



Olmsted County Response to Unsheltered Homelessness HF 2138

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE
MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 21, 2023

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Homelessness in Olmsted County - Background

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Overview of efforts 2018-Present

2018

- Cold Weather Shelter only
- People started staying in the Skyways

2019

- City response to skyways
- City/County supported a seasonal shelter

2020

- Housing Stability Team
- Covid Response System Established



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Overview of efforts 2018-Present

2021

- County/City supporting a year-round shelter
- Housing Outreach Center opened (ECHO Center)

2022

- Street Medicine launched
- Shelter Workgroup
- Social workers in schools



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Current Situation

- The Rochester Community Warming Center is at/over capacity
- 1,002 people were experienced homelessness during 2022
- 31% increase in students experiencing homelessness
- 15-20 evictions per week (approximately 2-3 month delay)
- Emergency Assistance exhausted until July 1, 2023
- Excess demand for family shelter



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Shelter Workgroup

Community workgroup charged with recommendations to enhance our homeless response system

- People with lived experience
- 10 non-profit agencies
- City/County/School participation



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Community Partner Participants

Catholic Charities of Southern MN

City of Rochester

- Library
- Community Development
- Parks

Dorothy Day Hospitality House

Family Promise

Lutheran Social Services

Olmsted County

- Housing Department
- Adult and Family Services

People with Lived Experience

Rochester Police Department

River Valleys Continuum of Care

Rochester Public Schools

The Landing MN

The Salvation Army

Three Rivers Community Action

Women's Shelter

Zumbro Valley Health Center



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Key Workgroup Recommendations

- 1) Robust Shelter System (long term facility for Warming Center)
- 2) Create a facility for Medical Recuperative Care
- 3) Family and Youth Shelter Facilities
- 4) Additional case management resources
- 5) Enhance Outreach efforts



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