

Building Bridges: Homelessness to Housing



In Ramsey County, sheltered and unsheltered homelessness continues to increase. Since 2016, the number of people experiencing homelessness has nearly doubled. New warming centers operating this winter regularly host more than 120 adults, youth, and families each night. The 2023 annual Point-in-Time count also tracking to show well over 300 unsheltered individuals, with 37 families currently waiting for available space at one of two family shelters, in January.

Ramsey County and the city of Saint Paul have committed \$74 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding to construct and preserve affordable housing units. However, it takes three to five years before new affordable housing units are available. During this period, the number of people experiencing homelessness is expected to rise, as the one-time pandemic-related funding reaches expiration. This means fewer emergency shelters and other critical housing support services for those in need.

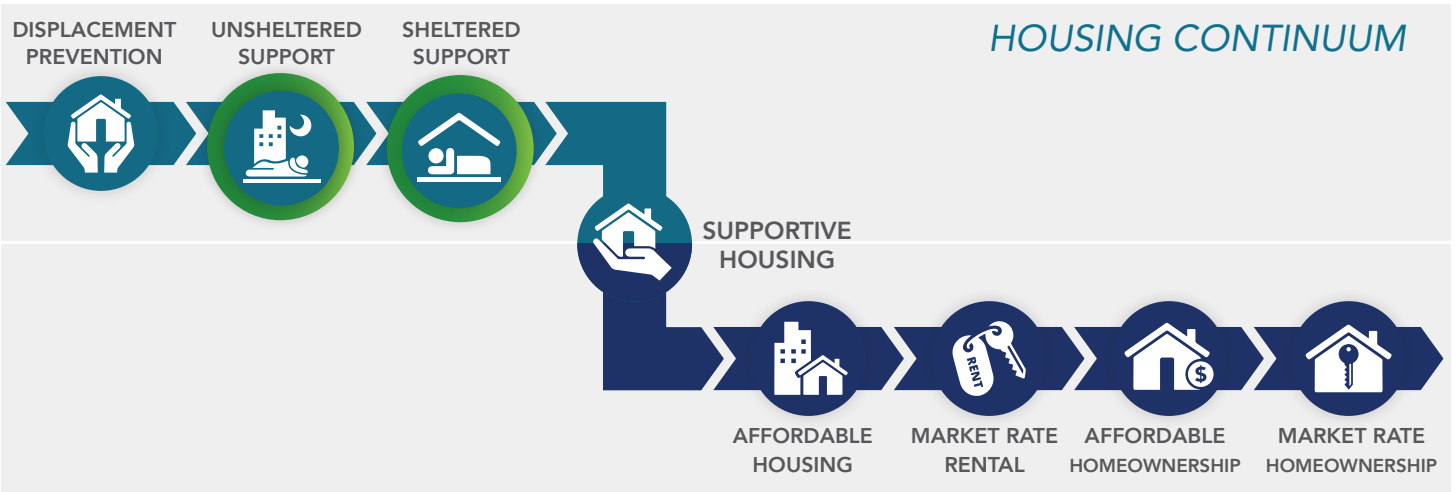
ADDRESSING LOCAL HOUSING NEEDS

Heading Home Ramsey, the HUD mandated Continuum of Care, and community partners leveraged \$6 million in State funding allocated 2022 to expand and enhance innovative services make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring. These resources produced better results, with more people moving from homelessness to housing.

Building on what was learned last year, Heading Home Ramsey needs **\$75 million**, \$37.5 million 2023 and 2024, to provide shelter and services to families, single adults, youth, and individuals with complex needs. These funds will help expand and create new or enhanced adult and family overnight shelter, day sheltering support and outreach, and infrastructure to move more people onto a path to housing. This investment will bridge the gap from now to the completion of new affordable housing.



In Ramsey County, Black or African Americans make up 45% of the homeless population compared to 13% of the overall population. American Indians make up less than 1% of the total population but more than 5% of the homeless population. By comparison, White people make up nearly 60% of the total population and only around 30% of the homeless population. **\$75 million** in state funding will help provide critical sheltering support and reduce significant racial disparities in homelessness.



HEADING HOME RAMSEY FUNDING WOULD SUPPORT



Continued shelter options for single adults including expanded women’s shelter options. The need for women’s shelter space frequently exceeds supply.



100-bed shelter for families and additional support. This model, established during the pandemic, has improved outcomes for families, moving them into housing more quickly.



Outreach, system improvements, and extreme weather support to help address critical immediate needs and move people onto a path to housing more quickly.



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



Continued operation of day service shelters, helping individuals stabilize, connect with resources and move off the street.



RESULTS FROM RECENT INVESTMENTS



170 people transitioned from pandemic-funded shelters to housing in 2022.



Average shelter stay reduced by 18 days for families.

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.

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