



THE HOMELESS YOUTH ACT 2015

An additional \$4 million investment in the Homeless Youth Act (HYA) to address homelessness for youth in Minnesota as they transition to adulthood will help prevent long-term homelessness, reduce risk of youth's exploitation and involvement in the criminal justice system, and support future taxpayers and members of the workforce.

FACTS ABOUT THE HYA

- HYA funding was awarded in FY13 and FY14 to 13 organizations in Greater MN, and 17 in the Metro (5 specifically serving suburban areas), supporting 72 emergency shelter beds and 250 youth in transitional living and supportive housing, and myriad more youth through street outreach and drop-in centers.
- The HYA serves unaccompanied youth statewide through: street outreach, emergency shelter, drop-in centers, transitional, and supportive housing services.
- The HYA leverages other critical federal, local, and private philanthropic funds serving young people.

IN 2013, THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES ISSUED A HYA RFP FOR \$4.238 MILLION:

- DHS received applications for over \$20 million from 51 organizations statewide.
- Applications requesting \$10 million in funding were assessed as viable proposals that should/could have received HYA funds and would have created significant impact.
- Funding for new services in greater Minnesota or other areas lacking service was available to initiate service. Additional investment is needed to fully implement in these areas.

LONG-TERM IMPACT (WILDER, 2012)

- Society receives a return of over 4:1 for every dollar invested in supportive services for homeless youth.
- A high school graduate's lifetime earnings are \$476,000 higher than a dropout's.

FACTS ABOUT YOUTH HOMELESSNESS (WILDER, 2012)

- 25% of homeless adults reported that their first experience of homelessness, either with their parents or on their own, was at age 17 or younger.
- 30% of youth surveyed had stayed in an abusive situation because they had no other housing options.
- 42% have experienced physical abuse, 34% have experienced parental neglect, and 27% have been sexually abused.

THE REQUEST: SF 548/HF 581

An additional \$4 million investment in the Homeless Youth Act will help build a solid foundation for expanding services statewide that can support vulnerable young people to achieve stability, connections, and successful adulthoods. Changing the age limits of the MN HYA from 16-21 to youth "24 years of age or younger" will align with Federal law, creating administrative efficiency for providers.

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THE ISSUE

On any given night, an estimated 4,080 Minnesota youth experience homelessness. This estimate, higher than previous years, is the result of new methods available to include youth who haven't even accessed the shelter system. Wilder believes these numbers are still conservative estimates; the actual number of unaccompanied youth is likely even higher. (Wilder, 2012) These young people remain invisible, often in informal shelter arrangements such as couch hopping due to extremely limited options in housing or services for youth.

SUPPORTERS

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

YOUTH MOVING FORWARD'S MISSION STATEMENT

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.

