

HeadingHome

RAMSEY

A regional initiative to end homelessness
in Saint Paul and Ramsey County

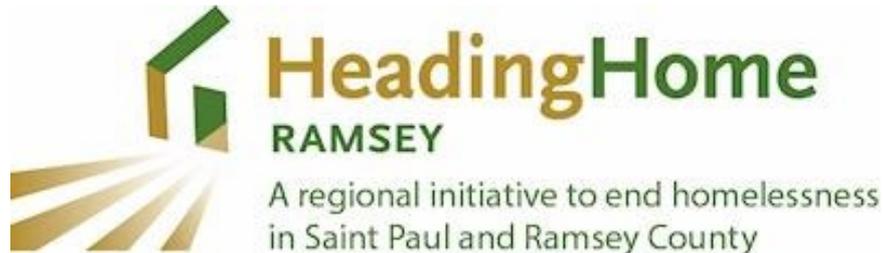
Heading Home Ramsey Continuum of Care (HHR CoC)

Vision:

We work together to create a community where homelessness is **rare, brief, and non-recurring**, where we eliminate racial disparities, and everyone is housed.

Mission:

Prevent and end homelessness by delivering effective, people-centered, integrated responses that are racially equitable and driven by community voice, advocacy, and learning.



Addressing the Affordable Housing Crisis

Need for Affordable Housing Far Exceeds Supply:

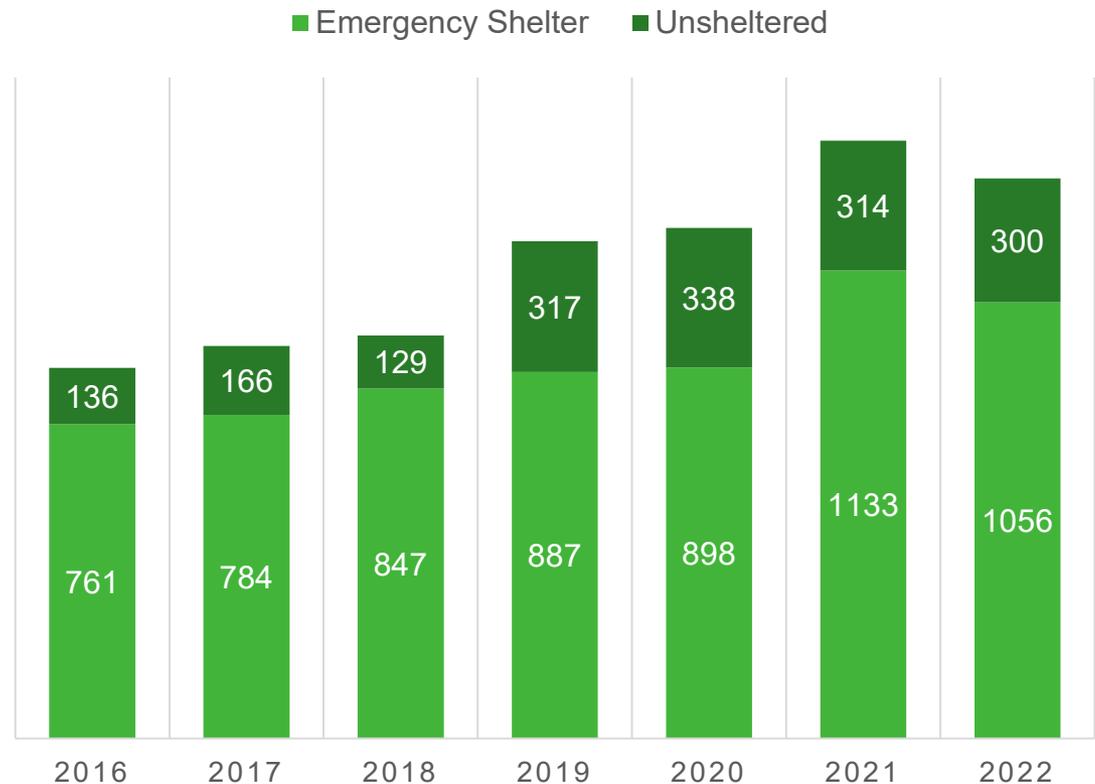
- Gap of over 15,000 housing units for those at or below 30% Area Median Income in Ramsey County in 2020.
- **2,671 people remain on Coordinated Entry (CE) waiting list as of mid-February 2023.**
 - 1,030 people entered Transitional Housing (96), Rapid Rehousing (313), or Permanent Supportive Housing (621) over a 12-month period.
- **Ramsey County and the City of Saint Paul have committed \$74 million in ARPA funds to build 1,000 affordable housing units. However...**
 - ...there is a 3-5 year on-ramp for new units
 - ...the number of people experiencing homelessness is rising and the expiration of one-time pandemic related funding means that there will be fewer emergency shelter beds and other critical housing support services available.

Sheltered & Unsheltered Homelessness in Ramsey County

A Growing Crisis:

- Between 2016 and 2021, unsheltered homelessness increased by **~130%**.
- The 2023 Point-in-Time count just conducted again found well **over 300 unsheltered individuals**.
- As of January 2023, **over 50 families** were waiting for space in family shelter.
- New warming centers (not shelters) operating this winter regularly hosted more than **120 adults, youth, and families each night**.

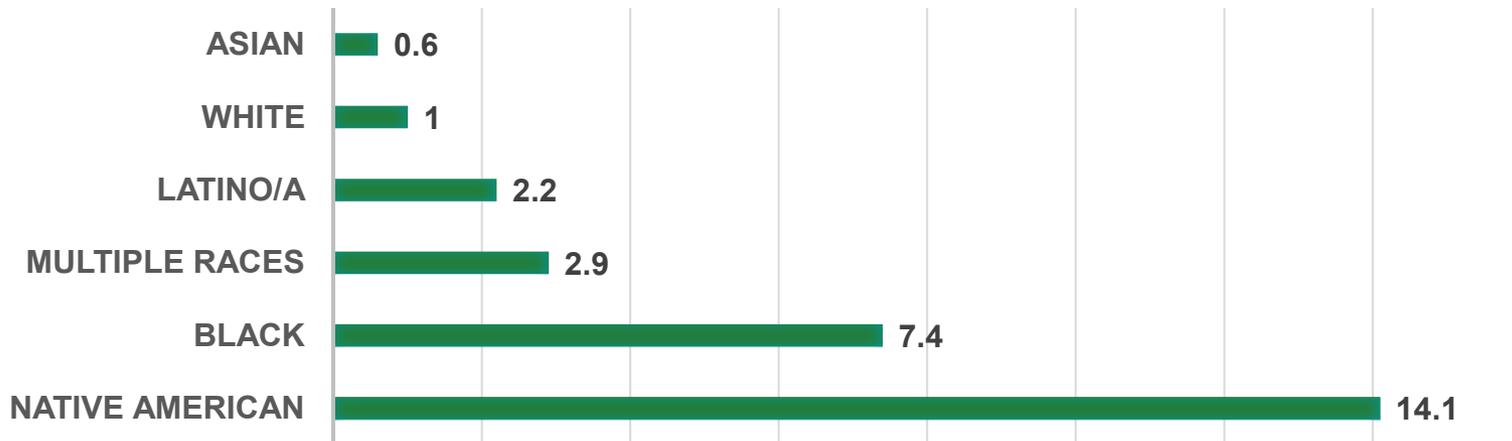
TOTAL PEOPLE IN POINT-IN-TIME COUNT, 2016-2022



Ramsey County's Unique Challenges

- Ramsey County is the smallest, densest county in Minnesota, and among the most racially diverse.
- Our county has significant racial disparities in homelessness:
 - Black people are 7.4 times more likely to be homeless than white people
 - Native American people are 14.1 times more likely to be homeless than white people

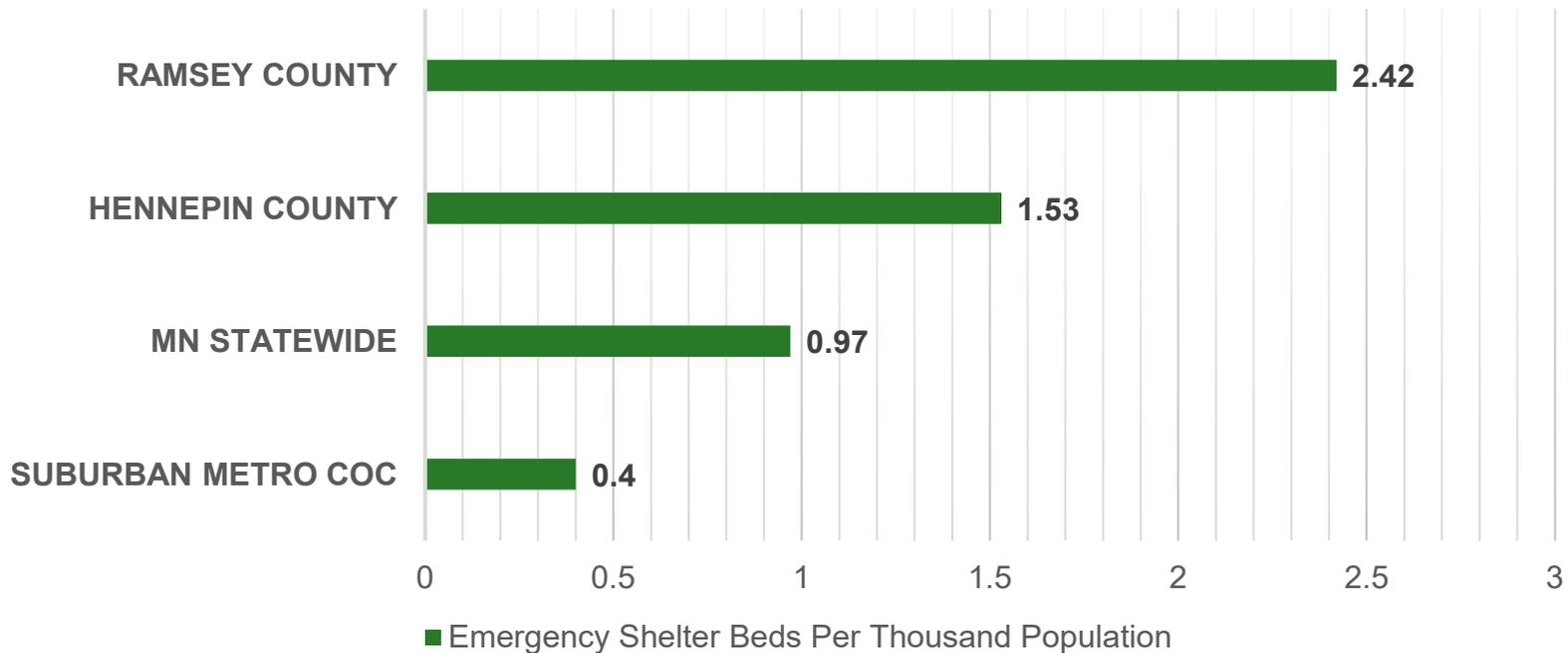
LIKELIHOOD OF BEING HOMELESS COMPARED TO WHITE PEOPLE IN RAMSEY COUNTY



Shelters in Ramsey County Serve Regional Needs

- Ramsey County has just 9.5% of statewide population but has 24% of all state Emergency Shelter beds
- Ramsey County has the greatest density of Emergency Shelter in the metro area:

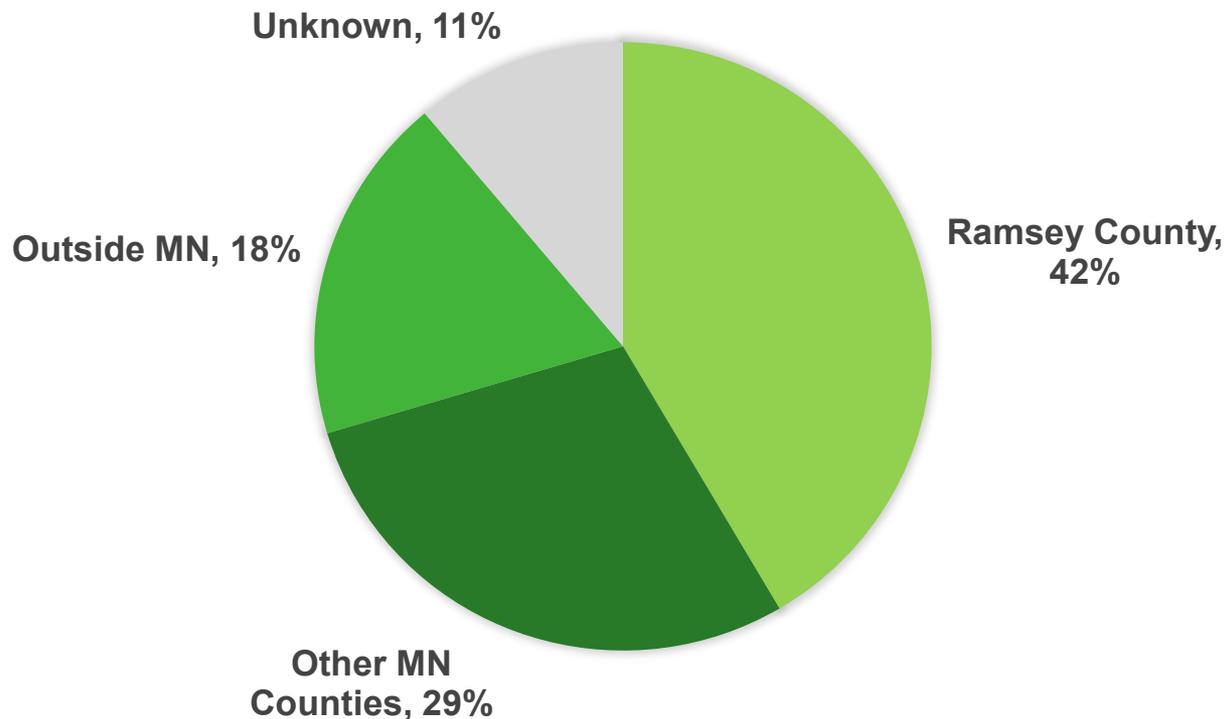
EMERGENCY SHELTER BEDS PER THOUSAND POPULATION



Shelters in Ramsey County Serve Regional Needs

- Ramsey County has just 9.5% of statewide population but has 24% of all state Emergency Shelter beds
- Just 42% of those served in Ramsey County COVID shelters came from county:

LAST KNOWN COUNTY OF RESIDENCE



N = 1,842 total people served through January 2022

Impacts from Recent Investments

Programs funded by recent investments, including state pass-through ARPA funds in 2022, achieved the following results:

- 170 people moved from one-time pandemic funded shelters to housing in 2022 thanks to intensive support and navigation
- Families moved from shelter to housing in fewer days (84 days in shelter before the new model of family shelter dropped to 66 days with the new model)

...and added the following capacity to our services for people experiencing homelessness:

- **41% increase in Women's emergency shelter space** to better meet demand
- **NEW winter warming spaces** to keep people out of the cold when shelters are full
- **Maintained Youth drop-in center** to connect people to resources
- **Expanded adult day shelter** space, hours, and services
- **Infrastructure planning** to improve emergency shelter system: single point of entry and shelter diversion

Pandemic Funding Model = Better Outcomes

CARES-funded 24/7 model of shelter + wrap-around services produced better outcomes:

- American Indian and Hispanic/Latino shelter residents had the highest rates of housing placement of the populations served in the shelters.
- More people accessed MA and other benefits; more people got jobs.
- African American shelter residents had the largest increase in fiscal and disabilities benefits and health care obtainment.

State investment in 2022 enabled us to continue that model but those funds end now

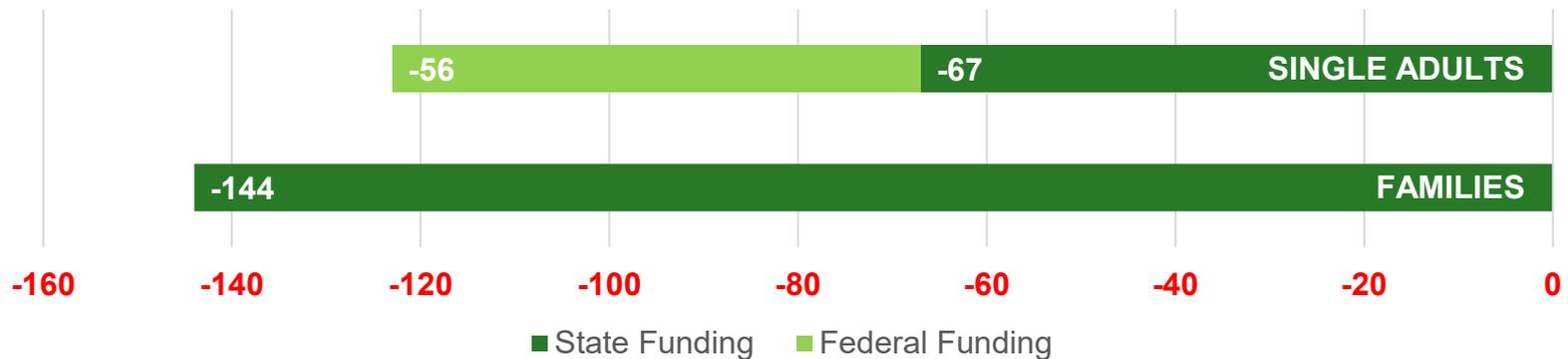


Without funding, we not only lose capacity, we lose improved outcomes

Without Funding: Pending Loss of Shelter and Services

One-time funding risks imminent loss of over 200 shelter beds and other services:

PENDING 2023 EMERGENCY SHELTER BED LOSS IN RAMSEY COUNTY



- **Emergency Shelter projects:**

- Interfaith Action Project Home: **Loss of 100 beds for families**
- Lighthouse Way: **Loss of 79 beds for families and single adults**
- Highway to Housing: **Loss of 56 beds for single adults**
- Catholic Charities Focus Forward: **Loss of 32 beds for adults with complex needs**

- **Day shelters:** **loss of expanded hours/services** at St. Paul Opportunity Center, Listening House, SafeZone (youth)

- **Winter warming spaces**, which ended March 1, served over 120 people every night

HF 1686: Building a Bridge from Homelessness to Housing

\$75 million in funding for Heading Home Ramsey will support:



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



Continued 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.



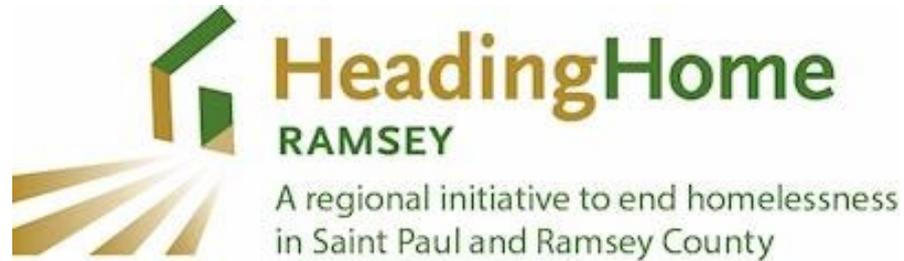
Continued operation of day service shelters, helping adults and youth stabilize, connect with resources, and move off the street.



A low-barrier pilot program serving individuals with complex needs with intensive, 24/7 staffing.



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



Thank You

Jennifer O'Rourke: 651-724-3461

Ellen Watters: 651-208-1480