

FACT SHEET | Strong, Safe, and Healthy Communities

2015 Budget for a Better Minnesota

Governor Dayton understands the importance of strong, safe, and healthy Minnesota communities. This session, the Governor's budget proposal would make additional investments to improve the care of senior citizens, enhance public safety, and build stronger communities with affordable housing.

Quality Care and Housing

- **High-Quality Nursing Home Care** – Governor Dayton believes the hard-working Minnesotans who care for our aging parents, grandparents, and friends and relatives with disabilities, should be paid fairly. That is why the Governor and the Minnesota Legislature invested more than \$93 million in nursing homes over the last four years. This year, the Governor is proposing investing an additional \$25 million investment over the next two years to increase worker salaries and provide quality care for nursing home residents statewide.
- **Investing in Workforce Housing** – The Governor's budget proposal would invest an additional \$10 million in the Housing and Job Growth Initiative – a program designed to build affordable housing where local business and job growth would be enhanced with better access to workforce housing. This proposed investment builds off of the \$10 million investment Governor Dayton and the Legislature made in this program in 2013.
 - **Significant Need** – Minnesota needs between 4,500 and 7,500 units of affordable, workforce housing to address the state's current shortage. The Minnesota Housing Finance Agency has identified 77 communities across the state that are experiencing low rental vacancy rates, high job growth rates, and have workers commuting long distances to their jobs.
 - **Reducing the Housing Shortage** – Governor Dayton's budget proposal would fund the construction of approximately 650 new affordable housing units throughout Minnesota. It would also provide \$2 million in rental assistance for 130 highly mobile families, creating stability for working parents and their school-age children.

Safe Communities

- **Enhancing Public Safety** – Governor Dayton's budget proposal includes an additional \$149 million investment in public safety, the courts, and corrections systems. These investments – which represent roughly 8 percent of the surplus – would enhance the safety of Minnesotans and ensure the efficient, productive operation of the state's justice system.
- **Catching Dangerous Criminals** – More than 5,100 warrants were issued in 2014 for fugitive felons statewide. Only 7 percent were arrested. This session, the Governor's supplemental budget would invest \$5.6 million in the Department of Corrections' Fugitive Apprehension Unit. Those funds would be used to hire seven new officers to track down and arrest dangerous criminals, and 10 more staff members to supervise and help prevent offenders from becoming fugitives in the future.
- **Fast, Efficient Disaster Relief** – After a disaster, Minnesotans always come together. This year, Governor Dayton's budget would invest \$11 million in Minnesota's disaster relief fund. This funding would help the state avoid the need for expensive special sessions to allocate aid, and help ensure state assistance arrives more quickly.