

TIME to PRAY - Shelter Capital Urgently Needed!

You don't normally see this in newsletters, but we are people of faith and it's time for Prayer!



Our Legislative session is nearing completion with just two weeks to go, and to date, we still have no word of any funding being provided for emergency shelter capital.

Chum shelters hundreds of people annually in a facility built in 1993 to harbor 30 people. We provide respite and relief to hundreds of others via a 24-hour drop-in service that is overcrowded, in dire need of repair and expansion, and unfit to harbor such dense concentrations of humanity afflicted by mental illness, chemical addictions and persistent trauma. Despite our best efforts, there are over 600 citizens who are not able to access shelter, much less housing. They exist in places unfit for human habitation.

Congress recognized our plight and last Christmas responded with a two-million-dollar grant for shelter expansion. We need another 2.5 million to get the project off the ground, and it was our hope that our legislative leaders in our state would more than readily do their part in ensuring that projects such as ours would be funded.



The MN Coalition for the Homeless has calculated that approximately \$200 million in funding is needed to build new facilities and maintain existing shelters across our state. The House Health and Human Services budget proposal contains \$150 million in emergency shelter capital. The Senate and Governors Budget make no provision.

Today, and over the next 2 weeks as our leaders negotiate Minnesota's next budget, reach out to Governor Walz and Senate Majority Leader Dziedzic. Ask them to prioritize this important investment as negotiations continue. Please [complete the action alert ASAP](#) as negotiations can move very quickly at the Capitol!

But also, we are asking you to pray. Please include the following in your prayers over the next 2 weeks.

Loving God,

We thank you for the gifts you bestow on us. Our state is a beautiful and loving area, but there are still many people who experience great suffering. Grant us wisdom to know how to effectively plead for funding, courage to be prophetic on behalf of your people, and success in securing the funding necessary to shelter people in health and dignity. We ask this in the name that we all call Holy. Amen.