


OLMSTED COUNTY  
MINNESOTA



CITY OF  
**ROCHESTER**

# Olmsted County Response to Unsheltered Homelessness SF2053

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MINNESOTA SENATE  
MARCH 24, 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

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- 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

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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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