The 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Minneapolis and Hennepin County

In 2006, Hennepin County and Minneapolis officials partnered with leaders from the state of Minnesota and the local provider, consumer, faith, and private sector communities to write Heading Home Hennepin: The 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Minneapolis and Hennepin County. The collective vision, approved by the Minneapolis City Council and the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners, is that:

By the year 2016, all people facing homelessness in Minneapolis and Hennepin County will have access to safe, decent, and affordable housing and the resources and supports needed to sustain it.

Implementation of the plan began in January, 2007 and involves over 400 people from 125 public, private, and non-profit agencies. Over 20 working groups meet regularly to implement the six major goals in the plan.

The Goals

- Prevent Homelessness
- Provide Coordinated Outreach
- Develop Housing Opportunities
- Improve Service Delivery
- Build Capacity for Self-Support
- Implement System Improvements

In the first four years of implementation, the community has achieved many significant outcomes. Together, we have increased prevention efforts, keeping more people in their homes and improving the ways people are discharged from foster care, corrections, and hospitals. We have moved away from a criminal justice response to people living outside to a social service and housing response, resulting in a reduction in public costs and improving community livability. We have created over 1900 new housing opportunities and have assisted thousands of individuals and families into permanent housing, including those who have been homeless for many years. We have increased access to and efficiency of services through our Project Homeless Connect community events and now the development of two new “one-stop-shop” Opportunity Centers. And, we have improved the coordination of public and private systems to ensure that we are reducing duplication of efforts and improving outcomes for people.

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