



Help provide support for homeless youth in Minnesota Support HF444/SF388

Mission: Avenues partners with youth experiencing homelessness to achieve their dreams.

Vision: A community where all youth flourish.

Values: Equity, Community, Respect + Dignity, Trust, Liberation, Anti Oppression

Current Challenges

- Each year in Minnesota, more than 13,300 unaccompanied youth experience homelessness. There are few youth-specific housing programs that provide beds for just 15% of these youth, and the Twin Cities has the worst housing shortage in the nation. Youth, ages 16 to 24, realistically cannot afford an average rate apartment.
- Youth experiencing homelessness face unique challenges and barriers, and need youth-centered support to thrive.
- Avenues has outgrown its Minneapolis location, which houses 21 youth and serves as the organization's administrative offices. As is, Minneapolis Avenues cannot meet the needs of staff or youth.



Our Response

A new North Minneapolis home is essential to meet our goals and positively impact the lives of youth experiencing homelessness. We are embarking on a \$15M campaign that is an investment in our young people and the future of our region. **Our new home will:**

- *Enhance the available shelter space and transitional housing units for youth ages 18 to 24 years old.*
- *Provide single bedrooms to youth, increasing dignity, health, and safety, and eliminating gender and age restrictions.*
- *Add affordable apartments for youth ages 18 to 25.*
- *Create a gathering space to facilitate internal and external community and relationship building.*
- *Maximize space to boost capacity and efficiency and create flexibility for the future.*
- *Serve as the new administrative headquarters for Avenues.*

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experience with Avenues



Campaign Impact

A successful campaign will position Avenues to meet the needs of the youth we support, and help reduce homelessness in the future. **A new North Minneapolis home will:**

- *Provide more housing options for youth that are gender affirming, including affordable apartments.*
- *Provide housing that is dignified, youth-centered, and trauma-informed, which contributes to improved outcomes.*
- *Strengthen partnerships and a sense of community by creating community space and holding more youth events.*
- *Allow Avenues to have control and ownership of the space, providing flexibility to expand and prepare for the future and improve overall efficiency.*



At Avenues for Youth, We Believe That:

- Homelessness does not define a person. It is just one part of their journey.
- Youth experiencing homelessness have or are experiencing trauma.
- Systems of oppression, racism, and poverty are the root causes of homelessness.
- Youth are resilient, inspiring, and the drivers of their own journey.

The Youth We Partner With:

- Are experiencing homelessness and are ages 16-24
- Mostly identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color, with over 85% identifying as BIPOC within the last year.
- Disproportionately identify as LGBTQI+
- Have dreams and aspirations that deserve investment

*On average Avenues supports **250 youth a year with housing, shelter, and other critical supports -- with over 70% of these youth transition to stable housing after exiting programs.***



History

Avenues for Youth was founded in 1994 by a youth experiencing homelessness. She recognized the need for youth-specific housing and support. Since then, Avenues has supported thousands of youth in the Twin Cities area. Avenues is a local leader in providing youth-centered supports, and known nationally for its host home program that supports LGBTQI+ youth.

Strategic Plan 2023-2025:

Placing social justice at the center of our work, Avenues will work toward 5 goals as follows:

- *Grow and support programs grounded in youth voice and data.*
- *Focus on staff well-being and development to advance equity and support youth.*
- *Foster, design, and construct people-centered spaces that are trauma-informed and energy efficient.*
- *Increase resources and capacity to meet the needs of youth.*
- *Intentionally incorporate values into daily work and processes.*

First Time Homeowners

Avenues currently leases its North Minneapolis location from the City of Minneapolis. Even with expansion, the lot and building cannot meet Avenues' growing needs. Once we determined that Avenues would need to relocate to meet our needs, an analysis of options was conducted. It was determined that ownership was the best course of action. Ownership ensures that capital investment benefits Avenues directly and exclusively.

