



## HOMELESS YOUTH CASH STIPEND PILOT PROJECT

### HF 2008 Rep. Kozlowski/SF 1903 Sen. McEwen

A transformative state pilot would establish the first youth co-designed intervention to end youth homelessness for young adults ages 18-24 in the State of Minnesota. This unique program, a “Cash Plus” model, is funded by both private and public funding partnerships in order to both execute and evaluate the results at a high level.

#### THE PROBLEM:

**Youth are overrepresented in the homeless "system."**

- 18-24 year olds make up 15% of all Minnesotans experiencing homelessness, but only 8.8% of the general population.
- 20-50% of youth experiencing homelessness were formerly in foster care.
- Black, Indigenous, People of Color and LGBTQIA+ youth are over-represented.

**Homeless youth experience long term health, education, and career impacts.**

- Gaps in education and self development due to trauma lead to delayed opportunities for wealth creation.
- A recent Minnesota Homeless Mortality Report (2023) found that 20-year-olds experiencing homelessness in Minnesota have the same rate of death as 50-year-olds in the general population.

**Youth are rarely at the table when systems are designed, therefore barriers persist and keep them from thriving.**

- Depending on the funding stream, programs have barriers to policies that limit them from pursuing or attending postsecondary education and/or working full-time without jeopardizing their housing; thereby, keeping them in that housing instability cycle.
- Programs are repetitive and not responsive to what young people need just in time to propel them to the next step in their trajectory.

#### OUR SOLUTION:

**Center youth experience, equity, and trust.**

Youth with lived experience, who mirror the demographics of the county's youth homeless population, design the optional services and select the optional services provider with support from Youthprise.

**Boost housing stability and empowerment.**

Selected young adults receive stipends which are aligned to the cost of shared housing in the area. This ensures they can select housing that enables them to launch powerfully into their future -- housing that helps them attend college, work full time, and move into a cycle of housing stability and career focus.

**Flexible and simple payments that meet youth where they are at and where they need to go.**

Youth select how they want the payments--Cash App, Venmo, Direct Deposit.

**Actionable evaluation and local research on how to move to end youth homelessness**

This pilot will produce an actionable local evidence base through rigorous evaluation and research; providing data on how both services as we currently do them and this innovative intervention lead to housing stability six months after the intervention and services end.

# CASH PLUS

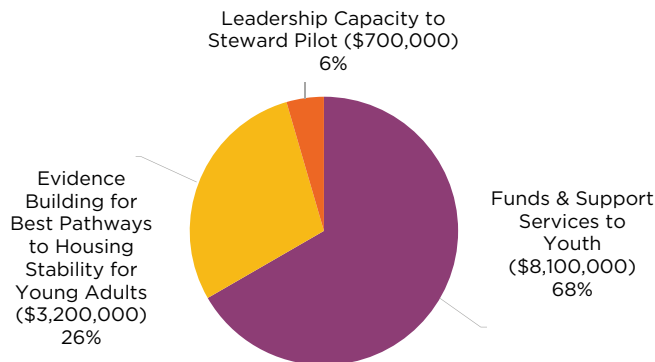
## Direct Cash Transfers (DCTs) or Stipends + Youth- Designed Optional Services

This approach recognizes that young people face financial and non-financial constraints to long term housing stability & thriving.

### Frequently Asked Questions:

- **Who is leading this project?**  
St. Louis County, Hennepin County, Youthprise, young leaders with lived experience, and community-based organizations that provide services for young people experiencing homelessness.
- **What are the requirements for participants in this pilot?**
  - Be 18-24 years old, prioritizing youth who identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color and LGBTQIA+;
  - Live in Hennepin County or St Louis County;
  - Be currently experiencing homelessness or housing instability.
- **What will young people receiving the stipends get?**  
An unconditional monthly stipend (for 24 months) that aligns to HUD's 2023 FMR data for shared housing. Young adults can receive these funds through the methods they select (Direct deposits; CashApp; Venmo; Bank, etc.) and the method they select can shift throughout the life of the pilot.  
  
Young adults will also be able to access a one-time unconditional stipend of \$4,000 that can support essential needs and expenses to exit homelessness as determined by young people (e.g., purchase of a car, security deposit, funds to support first-time apartment, debts associated with homelessness, etc.)  
  
In addition to the stipends, young adults will have the option to engage in youth-driven supportive programming. This could include housing navigation, financial coaching, or health and well-being support.
- **Who is going to evaluate the program? And how?**  
Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago in partnership with Rainbow Research on the measures of housing stability, health, well-being.

### What's the cost over the four years?



### Budget Distribution for Pilot

Private Funds: John & Denise Graves Foundation, Pohlad Family Foundation, and others will be funding the Chapin Hall research

Adapted from Morton, M. H., Chavez, R., Kull, M. A., Carreon, E. D., Bishop, J., Daferede, S., Wood, E., Cohen, L., & Barreyro, P. (2020). Developing a direct cash transfer program for youth experiencing homelessness: Results of a mixed methods, multistakeholder design process. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

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