

Urgent support needed to maintain shelters and homelessness support services



Worsened by the COVID-19 crisis, the number of people experiencing homelessness continues to rise.

In the Twin Cities East Metro, Ramsey County, the City of Saint Paul, State of Minnesota, and many nonprofit and community partners have worked quickly to provide and sustain shelter and support services with **MORE THAN \$43 MILLION** in COVID-19 emergency funds. This one-time funding will expire this spring while the number of people experiencing homelessness and in need of shelter continues to grow. Help us maintain these critical resources by providing funding of \$72.5 million over the next five years.

NEW EMERGENCY SHELTERS CREATED TO ADDRESS SURGING NEEDS

To support expanded shelter needs throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, since March 2020, Ramsey County invested more than \$35 million of property tax levy, CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to add shelter capacity and supportive services. The City of Saint Paul deployed \$8 million for operating costs of the Freedom House day shelter.



Beginning in April 2020, Ramsey County established several emergency COVID shelters that served, at their peak, more than 450 people and families experiencing homelessness. Through hotel lease programs; temporary shelters at Bethesda Hospital, Luther Seminary and the Provincial House; and daytime services at Freedom House, the county and its partners were able to meet the growing need for emergency shelter with in-house support services.

Funds are needed to address the ongoing crisis before 450 beds for men, women and children are no longer available.

15%	Percent increase of people experiencing homelessness since 2019-20
450	New temporary shelter beds
175	People per day accessing day services at Freedom House
223	Individuals, including children, using family shelters
70%	Percent increase in people using family shelters since 2019-20
92%	Percent decrease in unsheltered people living in encampments since Aug. 2019

EMERGENCY RESPONSE IS WORKING, BUT SUSTAINED SUPPORT IS NEEDED

Ramsey County and the City of Saint Paul are investing \$74 million in long-term housing affordability, but it will be three to five years before new units are available. During this time, people experiencing homelessness need access to emergency shelter and services.

An investment of \$14.5 million annually over five years, or a total of \$72.5 million, will help our community maintain emergency services and meet the total demand.

THIS FUNDING WOULD SUPPORT



100-bed, single room occupancy shelter for adults with integrated support services



A low-barrier pilot program, serving frequent users of emergency shelter with intensive, 24/7 staffing



Continued operation of a day service shelter, providing supportive services to 175 individuals per day



100-bed shelter for families with integrated support services

About Heading Home Ramsey



As the HUD-mandated Continuum of Care for Ramsey County, Heading Home Ramsey includes more than 100 partners

who work together to end homelessness. Our vision is to work together to create a community where homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring – where we eliminate racial disparities and everyone is housed. We do so by delivering effective, people-centered, integrated responses that are equitable and driven by community voice, advocacy, and learning.



Maggie Dreon, Heading Home Ramsey Manager
 margaret.dreon@ramseycounty.us • 651-802-5268
 HeadingHomeRamsey.org

