

Heading Home Corps

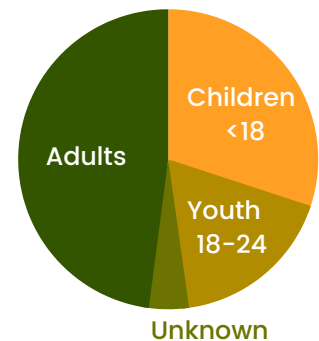
Tackling housing instability across Minnesota

The state of homelessness in Minnesota

With rent and home prices rising faster than wages, there is a shortage of affordable housing options across the state. Minnesota has experienced significant growth in demand for housing, which has only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 8,000 people experience homelessness nightly. 1,650 people sleep outside.
- In Greater Minnesota, the number of unsheltered people increased by nearly one-third (32%) between 2019 and 2020.
- 64% of adults experiencing homelessness have a serious mental illness and 24% have a substance use disorder.
- Housing provides a strong foundation for improved outcomes for homeless families, youth, and older adults. Housed people experience:
 - Decreased involvement in child welfare
 - Improvement in mental health
 - Decreased use of emergency room and hospital resources
 - Decreased likelihood of returning to homelessness

Age distribution of people experiencing homelessness in MN



Return on investment: The total cost of public services for two years on the streets was \$187,288 compared to \$107,032 for two years in permanent housing with support services which is a savings of \$80,256 or almost 43%.

AmeriCorps is part of the solution

AmeriCorps is a national movement for positive social change. A new program, Heading Home Corps, helps to support people experiencing housing instability.

Nonprofits and government agencies need additional capacity to address increasing rates of homelessness. Heading Home Corps assists by providing Housing Resource Navigators to help expand capacity and help more people secure stable housing. Housing Resource Navigators serve full-time helping people to access resources, develop action plans and build necessary skills in order to gain and maintain stable housing, a prerequisite for making other improvements in life such as searching for a job and addressing mental or physical health.

H.F. 4277 (Koegel) and S.F. 4207 (Dziedzic) appropriates \$1,100,000 in fiscal year 2023 for a grant to ServeMinnesota to fund Heading Home Corps and provides base funding of \$1,100,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$1,100,000 in fiscal year 2025.

For more information,
visit www.ServeMinnesota.org

Sources: MN Housing Financing Agency; Institute for Community Alliances; Wilder; Collins, et al.; Chung, et al.; United Way of Greater Los Angeles



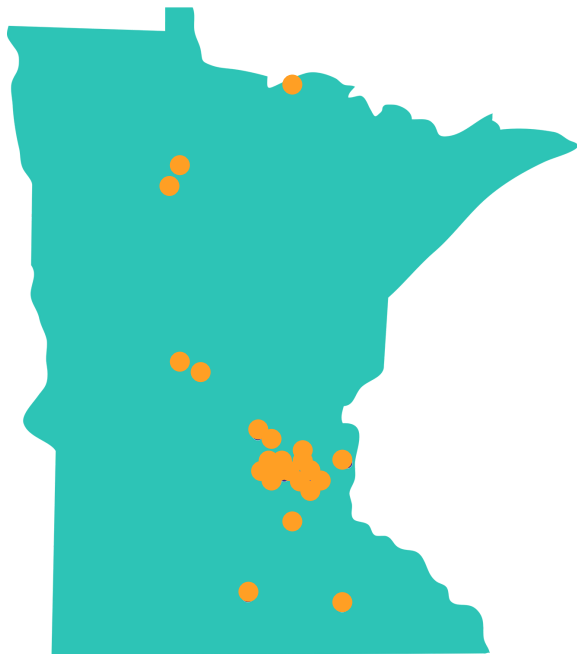
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Locations

With state support, Heading Home Corps can expand to even more sites across Minnesota.



What Housing Resource Navigators do:

- Create and implement a housing stabilization plan, including how to obtain documentation and budget for housing
- Coordinate with and support landlords in accepting rental assistance
- Connect people to resources for employment, food, mental health, substance use recovery, and finances



"In the summer of 2021, I participated in the Reading and Math Corps program at my local elementary school. I met many wonderful students who brought me hope and inspiration. My time at the elementary school also thrust the housing crisis of my community to the forefront of my mind. How are these beautiful souls being impacted by the unmet housing needs of their families? What is it like for their parents, wondering where they are going to stay at night? These questions drove me to ask myself; what can I do to make a difference? How can I help these families in their time of greatest need? The answer to those questions was Heading Home Corps. Heading Home Corps has given me the opportunity to assist the families in my community with finding the resources they need to achieve their housing needs."

- Robyn Huber, Housing Navigator at Brooklyn Center Community Schools

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