

Funding needed to continue solutions to homelessness



Innovative programs require sustainable funding

Hennepin County allocates \$191 million to housing and homeless activities each year. The county invested \$88.7 million in federal funding from 2022 to 2024 to revolutionize our housing and homelessness response systems.

This short-term funding included \$43.3 million for deeply affordable and supportive housing through an equitable housing strategy, plus investments in:

- Operations and services at low-barrier shelters, Avivo Village and Homeward Bound
- 24/7 operations at existing shelters
- Shelter-diversion programming
- Housing-focused case management and encampment response services
- Capital projects, including physical improvements and construction

Housing programs are working

During 2023, Hennepin County and our partners helped 2,171 people to transition from homelessness into permanent housing. This represents a 57% increase compared to 2021.

We made great strides with pandemic recovery resources, even as we responded to unprecedented demand for family shelter.

These critical interventions help make homelessness rare, brief and nonrecurring in our communities. They are creating and strengthening pathways out of homelessness and into stable, permanent housing.

Shelter operations and services

24/7 shelter

We will need \$3 million a year to continue services.

Housing-focused case management

We will need \$3 million a year to continue services.

Avivo Village shelter

We will need \$4 million a year to continue services.

AICDC Homeward Bound

We will need \$2 million a year to continue services.

Shelter diversion

We will need \$1 million a year to continue services.

Family shelter and operations

Increased demand for family shelter and Hennepin County's commitment to no child sleeping outside has increased the annual cost of family shelter operations by \$15 million a year.



Highlights from 2024

Hennepin County's Housing Stability area works with public- and private-sector partners to make homelessness rare, brief and nonrecurring for families and single adults. In the past year, Hennepin County:

- Became one of the most populous counties in the nation to achieve the federal designation for effectively ending homelessness among veterans in our community. That does not mean veterans do not experience homelessness, but that our system is prepared to quickly respond and move people back into permanent housing in less than 90 days on average.
- Administered more than \$13 million in emergency rental assistance to prevent evictions for 3,500 extremely low-income renter households, through the RentHelp Hennepin program.
- Responded to a crisis in family homelessness that resulted in a spike in shelter demand at almost 500 family households by the end of 2023 – more than 400% of normal capacity. The county maintained a shelter-all policy for families, a commitment that no child sleeps outside, and invested in efforts to connect families to permanent housing. Since the start of 2024, these concerted housing efforts have reduced the number of families in need of shelter by 52% as outflow from family shelter has exceeded inflow every month.
- Was at the center of major media coverage of homelessness response, with multiple high-impact national and local features on this important and nation-leading work.

Highlights include:

- [Wall Street Journal: The Struggle to Help Homeless People Who Don't Want Help](https://www.wsj.com/homeless-people-who-dont-want-help) (wsj.com)
- [Invisible People: Homelessness is Solvable: Hennepin County Shows How](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) (youtube.com)
- [New Yorker: Not Your Childhood Library](https://www.newyorker.com/not-your-childhood-library) (newyorker.com)
- [Star Tribune: How Hennepin County spends nearly \\$200 million a year on homelessness prevention](https://www.startribune.com/hennepin-county-spends-nearly-200-million-a-year-on-homelessness-prevention) (startribune.com)

Contacts

Liz Young
Director, Intergovernmental Relations
612-596-0447
liz.young@hennepin.us

Akolade Gbadamosi
Public Policy Manager, Intergovernmental Relations
612-471-8783
akolade.gbadamosi@hennepin.us

David Hewitt
Director, Housing Stability
651-226-0156
david.hewitt@hennepin.us