

# Homes for All

## 2023 Planning Process Update

NOVEMBER 16, 2023  
9:30 A.M.



# EVALUATION & PLANNING PROCESS

- ▶ Homes for All received a small amount of funding from the Heading Home Minnesota Funders Collaborative to:
  - Evaluate our work during the 2023 Legislative Session
  - Plan for our work during the 2024 Legislative Session
- ▶ Consultant Amy Brugh was selected to guide us through these processes.
- ▶ Several methods were used, including:
  - ▶ Two facilitated group conversations, one with the full Homes for All Coalition and one with the Coordinating Team
  - ▶ Individual conversations with Homes for All Coalition members, a funder, a legislator, and a legislative staffer
  - ▶ An email survey distributed to coalition members

# EVALUATION OF 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

- ▶ There were significant **increases in legislative appropriations** across the housing continuum and important **advancements in legislative policies**, such as eviction expungement and tenant/landlord reforms.
- ▶ There is deep **appreciation for the coalition's efforts** and extraordinary funding and policy successes during the 2023 session.
- ▶ The **coalition strengthened relationships and its reputation** with elected officials. Some participants noted **increased trust among coalition members** and between coalition members and policymakers.
- ▶ The Homes for All Legislative Coalition is a broad coalition and the Legislative Agenda includes many items and these have contributed to **competing priorities among the coalition's membership**.
- ▶ With all of the success of the 2023 legislative session, this also presented **advocate fatigue, in particular among the leaders of the coalition** and the Coordinating Team. The Coordinating Teams' leaders and members are in transition. The **expectations** of the coalition and the Coordinating Team **exceed the capacity** and resources.
- ▶ There were **important policy initiatives** that **did not pass**, such as source of income protection, and the **lack of a bonding bill's** passage was disappointing to some members.
- ▶ Many participants believe that there is **no overarching or long term strategy**, and that the coalition instead is a keeper of **a list of funding and policy priorities**.
- ▶ There is **frustration and confusion** within the coalition, **both for** people who have been **leaders** or actively involved, **and with those that are not paid advocates** or employees of any housing-related organization.
- ▶ There is **ongoing tension** between prioritizing people with **lived experiences** and highlighting their voices vs. **the technical, wonky**, and sometimes exclusionary aspects of the legislative process.

# PLANNING FOR 2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

- ▶ **Clarify role of coalition.** Most participants want to see the coalition clarify its role and implement corresponding changes, such as prioritizing one area of work, reducing the coalition's role, shifting the focus, or pausing the coalition.
- ▶ **Determine core strategy and function.** There were questions and ideas raised around the coalition's core function, and many suggested shrinking the coalition's breadth. These included:
  - Run the coalition in the ways the Policy Team currently operates.
  - Run the coalition as an information sharing network. Convene meetings and share information about bills, funding, legislative progress.
  - Run the coalition as a space and mechanism for people with lived experience to engage with the legislative process.
- ▶ **Identify and secure financial resources.** Many want to see the coalition continue, and it is generally understood that there aren't resources to support people's continued involvement. Some want to see financial resources raised through fundraising, grant writing, and membership dues. Ideas for using these funds include a coordinator or administrative staff, coalition infrastructure, and/or a paid lobbyist.
- ▶ **Legislative Agenda.** Many view the Legislative Agenda as an exhaustive list rather than rooted in a longer-term strategy. Some want the process for setting the legislative agenda change with tighter criteria and be more tied to strategy.

# VISION & MISSION

▶ Vision:

- Everyone has a safe and dignified home.

▶ Mission:

- Homes for All is a statewide coalition to create policies and resources to prevent and end homelessness, and to ensure every Minnesotan has a dignified home.

▶ Definition:

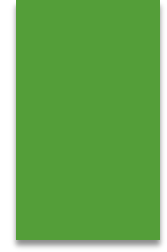
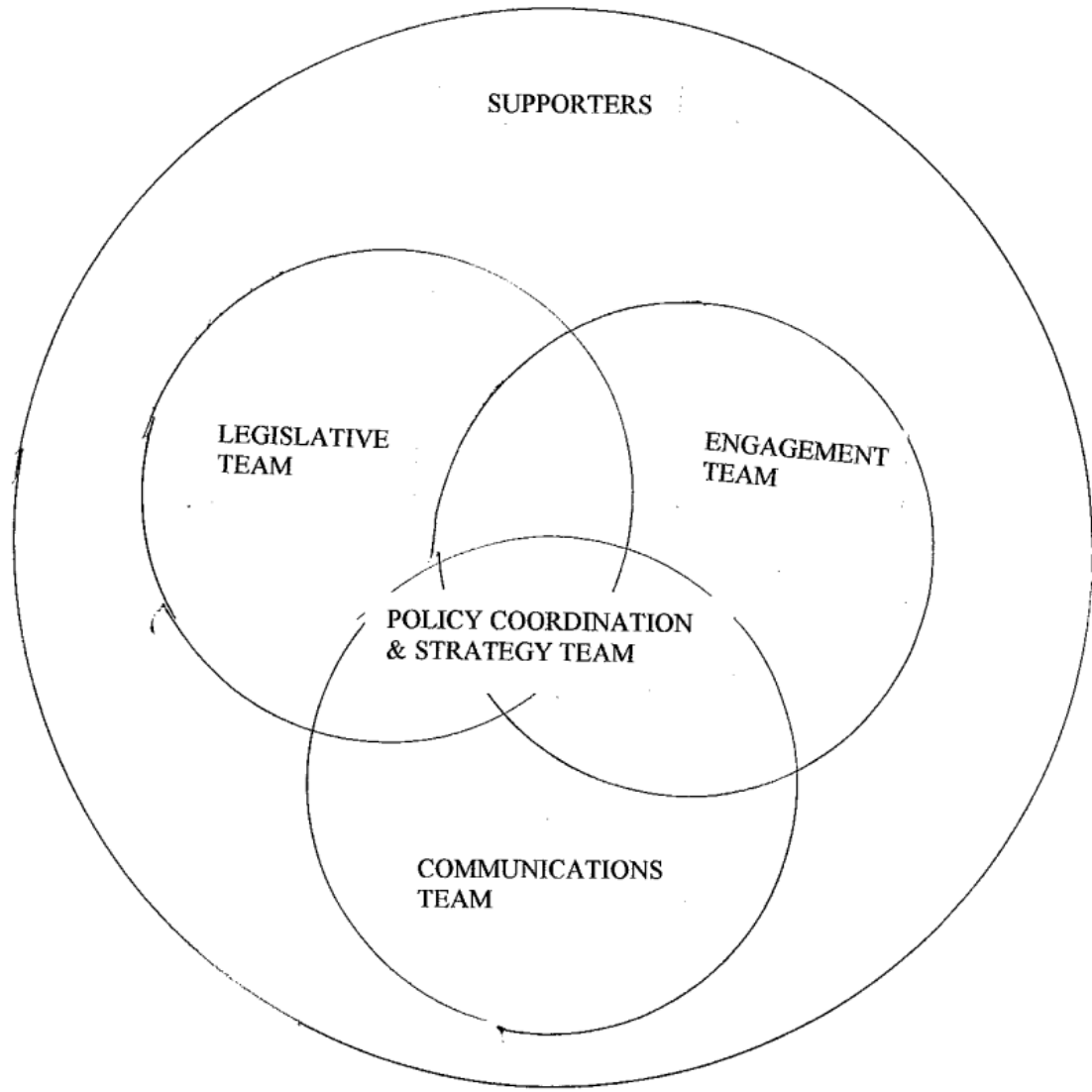
- Dignified Home: Safe, decent, stable, and accessible homes (including a diversity of models: rental/shared/homeownership) that they can afford at 30% of their household income or less, with services they want and that meet their needs, in the community of their choice.

# KEY PRINCIPLES

1. Listen to and include at the decision-making tables the people affected, providers, advocates, and community members as we advocate for H4A's positions, create policy change and increasing resources.
2. Support the entire Continuum of Housing: prevention (including rental assistance), outreach, shelter, transitional housing models, supportive housing affordable rental, and homeownership.
3. Create equitable use of housing resources and streamline access to resources.

# COALITION STRUCTURE

- H4A Supporters: those that support and/or engage in the passage of the H4A Policy Agenda
  - Promote H4A agenda – Link to agenda on their website and/or Facebook
  - Response to Action Alerts
  - Attend rallies
- Three Core teams, that are interconnected, form the Policy Coordination & Strategy Team
  - Legislative Team
  - Engagement Team
  - Communication Team
- Decision Makers:
  - Core Team Members are the people who are engaged in the Legislative, Engagement, and/or Communication Team meetings.





# MEETING STRUCTURE (slide 1)

- ▶ Streamline meetings as much as possible around a single meeting time.
- 10:00-11:00 AM - Legislative Team (every Monday, except Holidays)
  - Breakout room by specific topic areas (twice a month)
  - Potential topic areas:
    - Homelessness Services
    - Prevention and Rental Assistance (including FHPAP and Source of Income)
    - Housing Development (including bonding)
    - Homeownership (including Manufactured Housing)
    - Tenant Issues
  - Legislative Team is responsible for:
    - Updating legislative team's agenda tracking spreadsheet.
    - Providing draft letters of support to the Policy Coordination & Strategy Team for signature
    - Providing brief action alerts on the legislation to Policy Coordination & Strategy Team

# MEETING STRUCTURE (slide 2)

- 10:00 AM - Full H4A Meeting- 2nd Monday each month with Core Teams
  - First 10-20 minutes – H4A organizational and policy updates and remainder of the meeting is regular legislative work as described below.
- 9:00-9:30 AM - Pre-Legislative Team (meeting 2nd and 3rd Mondays)
  - H4A overview, the importance of using your voice, power, and experiences to create change. Specific education/equipping of H4A supporter (Legislation 101, testifying, meeting with legislators, etc.), which will primarily occur prior to the Legislative Session beginning.
- 11:00-11:30 AM – Policy Coordination and Strategy Team: Coordination between Leads (Legislative, Engagement and Communication)
  - Engagement and Communication Teams will typically meet 2 times per month outside of regular Monday meeting to develop engagement and communication strategies for the agenda based on direction from the Monday meetings.