

HOMELESS OUTREACH GRANTS 2007-2009

Final Report to the Minnesota Legislature

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Prepared by the Office of Justice Programs
Minnesota Department of Public Safety

**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS**

The Homeless Outreach Grant Program was initially created and funded in the 2005 -2006 Minnesota Legislative session. One-time funding was authorized at that time for pilot programs. As the programs demonstrated significant outcomes (see Homeless Pilot Project Grants Report, November 2007) the 2007 Legislature appropriated additional one-time funding for 2008-2009 programming.

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), in consultation with the Ending Long-Term Homelessness Advisory Council and the Minnesota Department of Human Services Office of Economic Opportunity, awarded \$292,500 in grant funding to projects located in Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth. The goal of the projects was to reduce the use of public safety and correctional resources and promote stronger communities through street and shelter outreach that would connect people experiencing homelessness to housing and services.

This second round of Homeless Outreach Grant funding supported three programs, two of which were part of the initial 2005 pilot. Despite ongoing significant obstacles, all programs were able to demonstrate progress on reaching the goal of reducing the use of public safety and correctional resources and promoting stronger communities.

GRANTEE	AWARD	PROGRAM
St. Stephen's Human Services (new in 2007)	\$97,350	Working in Minneapolis, the Reach Out and Connect Project targets a homeless population that cycles between living on the streets, frequenting emergency health and shelter services, and being incarcerated.
South Metro Human Services	\$96,875	Working in collaboration with the St. Paul Police Department, this program funds a Police-Homeless Outreach Program (P-HOP) worker to respond to long-term homeless individuals who either have, or are likely to have, repeated interaction with law enforcement.
Churches United Ministry (CHUM)	\$98,275	Working in Duluth, CHUM collaborates with the Human Development Center and the Duluth Police Department and targets the downtown area of Duluth to assist homeless participants to achieve greater stability and reduce the number of justice system interventions in their lives.
TOTAL	\$292,500	

Grant funds were used for the following purposes:

Personnel costs	\$221,779 (81%)
Contract services	13,000 (3%)
Direct assistance	30,001 (9%)
Staff expenses	13,287 (3%)
Overhead	<u>14,433</u> (4%)
	\$292,500

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Evaluation and Outcome Results for Grants funded from 2007 – 2009:

✦ **St. Stephen's Human Services: Street Outreach and Housing Services, Minneapolis**

A cooperative case management was developed based on a collaboration of Hennepin County-supported community based housing programs and probation, Minneapolis Housing and Inspections staff, Minneapolis Police Department officers, and grant-supported outreach staff. This group designed a successful tracking, data measurement and evaluation outcome system. Program data was also included in a more comprehensive report by the University Of Minnesota Humphrey Institute Of Public Affairs. ("Heading Home Hennepin: Housing First Program Evaluation, Homeless Single Adult Population". Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 2009.)

Results Summary:

- 112 participants received case management services; over 1,020 unduplicated contacts with persons identified as being high risk for developing chronic homelessness issues.
- Population: 76% male; 24% female; African American 42; American Indian 32; Multi-racial/Bi-racial 7 (5 self-reported as Hispanic/Latino); "Other" 8, (self-identified as Somali 4, East African 4); Caucasian 23; average male age 39; average female age 32.
- 69% followed through on referrals for shelter, mental health, or chemical dependency services.
- 88% was diagnosed with a mental illness.
- 83% was identified as having dual diagnosis concerns.
- 64% had a dual diagnosis.
- 48% increase in referrals to case management team in 2008-2009.
- 29% of persons remained in housing for 7-8 month period, post placement.
- 33% health care assessment, with client Chemical Dependency and Mental Health treatment protocols being followed.
- 14% reduction in crime by homeless persons in downtown area, diverting 634 calls for service from Minneapolis Police Department reflecting \$251,698 cost savings and undocumented criminal justice system savings.
- Outreach staff negotiated weekly court docket time with their clients, leading to elimination of court referral back-log and setting up cost savings and efficiency standards.
- Minneapolis City Council increases support: \$100,000 in 2009, to \$150,000 in 2010.

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↓ **South Metro Human Services: St. Paul Police-Homeless Project (P-HOP)**

A partnership of St. Paul Police, St. Paul City Attorney's Office, street advocates, housing authority, and the medical, mental health and chemical dependency fields resulted in the implementation of an effective case management system. Efforts focused on the provision of effective clinical and housing services for chronic, dual-disordered individuals with mixed criminal histories.

Results Summary:

- 57% demonstrated reduced recidivism overall.
- 41% reduction in criminal convictions.
- 69% reduction in detox center visits.
- 96% retention rate for housing vouchers.
- 69% report of reduced use of community resources.
- 58 % report of reduction of residents impression of panhandling (Amherst Wilder report, 2008, survey.)
- 5% reduction in quality of life crimes in downtown St. Paul district. (35% increase citywide for same time period for same crime categories.)
- 79% report improved communication between systems providers for chronic homeless population services (results of interagency surveys, 2009.)

↓ **Churches United Ministry (C.H.U.M.): Street Outreach Program, Duluth**

Collaboration between street advocacy organizations, law enforcement, justice system authorities, human services and other providers resulted in provision of intense case management services, the expansion of partnerships, and an increase in shared resources. There has been a significant change in how the City of Duluth manages and advocates for the homeless population. Key to this partnership has been leadership from the police department and the criminal justice bench in revising policies and procedures respective to how homeless persons are approached, processed in the system, and how resources are accessed for case management of individuals.

Results Summary:

- 98 participants received services.
- Population: 72 male; 26 female; American Indian 48; African America 12; Hispanic 1; Non-Hispanic, Non-Latino 24; White 37; average male age 40; average female age 33.
- 70% classified as chronically homeless.
- 63% with Chronic Mental Illness designation.
- 78% Chemical Dependency Rule 31 certified.
- 21% identified with illegal scheduled drug abuse issue.
- 21% with physical disability.

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- 37% reduction in reported environmental crime (nuisance, loitering).
- 65% reduction in jail time for chronically homeless.
- 39% follow through in chemical dependency treatment.
- 13% sobriety maintenance.
- 22% enrolled in education or job training in a setting identified as skill compatible.
- 25% sought out and retained gainful employment.
- 38% post-release are retaining and maintaining a stable residence.
- 94% of clients express satisfaction with services.
- 98% of collaborative team members express satisfaction with service quality.

While state funding for Homeless Outreach grants ended in June of 2009, two of the three programs were successful in competing for American Recovery Act, Justice Assistance Grant funds. Their selection in this highly competitive process speaks to the efficacy of their programming. They were able to make a clear and compelling case that their approach significantly reduced “reduced the use of public safety and correctional resources and promoted stronger communities.”