

MN State Homelessness Prevention Services Funding: The Services Funding Gap for Family Supportive Housing

Program	Agency	Who is served?	Services funded	Eligibility requirements	How this impacts Supportive Housing (SH) for Families, Youth, Singles
Emergency Services Program (ESP)	DHS - OEO	Children, youth, single adults and families	Outreach, emergency shelter, motel vouchers, day shelter and essential services.	Children, unaccompanied youth, single adults and families who are experiencing homelessness.	This source doesn't fund SH
Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)	DHS - OEO	Children, youth, single adults and families	Rapid rehousing and the operating and support service costs of shelter programs	Children, unaccompanied youth, single adults and families who are experiencing homelessness	This source doesn't fund SH
Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP)	MN Housing	Families, youth, adults who are homeless or in imminent risk of homelessness	Supportive services and/or financial assistance. Includes Coordinated Entry, street outreach, temporary financial assistance and/or supportive services. Ineligible for operating and supportive services costs of permanent supportive housing.	Families, youth, adults who are homeless or in imminent risk of homelessness	This source doesn't fund SH
Homeless Youth Act (HYA)	DHS - OEO	Youth under age 25	Outreach and drop-in programs, emergency shelter programs, and integrated supportive housing services. Some Beacon developments receive these funds.	Homeless youth and youth at-risk of homelessness under age 25	This source provides some service dollars in some youth projects – eg, 66 West, but only 22% of Beacon's total youth SH budget. Recipients age out at 25; 94% of heads of household in FSH are 25 and older.
Housing Stabilization Services (Medicaid)	DHS - Housing	18+ PWD with Medical Assistance and formal assessment	Medical assistance that helps PWD and seniors find and keep housing. \$17.17/hr in 15-min units paid to provider. Limited to 150 hr/year. Billed by hour; works best in scattered sites.	PWD age 18+ on Medical Assistance with formal assessment who are experiencing housing instability and at risk of institutionalization	These monies could support some SH projects but have been almost universally difficult for site-based housing service providers to implement the format for billing; doesn't generate predictable amounts to plan service budgets or maintain consistent staffing, and most providers estimate they can garner approximately 50-65% on average of the maximum billables.

Housing Support (previously GRH - Group Residential Housing)	DHS - Housing	Seniors and adults with disabilities and low incomes	The HS housing rate provides up to \$1,091/month for resident's rent, utilities, food, household supplies and other necessities. Only for single adults, not families; does not support rents for 2, 3, and 4 bedroom family-sized units. Some Beacon developments receive these funds.	Must meet a combination of eligibility requirements set by the Supplemental Security Income or General Assistance programs. There are also income and asset limits.	Can work for single adults, however, the service rate is only \$5,800 annually (\$483/month) which does not adequately fund the cost for FSH of \$15k/year. If a household is enrolled in Housing Support AND Medicaid Housing Stabilization Services, the Housing Support rate is cut in half (\$241/mon). Also, if applicants enter site-based SH with a provider already named the new site cannot collect this service rate.
Housing with Supports for Adults with Serious Mental Illness (HSASMI)	DHS - Mental Health	Adults and eligible youth under age 25 with serious mental illness.	Housing transition services; Tenancy sustaining services to maintain tenancy once housing is secured; Site-based services at a single-site housing location to assist tenants with retaining their housing. Some Beacon developments receive these funds.	People with serious mental illness who are experiencing homelessness for one year or more, or multiple times in the last 3 years, or in imminent danger of homelessness.	Very limited, competitive grant dollars, they have been applied for and secured for two SH projects in Beacon's portfolio, but cover less than 40% of total service costs.
Local Homeless Prevention Aid	Counties and Tribes	Families with children who are experiencing housing insecurity or homelessness	Targeting unaccompanied youth in need; connecting families with social services; rental assistance for a specified period that may exceed 24 months; support and case management services. This is a new program; unsure if families in PSH will be eligible.	Families with children pre-K through grade 12 and are living in over-crowded conditions; paying more than 50% of their income for rent; or lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.	Prevention resources have generally been separated from funding to maintain SH programs for households who have fallen into homelessness; anticipate this would also exclude SH.
MN Housing Trust Fund	MN Housing	Children, youth, single adults and families	1) Capital funding for rental housing; 2) operating subsidy for rental housing that MN Housing provided capital for. Can include revenue shortfall and unique costs related to PSH, such as tenant service coordination, front desk, and security costs; 3) Rental assistance. Currently no new funding is available for operating subsidies.	All participants to be High Priority Homeless (HPH) who are assessed as needing Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and referred through their local Continuum of Care (CoC) Coordinated Entry (CE) system.	No new funding available from this source for new/expanding programs to address the level of homelessness today—only funding current grantees.

MN Transitional Housing Program (THP)		Children, youth, single adults and families	Provides transitional housing at a rental rate of at least 25% of family income for no more than 24 mos. Designed for independent living with some support services; not available for PSH.	Adults, families and youth who are experiencing homelessness; considered a transitional step towards housing independence.	These monies don't apply to permanent SH.
MSA Housing Assistance (MN Supplemental Aid)	DHS - Housing	PWD who pay over 40% of income for housing	Provides \$392/mo for rent, mortgage & interest payments, utilities for some people with disabilities. No PSH service support.	PWD who are eligible for MSA, under age 65, pay more than 40% of their income toward housing costs, as well as other criteria.	Providers encourage residents to apply; doesn't support services costs in site-based SH.
Safe Harbor Housing	DHS - OEO	Youth victims of sexual exploitation under age 25	Outreach, emergency services and supportive services by specialized providers in a network of services for sexually exploited youth.	Youth victims of sexual exploitation (under age 25).	Does not fund general youth/family SH programs—only funds limited programs targeting this specific population.

In short, **existing programs don't provide anywhere close to adequate funding for the specialized services in Family Supportive Housing.**

Each year, it gets harder to maintain these programs at their current level. Very little new FSH can be built because developers can't show that support funding will be available.

As of February 2023