



Sowers of Justice
Catholic Legislative Network

**Action
Alert**

Increase Funding for Affordable Housing!

April 12, 2007

Background:

Each night, roughly 7,000 individuals are “lucky” enough to receive shelter from a variety of homeless services across the state. Unfortunately, due to inadequate resources, almost 1,000 are turned away each night. Children and unaccompanied youth regularly account for nearly half of those sheltered and turned away. Homeless children struggle in school. Unaccompanied youth are left to fend for themselves. Victims of domestic violence often return to their abuser. Vulnerable people are forced to live on the streets.

To keep this from happening any more, we must ensure that the Minnesota Legislature commits new and ongoing resources to end homelessness.

Governor Pawlenty and the Senate recommend an increase in *homeless prevention dollars* that are double the current amount! Tell them you support their budgets!

The House appropriates \$12 million in homeless assistance funds, which is above the Governor’s recommendations. Let your House members know you support this \$12 million over the Governor’s proposal.

The House budget appropriations make use of welfare dollars to fill the gap. Let your house members know that the welfare dollars are better spent in the state’s welfare to work program, the purpose for which they were intended, so that the state avoids federal penalties for not moving families out of poverty.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Contact your legislators and let them know:

- **House Member:** You support the House proposal to increase the homeless assistance funds by \$12 million above the Governor’s recommendations.
- **Senate Member and the Governor:** You support and thank them for their recommendation to double funding for homelessness prevention.
- **Both:** Request they use the TANF dollars in the state’s welfare to work program to avoid federal penalties rather than divert them to housing.

Organize others in your parish to do the same!

Contact information for your legislators can be found at: <http://www.leg.mn>.