



**Minnesota HF3377/SF3155  
PILOT PROGRAM FOR CHOSEN FAMILY HOSTING TO PREVENT YOUTH<sup>i</sup> HOMELESSNESS**

**25% of homeless Minnesota adults first became homeless when they were 18-24 years old<sup>ii</sup>**  
Helping young people successfully transition into adulthood prevents chronic homelessness.

**Where do most young adults live today?  
61% of 18-24 year-olds live with their parents<sup>iii</sup>**

**But what if living with parents is not an option? Where do young people in need stay?**  
Many stay with “chosen family,” such as families of friends, neighbors, or extended family.<sup>iv</sup>

**How stable are “chosen family” hosting arrangements?**

While both youth and hosts report these can be deeply meaningful relationships, hosts often report financial stress. In particular, hosts who are renters sometimes risk their own housing when, for example, hosting a young person they care about violates their lease’s guest policy.<sup>v vi</sup>

**HF3377/SF3155 asks Minnesota to invest \$8M in chosen family hosting over the next 4 years.**

Through a competitive grant process, providers across the state will become chosen family hosting support sites, providing financial stipends and ongoing case management to stabilize informal hosting arrangements. This approach has a proven track record of success at HOPE 4 Youth in Anoka! A mandated evaluation<sup>vii viii</sup> will establish cost-effectiveness and efficacy.

**Chosen Family Hosting**

- ***An inexpensive upstream approach*** that “catches” homelessness early, preventing adult homelessness and ongoing dependency on much more expensive interventions.
- ***A strategy Minnesota has already prioritized***, but hasn’t been able to implement.<sup>ix</sup>
- ***A great model for rural and tribal areas*** where transportation is a challenge and providing centralized services can be impractical: *Stabilize young people where they already are.*
- ***Honors the enduring importance of family***, recognizing that even young people who cannot rely on their immediate family thrive with intergenerational support: 35% of youth facing homelessness have experienced the death of a parent or caregiver.<sup>x</sup>
- ***The single most important action we can take to reduce the overrepresentation*** of Black, Indigenous and Youth of Color who face homelessness. *Invest in renters who host.*
- ***Strengthens the informal support networks*** that are a point of pride in rural areas and BIPOC communities: *We watch out for each other and take care of our own.*
- ***A form of Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing*** (NOAH) that is more cost-effective than strategies that require capital investment, building maintenance, and 24/7 staff coverage.



---

## Endnotes

<sup>i</sup> According to the Minnesota Homeless Youth Act (256K.45), “Homeless youth’ means a person 24 years of age or younger who is unaccompanied by a parent or guardian and is without shelter where appropriate care and supervision are available, whose parent or legal guardian is unable or unwilling to provide shelter and care, or who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.” HF3377/SF3155 focuses on youth who are 18-24 years old.

<sup>ii</sup> Wilder Research: 2018 Minnesota Homeless Study  
<http://mnhomeless.org/minnesota-homeless-study/youth.php>

<sup>iii</sup> US Census: Current Population Survey, December 2020, quoted in *Housing Perspectives: Research, trends and perspective from the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies*  
<https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/blog/after-brief-return-young-adults-quick-move-out-parents-homes-pandemic-continues>

<sup>iv</sup> Curry, VanMeeter, Tully, Ault, Garst, Adam, Nesmith, White (2021). “Beyond a Bed: Supportive Connections Forged Between Youth Who Are Couch Hopping and Adult Hosts.” *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal* 38(1), 13-26 Retrieved <https://rdcu.be/b3sgV>

<sup>v</sup> VanMeeter, Curry, Tully, Ault, Nesmith, White (2022): “The Costs of Caring: Navigating Material Challenges When Adults Informally Host Youth Facing Homelessness” (in review, available on request)

<sup>vi</sup> CloseKnit received funding from Minnesota Housing in 2020 to investigate and propose strategies to address challenges faced by renters who seek to host young people who would otherwise face homelessness. See our legal guides: <https://closeknit.us/chosen-family-justice/>

<sup>vii</sup> HF3377/SF3155 specifies that evaluation must adhere to the four federal outcomes for ending youth homelessness identified by the US Interagency Council on Homelessness: stable housing, permanent connections, education/employment, and social-emotional well-being. See “Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness: A Coordinated Community Response,” 2015  
<https://www.usich.gov/tools-for-action/coordinated-community-response-to-youth-homelessness/>

<sup>viii</sup> CloseKnit recommends the four federal outcomes evaluation framework developed by Chapin Hall and Youth Collaboratory: “Measuring Up: Youth-level Outcomes and Measures for System Responses to Youth Homelessness” (2019) <https://www.youthcollaboratory.org/youth-outcomes-project-release>

<sup>ix</sup> See the Strategy 4H Action Step of *Minnesota’s 2018-2020 Action Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*: “Ensure that state homeless funds that target youth can be used to support informal housing options and the youth’s existing support network.”  
[https://mn.gov/dhs/assets/minnesota-action-plan-18-20\\_tcm1053-328234.pdf](https://mn.gov/dhs/assets/minnesota-action-plan-18-20_tcm1053-328234.pdf)

<sup>x</sup> Chapin Hall: “Voices of Youth Count In-Depth Interviews—Technical Report,” May 2019  
<https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/Voices-of-Youth-Count-Component-Report-FINAL-May-28.pdf>