

Preventing Homelessness in Minnesota



A stable home is the foundation that enables all Minnesotans to thrive. It's where we eat our meals, prepare for work or school, and rest and recharge. Yet on any given night, an estimated 19,600 Minnesotans are experiencing homelessness. This has implications not only for these individuals but for our communities, state and economy.

TRANSFORMING OUR HOUSING SYSTEM

Community members and the Governor's Housing Task Force have identified two highly at-risk groups in our state's homeless population: **youth exiting foster care and people transitioning out of incarceration.**

Every year, around 400 youth in Minnesota age out of the foster care system on their 18th birthday, and by age 21, 48% of foster youth do not have stable housing. This is often due to not having the necessary resources and support to maintain housing stability. Black and Indigenous children and youth are overrepresented in Minnesota's foster care system population.

Nearly 19% of individuals released from prison in Minnesota in 2021 were released into homelessness. Of the 4,300 adults experiencing homelessness in the Greater Twin Cities, 49% have ever been incarcerated. According to the Department of Corrections, "Stable housing is critical to successful reentry into Minnesota communities. When individuals are released from incarceration, access to employment, housing, positive connections in the community, and medical care and medications are directly connected to greater public safety."

Minnesota's homeless response system is designed so that many of these resources can only be accessed after someone has become homeless. **By transforming the housing system, we can disrupt this pipeline into housing instability by preventing, rather than responding to, homelessness in Minnesota.**

POLICY SOLUTIONS

Secure funding for special initiatives that provide homeless prevention services to youth exiting foster care and adults transitioning out of incarceration.

Ensure foster youth receive the benefits they are due. An estimated 1,400 children in foster care are eligible for federal Supplemental Security Income, largely due to receiving survivor benefits because of a death of a parent. However, current law allows child welfare agencies take this money and make children pay for foster care.



Greater Twin Cities
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