

Minnesota Homeless Study and Reservation Homeless Study: *Appropriation Request*

Contact:

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Background: Every 3 years since 1991, Wilder Research has conducted the [Minnesota Homeless Study](#). The Minnesota Homeless Study is recognized as unique in the nation for its comprehensiveness, wide-spread use, as well as its partnerships with urban, suburban, and rural community organizations and tribal nations.

In recent years, the MN Homeless Study has been in jeopardy due to the time consuming, piecemeal approach to securing funding. **At this time, the MN Homeless Study has no allocated funding starting next fiscal year. If we do not secure funding, we will have delay or discontinue the study.**

The historical nature of the study allows us to look at trends over time, and the breadth and depth of the study allows us to look more closely at the experiences of the homeless population to pinpoint barriers to obtaining safe and stable housing, and understand the experiences of specific populations, such as older adults, unaccompanied youth, Veterans, and American Indians living on reservations. Many organizations and government agencies rely on the study to identify and address systemic issues; guide services, programs, and policies to support people experiencing homelessness; and track progress in efforts to reduce and ultimately eliminate homelessness in Minnesota. The need for current and accurate data about people experiencing homelessness is particularly critical, given increases in housing instability, mental health issues, substance use, and physical health issues in recent years. The study is critical to efficiently prioritizing programming and funding to effectively address unmet population needs.

Need for funding to cover costs: The public and philanthropic landscape has changed significantly since 1991. For many years, state funding was coordinated by a lead contact who was able to navigate the complexities of agency funding to meet the study's public funding goals. However, in recent years, staff turnover and the complexities of agency financing have led Wilder to spend significant time in obtaining funding from various state agency contacts with targets that have fallen short of study needs. This process has proven inefficient for both Wilder and our State partners. Similarly, available philanthropic funds have decreased, and/or become more difficult to obtain due to the changing priorities of the philanthropic community. In addition, the Wilder Foundation has been significantly supporting the study over the years, by exempting the study from needing to cover its overhead costs. Because of the changing financial landscape, Wilder is no longer able to subsidize the study, and the overall budget of the study reflects this reality.

Biennium 2025-2027 Budget: The total ongoing biennium funding request is **\$1,800,000**.

The following section outlines tasks and estimated costs related to the study for the period July 2025-June 2027. Any reductions in funding will impact the scope of each activity and our ability to conduct the study.

2025-2027 Activity	Statewide study	Reservation study	Task total
Study coordination and communication with partners	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$225,000
Study design and methodology revisions	\$40,000	\$25,000	\$65,000
Outreach, engagement, and coordination with providers and tribes and other data collection costs	\$225,000	\$75,000	\$300,000
Recruit and train interviewers	\$90,000	\$25,000	\$115,000
Analysis of regional and statewide data as well as topic/population groups (populations include: youth, families, older adults, veterans, and BIPOC communities; topics include opioid use; chronic health; disabilities; and unsheltered homelessness, etc.)	\$175,000	\$75,000	\$250,000
Reporting (written reports and data tables)	\$185,000	\$75,000	\$260,000
Data use decision making workshops; presentations to policy makers and funders; public presentations; consultation on special issues; special rural briefs and regional presentations	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$150,000
Integration/alignment with other statewide data sources to increase efficiency	\$95,000	\$20,000	\$115,000
Other expenses for 2025-27			
Incentives for interview participants and participating tribes (Reservation Study)			\$200,000
Vendors and consultants such as translation services, bulk printing, and data scanning, etc.			\$75,000
Statewide travel and meeting expenses			\$30,000
Postage and mailing			\$15,000
Total costs			\$1,800,000

Data snapshot

10,522 people experienced homelessness in Minnesota on the night of the 2023 Minnesota Homeless Study. While this represents a 7% decrease from 2018, it is the second highest number since the study began

