



THE HOMELESS YOUTH ACT 2016

HF2767 / SF2755 -- Additional \$2 million investment in the Homeless Youth Act (HYA) to expand community efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness, reduce exploitation of young people, mitigate youth involvement in the criminal justice system, and increase youth skills, education and employment.

FACTS ABOUT THE HYA

- We've made progress in recent years, thanks to legislative and local action. But more than 4,000 young people are still estimated to be homeless and on their own every night in Minnesota.
- The HYA keeps youth safe and gets them critical supports they need -- street and school outreach, shelter, drop-in opportunity centers, short-term and longer-term supportive housing.
- The HYA kick-starts services where none currently exist, expands programs to address unmet needs and sustains existing programs. It does not fully fund any programs.
- The HYA leverages federal, local and private philanthropic funds.

IN 2015, THE HYA FUNDED 49% of REQUESTS

- Communities requested \$16.7 million to support their homeless youth and were funded \$8.18 million.
- 63% of Greater Minnesota requests and 51% of Twin Cities Metro requests were funded in 2015.
- Currently, HYA grants are distributed 41% urban, 40% greater MN and 19% suburban.
- The need greatly exceeds available funds. The vast majority of homeless youth are still unable to access supports.

OPPORTUNITY of HYA FUNDING (Breakeven Study, 2016)

- Only 6% of homeless youth receiving supportive services need to achieve self-sufficiency for state investment in HYA programs to breakeven (see more information on Breakeven Study on reverse).
- A high school graduate's lifetime earnings are \$476,000 higher than a dropout's earnings.

FACTS ABOUT YOUTH HOMELESSNESS (WILDER, 2012)

- 25% of homeless adults reported that their first experience of homelessness was age 17 or younger.
- 30% of homeless youth stayed in an abusive situation because they had no other housing options.
- 42% of homeless youth experience physical abuse, 34% parental neglect, and 27% sexually abuse.
- Almost half of homeless youth experience violence or sexual exploitation while being homeless and/or became homeless due to domestic violence.
- Youth who are homeless struggle to meet basic needs, attend school and maintain employment.

THE REQUEST

An additional \$2 million investment in the Homeless Youth Act will continue expanding services statewide that help vulnerable young people find safety, achieve stability, build connections, and transition to successful adulthoods.

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THE ISSUE

More than 4,000 Minnesota youth are homeless and on their own every night. Wilder Research believes these numbers are still conservative estimates and that the actual number of unaccompanied youth is likely even higher. (Wilder, 2012) These young people remain invisible, often in informal, unstable and unsafe living arrangements due to the extremely limited options in housing and services for homeless youth in Minnesota.

YMF MEMBERS

Ain Dah Yung Center
Avenues for Homeless Youth
Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative
Booth Brown House
The Bridge for Youth
Canvas Health
Catholic Charities of St. Paul & Minneapolis
Children's Law Center
Face to Face
Family Alternatives
Heading Home MN
Hope 4 Youth
Kulture Klub
Launch Ministry
Life House
The Link
Lutheran Advocacy - Minnesota
Lutheran Social Service
MN Council Child Caring Agencies
MoveFWD (formerly Teens Alone)
Oasis for Youth
StreetWorks Collaborative
Wilder Foundation
YMCA Twin Cities
YouthLink

YMF MISSION

Working together to ensure stability, opportunity and connection, Youth Moving Forward is a voice for homeless youth and youth at risk of homelessness. Engaging legislators, policy makers, community members, and with strong involvement from youth, we work together to ensure stability in housing, opportunities for education, and healthy transitions from foster care to adulthood.