



Minnesota homeless programs fiscal summary

February 2021

Funding for responses to homelessness occur at every level of government and through philanthropic and other private sources. They flow to a wide range of partners and responses, including some that are specifically focused on one or more subpopulation (e.g., youth, families, people with long histories of homelessness). Interventions may focus on activities to prevent homelessness from occurring, provide housing, shelter, or support *during* an episode of homelessness, or help someone exiting homelessness remain stably housed *after* exiting homelessness into housing. Some funds are directed to specific settings or residential programs, others focus on supporting people over time in a variety of living situations. People living in some settings (e.g., shelter or transitional housing) are considered homeless during their stay, whereas in other settings they are housed and no longer homeless.

Perhaps most importantly, the resources that help intervene in homelessness include *targeted* programs, where someone must be homeless to be eligible for the program or resource, and *mainstream* programs, which serve broader populations of people and are often larger in scale. Even among targeted programs, there are programs that are specifically aimed at resolving a housing crisis and other programs that play other critical functions.

Given the complex program landscape and diversity in responses, the scope for this summary includes:

- Targeted homeless programs or portions of programs (i.e., those programs or parts of programs that require homelessness as a criterion of eligibility)...
- ...that are focused on helping people experiencing homelessness in resolving their housing crisis...
- ...using State funding or Federal funding that flows through State government.

Out of scope are important mainstream programs (e.g., the Minnesota Family Investment Program, Emergency Assistance, Medical Assistance) that often play critical roles in preventing homelessness or supporting people experiencing it. This also includes programs like the COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program or Housing Infrastructure Bonds that create additional affordable and supportive housing. (Governor Walz proposed \$100 million in Housing Infrastructure Bonds for the 2022 – 2023 biennium.) Also out of scope are programs that do not directly support exits from homelessness for people experiencing homelessness, such as Education for Homeless Children and Youth funding that is directed to school districts to support their work connecting homeless students with educational supports and entitlements, as well as the proposed investment from Governor Walz in the Homeless Management Information System (\$1 million for the 2022 – 2023 biennium). Also out of scope are the investments by Tribal and local governments and philanthropy of their own resources in these responses.

The following table depicts these resources.

Agency	Program	Funding source	Purpose or supported activities	Population focus	SFY2020 (millions)	SFY2021 (millions)	SFY2022 Base + Governor's budget (millions)	SFY2023 Base + Governor's budget (millions)
DHS	Community Living Infrastructure	General Fund	Outreach and housing resource specialists	Adults with disabilities	\$1.585	\$2.685	\$2.685 +\$5	\$2.685 +\$5
DHS	Emergency Services Program	COVID-19 Minnesota Fund	Support services and operating costs for shelter and outreach	General	\$0	\$8.9	\$0	\$0
DHS	Emergency Services Program	COVID-specific General Fund appropriation	Support services and operating costs for shelter and outreach	General	\$26.5 ¹	\$0	\$0	\$0
DHS	Emergency Services Program	Federal (Coronavirus Relief Funds)	Support services and operating costs for shelter and outreach	General	\$0	\$19.5	N/A ²	N/A ²
DHS	Emergency Services Program	General Fund	Support services and operating costs for shelter and outreach	General	\$2.344	\$2.344	\$0.844 +\$5	\$0.844 +\$5
DHS	Emergency Solutions Grant	Federal	Support services and operating costs for shelter and outreach	General	\$1.260	\$1.260	\$0 +\$2.184	\$0 +\$2.184
DHS	Emergency Solutions Grant	Federal	Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing	General	\$1.025	\$1.025	N/A ²	N/A ²

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DHS	Emergency Solutions Grant	Federal (CARES Act)	Support services and operating costs for shelter and outreach	General	N/A	\$22.843	N/A ²	N/A ²
DHS	Homeless Youth Act	General Fund	Support services and operating costs	Youth (age <25)	\$5.619	\$5.619	\$5.619	\$5.619
DHS	Housing Stabilization Services	Federal (Medicaid)	Support services	Adults with disabilities on Medicaid	N/A	TBD ³	N/A ⁴	N/A ⁴
DHS	Housing Support ⁵	COVID-specific General Fund appropriation	Room and board, and support services	Adults with disabilities	\$5.5	\$0	\$0	\$0
DHS	Housing Support ⁵	General Fund	Room and board, and support services	Adults with disabilities	\$60.5	\$62.2 ⁶	\$62.2 ⁴	\$62.2 ⁴
DHS	Housing with Supports for Adults with Serious Mental Illness	General Fund	Support services	Adults with serious mental illness	\$4.55	\$4.55	\$4.55	\$4.55
DHS	Long-term Homelessness Supportive Service Fund	General Fund	Support services	People with long histories of homelessness	\$6.9	\$6.9	\$6.9	\$6.9

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DHS	Programs for Assistance in the Transition from Homelessness	Federal (SAMHSA grant)	Support services and operating costs for outreach	Adults with mental illness	\$0.803	\$0.803	\$0 + \$0.807	\$0 + \$0.807
DHS	Programs for Assistance in the Transition from Homelessness	General Fund	Support services and operating costs for outreach	Adults with mental illness	\$0.618	\$0.618	\$0.618	\$0.618
DHS	Section 811 Project-Based Rental Assistance	Federal	Rental assistance	Adults with disabilities	\$1.29	\$1.29	N/A	N/A
DHS	Shelter capacity grants	COVID-19 Minnesota Funds	Support services and operating costs	General	\$0	\$4.4	\$0	\$0
DHS	Shelter-linked mental health	General Fund	Mental health services in shelter	Youth	\$0	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.25
DHS	State Opioid Response Grant	Federal	Outreach and support services	Adults experiencing substance use disorder	\$1.2	\$2	\$1	N/A
DHS	Transitional Housing Program	General Fund	Support services and operating costs	General	\$3.184	\$3.184	\$3.184	\$3.184
DPS	Crime Victim Services	General Fund	Emergency shelter and support services	Adults and children fleeing domestic violence	\$15.9	\$15.9	\$15.9	\$15.9

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DPS	Crime Victim Services	Federal	Emergency shelter and support services	Adults and children fleeing domestic violence	\$10	\$10	N/A ²	N/A ²
MDVA	Housing Vouchers	General Fund	Rental assistance and support services	Veterans	N/A	N/A	\$0 + \$3.165	\$0 + \$3.165
MDVA	State Soldier Assistance Program	COVID-specific General Fund appropriation	Rental assistance, financial assistance, support services	Veterans	\$6.2 ⁷	\$0	\$0	\$0
MDVA	State Soldier Assistance Program	General Fund	Rental assistance, financial assistance, support services	Veterans	\$1.205 ⁸	\$0.623 ⁸	N/A ⁸	N/A ⁸
MDVA	State Soldier Assistance Program: Homeless Programs	General Fund and Support Our Troops license plate revenues	Homeless Veterans Registry, benefits access, and homeless Veteran initiatives and programs	Veterans	\$0.764	\$0.801	\$0.981	\$0.981
MDVA	Statutory rider for the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans	General Fund	Rental assistance, financial assistance, support services	Veterans	\$0.750	\$0.750	\$0.750	\$0.750

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Minnesota Housing	Bridges ⁹	General Fund	Rental assistance	People with mental illness at risk of homelessness	\$4.338	\$4.338	\$4.338 + \$0.250	\$4.338 + \$0.250
Minnesota Housing	Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program ⁹	General Fund	Financial and short-term rental assistance, support services	People experiencing or at risk of homelessness	\$10.269	\$10.269	\$10.269 + \$2	\$10.269 + \$2
Minnesota Housing	Homework Starts with Home	General Fund	Rental assistance, financial assistance, support services	Students and families	\$1.750	\$1.750	\$1.750 + \$0.5	\$1.750 + \$0.5
Minnesota Housing	Housing Trust Fund	General Fund	Rental assistance	General	\$11.646	\$11.646	\$11.646	\$11.646
Minnesota Housing	Section 811 Project-Based Rental Assistance	Federal	Rental assistance	Adults with disabilities	\$0	\$1.1	\$1.6	\$1.9

Notes

¹Special COVID-related appropriation that spans fiscal years.

²Federal funding that depends on Federal action to determine any future amounts and are not included in the base budget.

³New service, data not complete.

⁴Forecasted, rather than budgeted, program. Actuals not available until after fiscal year. Anticipating spending levels comparable to prior years.

⁵Designates programs that are only partially homeless-targeted. Figures included are for the portion with eligibility tied to homelessness.

⁶Estimate for forecasted program; actuals not available until after fiscal year.

⁷These figures represent the entire program investment, including portions that are not homeless targeted.

⁸ Funding amounts depend upon requests; portion focused on homelessness varies annually.

⁹Program serves people who may be at risk of but not currently experiencing homelessness; full funding level for this program is shown.

Some information about Federal sources of funding that do not pass through State government are available from the relevant Federal agencies, but because a number of these programs (e.g., HUD’s Community Development Block Grant program, HUD’s Housing for Persons with AIDS program) mix homeless-specific and other eligible activities, determining parallel information to the list above is not possible with publicly available data. In addition, Federal awards are often made on timeframes that do not align with this analysis (e.g., multi-year awards with grant years that do not align to State fiscal years). Some key Federal programs that are exclusively focused on homelessness and do not go through State agencies include HUD’s Continuum of Care program (\$36.5 million in Federal Fiscal Year 2020) and most of HUD’s Emergency Solutions Grant program awards for Minnesota (\$2.4 million in Federal Fiscal Year 2020 plus an additional \$31.1 million in one-time funding appropriated through the CARES Act, which HUD distributes to six Emergency Solutions Grant entitlement areas in Minnesota). A more detailed accounting of Federal homeless-specific investments directly to grantees in Minnesota would require additional analysis and participation of several Federal agencies.

Finally, the programs listed above serve varying geographies throughout Minnesota, which sometimes are determined at a grantee level (i.e., a nonprofit proposes a service area to be supported) and are sometimes determined by existing jurisdictional boundaries (e.g., county or Continuum of Care region). Describing geographic distribution of these funds would require additional analysis, likely looking at individual grantees. While that analysis is beyond the scope of this summary, it may be helpful context to note that in annual Point-in-Time counts, an estimated 34 percent of people experiencing homelessness reside in Greater Minnesota.

Finally, the table above notes where programs focus on specific population (e.g., youth, families, people with long histories of homelessness) where applicable, as well as specific purposes for the funds (e.g., rental assistance, supportive services, etc.). The most recent (January 2020) Point-in-Time count figures provide the following estimates for each subpopulation (note that these subpopulations overlap):

	People	Percent
All Minnesotans	7,940	100%
People in families	3,214	40.5%
People experiencing chronic homelessness	1,787	22.5%
Unaccompanied youth	750	9.5%
Veterans	315	4.0%
People staying outdoors (unsheltered)	1,949	24.5%

Please note that some funds not included in this summary (e.g., the Federal Runaway and Homeless Youth program) are population-specific investments as well.