

**Arc MN Housing Services
&
Housing Legislative Agenda Proposals**

Presented by

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Arc MN Housing Services

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Arc MN Housing Services

The Arc Minnesota has **two statewide housing programs** that serve the areas of the Twin Cities Metro, Rochester, Mankato, St. Cloud, Moorhead, and Duluth. We assist people across all disabilities in our Housing Programs.

Arc MN Housing Services

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The Arc MN Housing Service Programs

- **Housing Access Services Program** (HAS) is for people who do not have waivers and are not at risk of homelessness or in a congregate setting, which has been updated.
- **Housing Stabilization Services** (HSS) is a new housing program funded by federal Medicaid (Medical Assistance) dollars.

Arc MN Housing Services

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- **Crisis Housing Assistance Program** provides short-term housing assistance to people with a serious mental illness who are receiving hospital level psychiatric care or Substance Use Disorder treatment. This program is funded through a grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services Behavioral Health Division.
- We work with each person, regardless of program, on an individual basis to see what they need and require for housing. This can differ greatly from person to person.

Arc MN 2023 Legislative Agenda Housing Proposals

Information Provided by

Julia Page (Arc MN Public Policy Director)

Summarized by

JoAnn Leppink

Arc MN Legislative Agenda Housing Proposals

Increase Affordable & Accessible Housing Options

- House file-302/ Senate file-1094
- Arc MN **supports housing infrastructure bonds** (largest source of capital funded by the State) that offer loans and grants to fund the creation or preservation of affordable and accessible housing. Only 5% of funds go towards accessible units, but building codes actually don't require units to be truly accessible like including a **roll-in shower**. Arc MN wants to **ensure 5% of accessible units** include roll-in showers and other truly accessible features. Arc MN also wants 5% of units to include sensory accessible features. Arc MN wants to expand housing eligibility requirements to include affordable housing and not just supportive housing.

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Help More Minnesotans with Disabilities Live In Homes of their Own

- House file-716/ Senate file-654

Expanding Shared Services

- **Consumer Directed Community Services (CDCS)**- allows for shared services (one staff providing services for multiple people at one time) but Arc MN wants shared services to be available across all disability waivers. This would allow for more consumer choice and less staffing.
- **Individual Home Supports Training (IHST)**- allows for people to maintain living in their own homes and live independently. Arc MN wants to allow IHST workers to travel anywhere consumers need to go even if it is out of state or region.
- **Billing for Indirect Time**- allows for IHST workers to bill for time spent directly servicing consumers. Arc MN wants to expand this and allow for IHST workers to bill for time not spent directly with consumers but time spent serving on behalf of consumers such as coordinating consumers' doctor's appointments.

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Improve Rates for Critical In-home Services

- House file-696,584,585/ Senate file-695,902,903
- Arc MN wants PCA and waiver **rates to be increased based on inflationary changes** and not just based on set scheduled 2-year increments. Arc MN also wants increased rates for home care staff such as home care nursing and homemaking. And increased billing time for care assessments.

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Strengthening Housing Support (Formerly Known as GRH)

- House file-732
- Recipients of Housing Support are only allotted \$121 per month to spend on personal needs. Arc MN along with Catholic Charities **wants 30% or less of people's incomes to be spent towards housing** and allow them to keep the rest to spend on other needed expenses.

Website Resources

- “Take Action” is asking \$2Billion to spend for housing

<https://mhponline.org/take-action-now-2-billion-for-housing-in-2023>

- Arc MN Housing Stabilization Services

[Housing Stabilization Services | HSS Program | The Arc MN \(arcminnesota.org\)](#)

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