



January 12, 2023

Dear Chairman Monson and members of the committee,

My name is Andrea Olson and I'm the Executive Director of Community Action Partnership of North Dakota. We are a nonprofit organization representing the collective interests of our members and the low-income population of the state through representation and education for more than 40 years. The services provided by our regional Community Action Partnership agencies serve low-income families, many of those experiencing homelessness or are at-risk of homelessness.

Our Network has worked extensively with the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency over the years and we are eager for their leadership in both the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) and the North Dakota Homeless Grant (NDHG). NHDFA has a vast amount of experience in statewide programming and they are exceptional leaders committed to serving North Dakota; they are dedicated to making housing affordable for all North Dakotans.

It is easy for me to say that within our own network the need for additional funding is unfortunately great; the amount of families in need of food, clothing and shelter has substantially increased over the past few years, and the need wasn't fully addressed prior to COVID. We have assisted thousands of families over the years and there are many more to assist going forward. Last year alone, our Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), which targets Veterans experiencing homelessness, in North Dakota served 260 families.

We fully support an increase to \$5 million for the North Dakota Homeless Grants as it would benefit many families experiencing housing crises across the state. Without adequate funding we struggle to appropriately and fully address the needs of families seeking services to establish stability in many areas of their life, as do our partner agencies across the state.

Respectfully,

Andrea Olson, MS, CCAP, NCRT/NCRI
Community Action Partnership of North Dakota
Executive Director