



# 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.

## CONTACT:

Susie Schatz, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, [susie.schatz@lssmn.org](mailto:susie.schatz@lssmn.org), 651-278-5422  
Marie Ellis, Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, [marie.ellis@cctwincities.org](mailto:marie.ellis@cctwincities.org), 612-518-0612  
Mary Regan, Minnesota Council of Child Caring Agencies, [mregan@mccca.org](mailto:mregan@mccca.org), 612-310-4112

## 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  
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.*

