing.

However, without sustainable emergency shelter, our tribal members will continue in a vicious cycle of homelessness.

On the reservations there isn't enough housing, in the city the obstacles are different—such as—no credit score, no savings to pay for first month's rent and security deposit and the background checks. These are all common hinderances to those who are caught in a vicious cycle of homelessness. The NADC was created to address consumer finance education and counseling as well. We support the emergency shelter grant.

Thank you,

Lorraine Davis

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TESTIMONY
House Appropriations Committee
SB 2263
March 5, 2019
Senator Kathy Hogan

Chairman Delzer and members of the Appropriation Committee, my name is Kathy Hogan. I represent District 21. This is also the home to many individuals who experience both intermittent and chronic homelessness. My district has homeless services including soup kitchens, drop in-centers, transitional housing as well as several shelters. This bill simply restored the homeless funding that was reduced in the 2017 budget.

I would like to thank the House Appropriations committee and the House for restoring those funds in the Commerce budget. I understand why you would kill this bill as being unnecessary.

Homelessness is a life and death situation for many people in North Dakota and these funds with save lives.

Thank you again, I would be more than willing to answer any questions.

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Testimony in Support of SB 2263

Janelle Moos – Executive Director, CAWS North Dakota

Interim Chairwoman, North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People

Cody Schuler – Executive Director, Fargo-Moorhead Coalition to End Homelessness

Board of Directors, North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People

North Dakota House Appropriations Committee

March 5, 2019

Chairman Delzer and Members of the Committee:

My name is Janelle Moos, I am the Executive Director of CAWS North Dakota, and I also serve as the interim chair of the North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People. I come before you today to provide information, prepared with the help of the Fargo-Moorhead Coalition to End Homelessness, on the impact that homelessness has on the Citizens and communities of North Dakota, and to help illustrate why the state's appropriation of \$1.5M is so critical to the work to prevent and end homelessness in North Dakota. I would like to thank this committee for voting to restore the funding level of the North Dakota Homeless Grant back to \$1.5M as part of the budget for the Department of Commerce, which passed the House a few weeks ago. As several of you are aware, SB 2263 was introduced prior to those amendments being adopted to the Commerce Budget, and has the same aim, to restore the funding for the NDHG. So we come before you today to support the critical nature of these funds, and to ask you to remain committed to funding the NDHG at \$1.5M this biennium, and ensure that either through the passage of SB 2263, or through the amendments to the Commerce Budget, that \$1.5M be appropriated for the NDHG.

Over the past three biennia, the North Dakota Homeless Grant (NDHG) has provided vital funds for service providers across our state addressing the issue of homelessness. These dedicated service providers are not just meeting the immediate needs of those in an emergency housing crisis, they are working to prevent and end long-term homelessness. However, the 80% reduction in funds has greatly impacted that work across the state. Shelters remain at capacity and funds that prevent people from falling into homelessness regularly run short. In my community alone, over half of those seeking prevention assistance are routinely turned away due to lack of funds.

Based on the annual point in time count required by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Wilder Survey of Homelessness, and ongoing emergency shelter data, it is estimated that upwards of 1,000 people experience homelessness on any given night in the Fargo-West Fargo metro area. This number includes those who are sheltered, unsheltered, and who are homeless but

“doubled up” with friends, family, or acquaintances. (This is just a snapshot of my community. Due to a shortage of outreach efforts across the state, counts in other regions of the state are often inaccurate, but reported shelter bed utilization remains high statewide.) In many cases emergency shelter is the only thing keeping individuals and families from freezing to death during our cold winters.

Increasing NDHG funding is imperative for addressing homelessness in our state. Services across the state are underfunded and in some, particularly rural areas, there is a near to complete absence of services. Most services are in our urban centers, chiefly in the eastern part of the state. Due to the lack of services across the state is common for the most affordable thing for a community to do is provide transportation for people experiencing homelessness to one of these urban centers where shelters are already full, and resources stretched.

The unmet need of homeless programs can be demonstrated by past requests of NDHG funding. The table below shows the funding needs have remained twice the amount available

	Applications for NDHG	Funded
2013	\$2,447,038	\$1,250,000
2014	\$2,428,268	\$750,000
2015	\$2,148,174	\$750,000
2016	\$2,187,524	\$750,000
2017	\$409,500	\$150,000
2018	\$280,500	\$150,000

Maintaining and increasing homeless response systems such as shelter and prevention services and increasing affordable housing and supports for vulnerable populations is the only way to move beyond “band-aids” on the issue of homelessness and moving to actually reducing and ending long-term homelessness. NDHG is key to this larger picture of ending long-term homelessness—making homelessness rare, brief, and one-time for individuals and families in our state.

NDHG does not just meet emergency needs in shelter but provides vital prevention dollars. Preventing homelessness is more cost effective than providing shelter and takes less of a toll on families. These prevention dollars are crucial to the work of reducing and ending long-term homelessness.

Funding homeless services and providing prevention dollars is the smart way to do the right thing. Homelessness costs our communities a lot of money. People experiencing homelessness often make up

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less than 10% of the population but consume 50-60% of resources. HUD estimates that a person experiencing chronic homelessness can cost a community \$30,000-50,000 a year. Properly funded housing solutions can drop those costs by half or more. The Housing Navigation program at Fargo's Presentation Partners in Housing is demonstrating that when people who have experienced chronic homelessness are housed with proper supports, not only do they find the human dignity that comes with having a place to call home, there is a cost savings to the community at large. This program utilizes the Housing First model and has tracked the use of services of 20 participants before and after stable housing. In 2018 this program demonstrated nearly \$320,000 of savings to our community. Admissions to detox services dropped by 92%. Ambulance rides were lowered by 88%, a savings of over \$130,000 alone. Emergency room use dropped by 71%, a savings of over \$136,000. And nights in emergency shelter were reduced by 99%. This is one small program investing in the lives of people and having a profound impact on those individuals and on wider medical and shelter costs savings. Imagine the impact that could be made with increased NDHG dollars across the state.

At a time when issues of addiction, recovery, and behavioral health are on the rise, it is important to remember that stable housing is key to addressing all these other concerns. When sleeping in a car, on the street, or even in emergency shelter, one cannot address health concerns, addiction, or mental health issues. If we do not provide adequate homeless services in our state, investment in addressing these other important issues is lost for a population desperately in need of help.

In closing, I want to acknowledge that NDHG funds don't just impact direct services and individual lives. These funds are also needed for proper data collection and reporting. Data is a key component in preventing and ending long-term homelessness. Without good data we cannot address gaps in services or ensure that we are funding programs that have the best outcomes and are making the greatest impact. NDHG can ensure that service providers are properly resourced so agency data quality does not suffer. NDHG can also aid in ensuring that the perpetually underfunded, federally mandated Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data base is properly functioning for state and federal reporting.

While the causes of homelessness can range from trauma such as job loss, domestic violence, and addiction issues, to disabilities and health challenges, the only solution to homelessness is housing. NDHG provides critical funds that not only help those in crisis find shelter but ultimately connects people to find or remain in housing. Therefore, NDHG is not simply aid or programs, it is part of the solution to ending long-term homelessness in North Dakota.

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NORTH DAKOTA HOMELESS GRANT



\$1.5 million fund for homeless prevention and emergency shelter administered by the North Dakota Department of Commerce in the 2015-2017 biennium.



In 2016, over \$2million in requests came to the ND Department of Commerce. \$750,000 was available and awarded.



After nearly being eliminated in the budget in the 2017-2019 biennium, the legislature appropriated \$300,000 for the program.

Twenty-nine homeless programs and domestic violence shelters received state grant funding in 2015-17, but the number of grant awards fell to eight in 2017 and 12 in 2018, according to the Department of Commerce website. The dollar amount of the grants also decreased significantly.

Bismarck Tribune - January 16, 2019

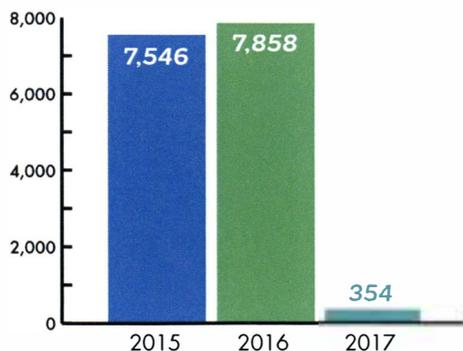
If the NDHG is not increased back up to \$1.5 million homeless prevention and shelter services in North Dakota will continue to be negatively impacted.
(There are minimal state funds provided as part of an Emergency Solutions Grant federal match)

- 1. Current funds (\$300,000) for assistance are not adequate and regularly run out before the year ends.
- 2. Shelter bed utilization has never gone below 90% during the two biennia the grant has been in existence. *Most shelters have been at or over capacity.*
- 3. Some communities, such as Fargo, have needed to create overflow programs hosted at churches to address this constant need.
- 4. Many agencies utilize these funds as federal match.

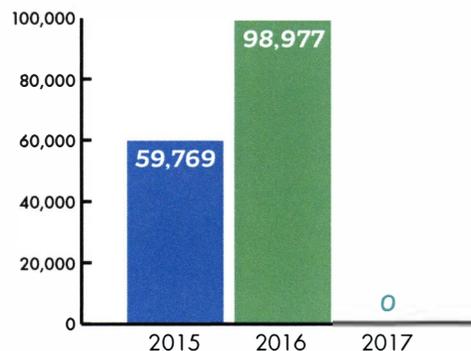
“Agencies across the state have had to make those tough decisions about whether they’re going to reduce the number of clients served or whether they’re going to reduce the number of services provided to those clients,”

-Mark Heinert, manager for homeless programs for Youthworks in Bismarck

Number of Total Beneficiaries



Total Nights of Shelter Provided



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SNAPSHOT OF PROGRAMS THAT DEPEND ON THE NDHG

- Eight providers of emergency shelter for those experiencing housing crisis.
- Eight providers of emergency shelter for women experiencing homelessness due to domestic violence.
- More than a dozen programs providing assistance for preventing homelessness. Many of these programs are critical in rural areas where emergency homeless services are limited.
- Fraser, Inc. and Youthworks (*programs in youth homelessness*). Those experiencing chronic homelessness as adults often had their first instance of homelessness as youth. Addressing youth homelessness can break cycles and potentially reduce homelessness long term.
- YWCA of Cass Clay providing services to women and children, including those experiencing domestic violence. In 2015 the YWCA served more women and children than ever before in their 40 year history.
- New Life Center, serving men in Fargo for 110 years.
- Gladys Ray Shelter and Veterans Drop-in Center, often serving the hardest to serve.
- The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is North Dakota's federally mandated database. HMIS is already under funded and proper functionality and data integrity could be jeopardized. This is concerning because the award of federal funds are dependent upon the data collected in HMIS.
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families through Community Action Partnership.

SNAPSHOT STORY FROM YWCA IN FARGO

A woman served in the program for three months of back rent seven years ago who reached out with a \$1,500 donation to the program in 2018 because we helped her. This is her story.

"You helped me around seven years ago with three months of rent. I had fell on hard times and the YWCA helped me. I promised myself and the man upstairs that if I ever got a chance to give back to the YWCA that I would. Well recently my brother passed away and he was a "penny pincher". The minute I found out that I would be coming in to some money I knew what I wanted to do with it. I knew that I wanted to give back to the YWCA for all of the help and kindness they showed me. You treated me with respect and dignity and never judged me. Because of your help I was able to stay in my apartment for all of these years and I have a full time job and am doing really well. I have never forgotten you and I always keep the YWCA and its staff in my prayers. Thank you for caring about me."



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Mark Heinert
Homeless Programs Manager, Youthworks
Testimony in support of SB 2263
House Appropriations Committee

March 5, 2019

Chairman Delzer and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mark Heinert, and I am here today to deliver testimony in support of SB 2263. I have been a licensed social worker in North Dakota for 28 years, serving runaway and homeless youth for the last 22. I am the Homeless Programs Manager at Youthworks, a private, non-profit, youth serving agency serving Runaway and Homeless Youth in North Dakota. I am also involved in North Dakota and West Central Minnesota's Coordinated Access Referral and Evaluation System (CARES) for the homeless, serving as the past chair of the governing board.

The North Dakota Homeless Grant (NDHG), which began in 2013, has provided funding to assist agencies in providing housing and support services for the homeless. The funding began with \$2 million for the 2013 - 2015 biennium, then provided \$1.5 million for the 2015 - 2017 biennium. This amount was reduced by 80% to \$300,000 in 2017 - 2019. Youthworks had utilized funding from NDHG to provide housing and support services to approximately 60 young adults (age 18 - 21) and their children annually from 2013 to 2017. An additional 80 - 100 youth received homeless prevention services and other supports. Unfortunately, in the 2017 - 2019 biennium, Youthworks did not receive any funds from NDHG to support this mission.

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Youthworks has a history of success raising funds from federal sources which require local match. Without the support of the NDHG (or other local funds), Youthworks is in jeopardy of losing upwards of \$500,000 in federal grant funds, which are dedicated to serving homeless youth.

As homeless providers coordinate housing and services for the homeless, the most vulnerable in our population are served first. This includes the elderly, victims of domestic violence, trafficking victims, former foster youth, people with disabilities, and all children. In 2017, 36% of the homeless youth served by Youthworks are former foster youth. Additionally, 41% of 19-year old former foster youth in ND report being homeless in the last two years.

According to a 2015 Minnesota study by Foldes Consulting, LLC, an estimated \$211,059 in lifetime savings results from enabling a youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness to transition to a productive and self-sufficient lifestyle. Success with only 2.7 percent of Runaway and Homeless Youth will offset the cost of all of the housing and transformative programs that were provided in 2011 in Minnesota. Supporting youth out of homelessness resulted in lower costs of crime, lower public expenditures on healthcare and public assistance, less funding for housing supports, and lower public costs for education.

I encourage you to consider the needs of the most vulnerable in our population first. The most cost-effective way of helping vulnerable homeless people is to provide supportive housing, which is what Youthworks and other agencies are using NDHG funds for.

“On an annual basis it costs between \$12,000 and \$25,000 to

place homeless people in supportive housing. In contrast, it costs about \$35,000 to \$150,000 for the person to remain homeless. This is based on the cost of emergency room visits, police calls, emergency shelter, food, etc.”

- Former HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan – 2012

I am also submitting written testimony today on behalf of the YWCA, who is the state’s largest emergency shelter serving women and children. Without programs like the YWCA, thousands of North Dakotans, including women and children who have been the victims of violence, will be homeless. In 2018 the YWCA served 1,375 women and children and were at or above capacity 60% of the time. The YWCA’s experience supports the effectiveness of homelessness prevention. In the 2015-2016 biennium, YWCA was able to serve 113 women and children through their homelessness prevention program. On average, families received one and a half months of assistance, on average totaling \$915 to each family to help with rent or a rental deposit. Of those served at that time, 87% were still maintaining their stable housing three months after receiving assistance.

Both Youthworks and the YWCA’s experience shows that funding the NDHG is a good step towards dealing with the “big picture” of homelessness in North Dakota. We must invest in providing emergency and supportive housing and supports, so that we can help people transition into longer term stability. It is the right thing to do both from a humanitarian perspective, but also from a fiscal perspective. I therefore urge this committee to recommend a “do pass” on SB 2263 for the amount of 1.5 million dollars.

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**Testimony from Erin Prochnow, CEO, YWCA Cass Clay
North Dakota House Appropriations Committee
March 5, 2019
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Introduction:

Good morning Chairman Delzer and members of the committee, my name is Erin Prochnow, CEO at YWCA Cass Clay. Our agency offers the largest Emergency Shelter serving women and children in the state of North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. We have been providing services in our community for 112 years, spending the past 40 years providing emergency shelter and housing services to women and their children escaping domestic violence and abusive situations. YWCA supports SB 2263.

Homeless Prevention:

YWCA supports a philosophy of empowerment, aiming to not only provide shelter to the homeless, but to prevent homelessness altogether. Homeless prevention initiatives should be inclusive of a variety of supportive housing options and short-term assistance covering basic expenses like deposits, rent, and utility payments. By helping with these needs, YWCA believes homelessness can be prevented before it happens. And, it works!

Prior NDHG Funding:

In the last legislative session, funding was reduced by 80% from the previous biennium to support NDHG. Today, YWCA Cass Clay is asking for your assistance in restoring this funding stream.

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At YWCA we witnessed an 86% reduction in NDHG state funding between the 2015-2016 and 2017-2018 biennium's (\$102,150 vs \$14,000) and as a result a 79% reduction in individuals (113 vs 24) served in the program. The people that need this assistance are struggling to get by and often live paycheck to paycheck. HPRP is a lifechanging and effective program that serves people through preventative efforts.

Prevention is Life Changing:

People like Kelly, who YWCA served seven years ago with three months of rental assistance. Kelly wrote a note of gratitude to YWCA last fall, seven years after receiving \$1,500 in HPRP assistance. With Kelly's note was a donation for \$1,500. The note read:

"You helped me around seven years ago with three months of rent. I had fell on hard times and the YWCA helped me. I promised myself and the man upstairs that if I ever got a chance to give back to the YWCA that I would. Well recently my brother passed away and he was a "penny pincher." The minute I found out that I would be coming in to some money I knew what I wanted to do with it. I knew that I wanted to give back to the YWCA for all of the help and kindness they showed me. You treated me with respect and dignity and never judged me. Because of your help I was able to stay in my apartment for all of these years and I have a fulltime job and am doing really well. I have never forgotten you and I always keep the YWCA and its staff in my prayers. Thank you for caring about me." Kelly, served by YWCA in 2012

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As you can tell from Kelly's story, the HPRP program has proven results, **preventing** people from becoming homeless in the first place and often helping women become rehoused as quickly as possible. In the 2015-2016 biennium, YWCA was able to serve 113 women and children through the HPRP program. On average, families received one and a half months of assistance, on average totaling \$915 to each family to help with rent or a rental deposit. Of those served at that time, 87% were still maintaining their stable housing three months after receiving assistance. Again, the program is effective.

This past August, YWCA helped a woman pay one month of rent. Her hours were cut at her place of employment. Once she learned this, she was able to contact YWCA who paid one month of rent for \$575 with the support of NDHG. This client has not asked for further assistance to date. Had she become homeless, her stay in emergency shelter for one month at YWCA equates to \$44/day times 30 days totaling \$1,320. Not only is homeless prevention effective and the right thing to do, it is economical.

People must be a Priority:

Our priorities as a state must be to care for the most vulnerable among us including women and their children escaping unthinkable circumstances. Without these programs, thousands of North Dakotans, including women and children who have been victims of violence will be homeless. As the state's largest shelter serving women and children, we know this to be true, in 2018 we served 1,375 women and children and were at or above capacity 60% of the time. Many believe homelessness an issue only facing urban

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communities, based on who we serve at YWCA I can tell you, women from every corner of North Dakota from Fargo all along I-94 through Casselton, Tower City, Jamestown and Bismarck and beyond to rural communities of Dunseith, Belcourt, Grafton and many more are served by YWCA. This is not an urban issue or a rural issue, this is a humanity issue.

NDHG works and is a preventative measure we can take to stop homelessness before it begins. Please take action today. The more than 120 women and children being safely sheltered and housed by YWCA today, and hundreds of other North Dakotans facing homelessness across the state, are counting on you. Thank you.