



Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing



**MICAH lives out the prophetic vision that calls us
"to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with God." (Micah 6:8).**

**MICAH envisions a metropolitan area where everyone without exception
has a safe, decent, accessible and affordable home.**



FEDERAL POLICY

Bring America Home NOW! Campaign

The National Coalition for the Homeless is spearheading Bring America Home NOW: A Comprehensive Grassroots Campaign to End Homelessness in the U.S.

Led by people who have themselves experienced homelessness, we will focus on the passage of federal legislation aimed at addressing the interconnected solutions to the decades-long epidemic of homelessness in the United States.

The campaign focuses on 6 major policy areas:

1. **Housing** is a basic human right.
2. **Health** and homelessness are inextricably linked: a safe, stable home is the prerequisite of health and well-being.
3. **Livable incomes** are essential to prevent and homelessness to ensure stability in housing.
4. **Education and training** can play a critical role for - children, youth, and adults - in equipping people with the knowledge and skills needed for economic mobility.
5. **Civil Rights** - Homelessness is a civil rights issue. People experiencing homelessness should not be criminalized or victims of hate crimes.
6. **Racial Equity** - Homelessness is a racial justice issue in the United States and racial equity is a key housing justice.





FEDERAL POLICY

IMMEDIATE REQUESTS

Ensure the highest level of funding for housing in the FY23 spending bill.

IMMEDIATE THREATS

Push back against anti-homelessness rhetoric and legislation at the federal, state, & local level.

LONG TERM SOLUTIONS

Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act (S.1991)

Create an additional 500,000 housing vouchers over five years for low-income, high-need families with young children. Pregnant women and families with a child under age 6 would qualify for these new vouchers if they have a history of homelessness or housing instability, live in an area of concentrated poverty, or are at risk of being pushed out of an opportunity area. Provide families receiving the new vouchers with access to counseling and case management service.

Ending Homelessness Act (H.R.4496)

Establishes a universal voucher program to ensure every eligible household can receive rental assistance. Provides \$10.5 billion to build homes affordable to people with the greatest needs
Bans source of income discrimination and provides funding for fair housing enforcement.



FEDERAL POLICY

LONG TERM SOLUTIONS (Cont.)

American Housing and Economic Mobility Act (S.1368/H.R.2768)

Invests \$44.5 billion annually in the Housing Trust Fund. Expands Fair Housing protections. The bill expands the Fair Housing Act to ban housing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, marital or veteran status, and source of income. Incentivizes communities to reduce zoning and regulatory barriers.

Eviction Crisis Act/Stable Families Act (S.2182/H.R.8327)

This is a permanent program – funded at \$3 billion annually – to help stabilize households experiencing an economic shock before it causes instability and homelessness, which often require more prolonged, extensive, and expensive housing assistance.

Fair Housing Improvement Act (S.4485/H.R.8213)

Expands the Fair Housing Act of 1968 to prohibit housing discrimination based on “military status,” “veteran status,” and “source of income.” In doing so, the bill will make it easier for low-income households, veterans, and servicemembers to access affordable housing in communities of their choice.



Local Homeless Prevention Aid

<https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/local-homeless-prevention-aid>

Local Homeless Prevention Aid was created by the Minnesota 2021 Legislature to help local governments ensure no child is homeless within a local jurisdiction by keeping families from losing housing and helping those experiencing homelessness find housing.

Counties must use this aid to fund new or existing family homeless prevention and assistance projects or programs. These projects or programs may be administered by a:

- County
- Group of contiguous counties acting together
- City
- Group of contiguous cities acting together
- Tribe
- Group of tribes
- Community-based nonprofit organization.





Each project or program must include plans for:

- Targeting families with children who are eligible for a prekindergarten through grade 12 academic program and are one of the following:
 - Living in overcrowded conditions in their current housing.
 - Paying more than 50 percent of their income for rent.
 - Lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.
- Targeting unaccompanied youth in need of an alternative residential setting.
- Connecting families with the social services necessary to maintain the families' stability in their homes, such as housing navigation, legal representation, and family outreach.
- One or both of the following:
 - Providing rental assistance for a specified period which may exceed 24 months.
 - Providing support and case management services to improve housing stability, such as housing navigation and family outreach.

Counties may choose not to spend all or a portion of the distribution under this section. Any unspent funds must be returned to the Department of Revenue by December 31 of the year following the year that the aid was received.

MINNESOTA POLICY



MICAH's 2022-23 Legislative Priorities Include:

1. Ensure the voice and power of people who have experienced homelessness and or housing crises are at every decision make table, design, implementation, evaluation of homeless programs and housing.
2. Work with families impacted by Lead Poisoning on Lead Safe Homes Bill, to protect our children from lead poisoning.
3. Racial Equity and protection of Civil Rights in all Homeless and Housing Programs and support systems
4. Preserve and create safe, decent accessible affordable housing (rental & homeownership) for people with incomes under 30% median income.
5. Support livable incomes for people who are employment, unemployed and on public assistance.
6. Ensure we are a welcoming community in creating housing opportunities that provide second chances and mercy for those who have struggled with addiction, mental and/or physical health, criminal, and/or rental issues.
7. MICAH will be actively involved with Homes For All process in developing and implementing the 2023 Session priorities.



Faith in Action

We can find no social or moral justification, no justification whatsoever, for lack of housing.

- Pope Francis 9/24/15



We must demand all our systems and organizations do what is needed to guarantee everyone, without exception, a safe, decent, accessible, and affordable home.