



MINNESOTA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

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STATE RELEASES UPDATED PLAN TO PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS

Joint effort between 11 state agencies details commitments, accountability and action

(St. Paul, MN) – State officials approved an updated two-year action plan today for the Minnesota's continued efforts to prevent and end homelessness. The Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness, a collaboration of the commissioners of 11 state agencies implemented by Governor Dayton, created the plan and outlined strategies and actions for each agency.

The plan was approved on the same day as the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) count of people experiencing homelessness. Each year, on a single night in January, volunteers and service providers across the state reach out to people in shelters, drop-in centers, transitional housing programs, and unsheltered outdoor locations to conduct the count.

In 2015, the PIT count revealed a ten percent decrease in homelessness overall, and a 17 percent decrease in families with children experiencing homelessness, the fifth largest decrease in the country. The PIT count serves as a key measure of the impact of the work of the Interagency Council on Homelessness.

"Ending homelessness means every community in Minnesota will have the systems in place that prevents homelessness from occurring whenever possible, and if it does occur, it is rare, brief, and non-recurring,"
Cathy ten Broeke, State Director to Prevent and End Homelessness.

Building on what is already working to end homelessness in Minnesota, this updated plan:

- Calls for adding **5,000 new affordable and supportive housing opportunities** by the end of 2020 for people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness.
- Brings greater focus on **preventing and ending homelessness for youth** and working with schools to identify and connect students with local resources.
- Includes stronger alignment with **domestic assault and sexual violence** providers.
- Applies lessons learned from work with Veterans to a similar aggressive approach to **ending chronic homelessness** by the end of 2017.
- Establishes **clear commitments** for participating state agencies.

Working together on this plan, agencies will create stronger engagement with communities across the state, including Tribes, counties, cities, and local service providers.

"Everyone in Minnesota deserves a safe place to live. With this goal in mind, we have invested our time and money in new ways, and we are getting results. I'm proud of our progress, but we aren't done, and we won't stop until every Minnesotan has a safe place to call home."

Mary Tingerthal, Commissioner, Minnesota Housing

The Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness includes commissioners from eleven state agencies: Corrections, Education, Employment and Economic Development, Health, Higher Education, Human Rights, Human Services, Housing, Public Safety, Transportation and Veterans Affairs.

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