

## TWO-YEAR ACTION PLAN AT A GLANCE

The Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness has updated and adopted *Heading Home: Minnesota's Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*. With key agency leaders, the Council's eleven commissioners have identified eight cross-cutting priorities and four population goals that state government will pursue over the next two years. State leaders look forward to working with local government, community, philanthropic, and private sector partners to implement these actions and ensure that all Minnesotans have a place to call home.



## Cross-Cutting Priorities

### 1. *Housing that's Affordable*

**Stable housing is out of reach for far too many Minnesotans, therefore we will work to...**

- Create additional housing opportunities targeted to prevent and end homelessness.
- Target households with incomes less than 30 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI).

### 2. *Employment and Earnings*

**A decent paying job is the best defense against homelessness, therefore we will work to...**

- Ensure all Minnesotans have access to a career pathway by maximizing the impact of mainstream employment and training services, and building capacity of those programs that serve individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Focus on federal program changes to increase incentives to serve populations with barriers to employment.

### 3. *Equity in Outcomes*

**Homelessness disproportionately impacts Minnesota's communities of color; American Indians; people with disabilities; and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth, therefore we will work to...**

- Increase the cultural agility and cultural competence of State agencies in responding to homelessness.
- Ensure Minnesota's collective efforts to end homelessness are diverse, inclusive, competent and effective.
- Make equal opportunity a practice that eradicates disparities, and ensures compliance with human and civil rights law.

### 4. *Streamlined and Accessible Systems and Services*

**Food, health care, mental health and chemical health services, early childhood programs, transportation and childcare, must be easily accessible for people experiencing homelessness, therefore we will work to...**

- Align and maximize publicly-funded health, income, transportation, and social services to help families and individuals avoid homelessness.
- Better support those who are experiencing homelessness by improving connections to services and decreasing barriers to access.

### 5. *Resource Coordination*

**Resources must be used effectively to stably house and prevent homelessness for more Minnesotans, therefore we will work to...**

- Improve grant making across homeless-specific funding streams.
- Work with local communities to implement a coordinated statewide system to provide the right services at the right time for families and individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Coordinate homeless-specific state and federal legislative efforts.

### 6. *Data Quality and Analysis*

**High quality data drives better planning, policy and results, therefore we will work to...**

- Strengthen Minnesota's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).
- Connect HMIS with other data sources that can guide program and policy development, research, and evaluation.

### 7. *Transition from Systems*

**Improving transitions from systems of care is critical to preventing homelessness, therefore we will work to...**

- Better coordinate and target existing resources to ensure consistency and effectiveness of transition services.
- Ensure that corrections and child welfare systems are responsive to the needs of individuals and will ensure necessary supports are in place to prevent homelessness upon exit from these systems.
- Have a strong understanding of the relationship between homelessness and discharge from systems.

### 8. *Engagement of Communities*

**Homelessness involves many partners who must collaborate effectively to end homelessness, therefore we will work to...**

- Engage with Tribal, county, regional, faith and community partners across the state to prevent and end homelessness at all levels.

## Population Goals

### ***1. Resolve and Prevent Future Veteran Homelessness***

**Minnesota is poised to end Veteran homelessness and the lessons learned pave the path to ending homelessness among all Minnesotans, therefore we will work to...**

- Continue actively identifying Veterans at risk of or experiencing homelessness.
- Sustain resources to prevent Veteran homelessness and to assist Veterans facing homelessness to rapidly connect with housing.
- Develop and apply best practices in targeting homeless prevention resources.
- Apply the lessons learned from ending Veteran homelessness to other populations.

### ***2. End Chronic Homelessness by the end of 2017***

**Minnesotans experiencing chronic homelessness are among our most vulnerable people and ending chronic homelessness is both compassionate and fiscally responsible, therefore we will work to...**

- End chronic homelessness in 2017, meaning that chronic homelessness is prevented wherever possible and when it occurs, it is rare, brief, and non-recurring.
- Sustain an end to chronic homelessness, and apply the lessons learned from ending chronic homelessness to other populations.

### ***3. Prevent and End Homelessness among Youth Unaccompanied by Parents or Guardians by the end of 2020***

**More than 900 young people experience homelessness in Minnesota on any given night and youth experiencing homelessness are often prey to violence and exploitation, therefore we will work to...**

- End homelessness among minors unaccompanied by their parents or guardians and youth parenting their own children in 2017.
- Increase the role and impact of youth-serving systems to support young people facing homelessness.
- Better identify and support youth facing homelessness in partnership with our local delivery systems.

### ***4. Prevent and End Homelessness among Families with Children by the end of 2020***

**Families with children comprise more than half of all people experiencing homelessness in Minnesota. Children in these families are more vulnerable to stress, depression, exposure to violence and developmental and educational delays and parents in these families are too often victims of violence and were often homeless as children themselves, therefore we will work to...**

- End homelessness among parenting youth in 2017.
- Make Minnesota's mainstream systems and prevention resources more accessible, responsive and impactful.
- Target families vulnerable to falling into homelessness.
- Better coordinate and support the identification, services and aftercare of those families who have experienced or are fleeing from violence.
- Partner with our schools to ensure every child experiencing homelessness and attending school will have help in creating a stable environment for development and learning.