



*Youth and Young Family Homelessness &
the Homeless Youth Act*

The Homeless Youth Act: The way to End Youth Homelessness

- *It was written by front line youth workers and youth with lived experience in 1999 – came from the true “experts”*
- *It includes inclusive definitions of youth and young families that don't limit who can receive help*
- *It includes funding for the full continuum of services needed and allows for flexibility, innovation and culturally specific services*
- *Currently funds 38 grantees across the state – from rural areas, Tribal communities, suburban and inner city areas...because youth homelessness happens in all of these communities!*

Continuum of Services funded through the Homeless Youth Act

Homeless Prevention

Street Outreach

Drop In Center

Emergency Shelters

Host Homes

Transitional and Rapid

Rehousing

Permanent Supportive Housing

HVA Grantee Example: Life House

For over 30 years, Life House has been working with homeless and street youth. Our vision is no youth will be left alone, homeless, uncared for or fending for themselves on the streets.

- Comprehensive Support Services at no-cost, no-insurance for our youth and young families
- Funding Supports our Drop In Youth Center, 800 unduplicated youth served, The Loft, Emergency Youth Shelter and Permanent Support Housing



HVA Example: The Link

- ❑ *A youth and adult led nonprofit founded in 1991 in north Minneapolis by Jim Marshall, Oscar Reed, with legal help from Leonard Lindquist*
- ❑ *Provide juvenile justice alternative programs; a continuum of services for youth and young families experiencing homelessness and/or sex trafficking*
- ❑ *Partially funds our Drop-In Center in Dakota County (CORE), Emergency Shelter (Dignity House in Hennepin County) and several of our housing programs for youth and young families across the seven county metro*



Emergency Shelter and Housing



Youth Services Network Ask

- *Make a commitment to reduce and end youth homelessness just like our state did for Veteran Homelessness*
- *Increasing the Homeless Youth Act is how to build state-wide capacity and reduce and end youth homelessness—we are asking for a \$50 million increase*
- *\$300,000 one time Funds for study on Pregnant and Parenting Youth Experiencing Homelessness*

Investing in the Homeless Youth Act Works!

- *Numbers of Youth Experiencing Homelessness are decreasing as investments in HVA increase (6,000 unaccompanied homeless youth per night in 2015 when HVA was funded at \$5.238 Million v. 4,876 in 2018 after a \$3 million increase to \$8.238 million)*
- *85% of youth contacted 6 months after exiting a HVA Housing Program were stably housed, 80% were after 2 years of exiting*

And it is the Right Thing to Do: Every Youth and Young Family Deserves a Safe Home



We have been at this since 1999 at all levels and will keep at it until we end youth homelessness...thank you for your support!

