



Needs assessment report

Completed as part of the countywide plan for homelessness prevention

September 2025

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Introduction: Homelessness prevention strategic plan

In 2024, Hennepin County’s Housing Stability—Rare area began work on a strategic plan to guide the homelessness prevention system from 2026 to 2030.

Our work began with the formation of a phased work plan, charter, and workgroup structure to create and implement the strategic plan. This report contains the findings of **Phases 1 and 2** of the strategic planning process as outlined in this introduction.

Goals for the strategic plan

To collaboratively develop a written strategic Countywide Plan for Homelessness Prevention alongside key partners, including policymakers and funders, people with lived expertise, providers, and system partners.

The chart below details the **planning structure** and **phases** used to create and implement the Plan:

Oversight committee

1. Ensure alignment across planning spaces
2. Manage work plan and timelines
3. Lead communication with stakeholders

Research and best practices	Needs assessment	System planning	Data improvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Framework• Definition and scope• Policies, strategies, and partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current services inventory• Assessment risk/protective factors• Funding gaps analysis• Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• System goals• System, vision, and flow• Strategic priorities• Implementation work plan• CQI framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• System metrics• Ground level performance metrics• Core data and monitoring• Data gaps and solutions

Outline of the strategic plan's phases and components.



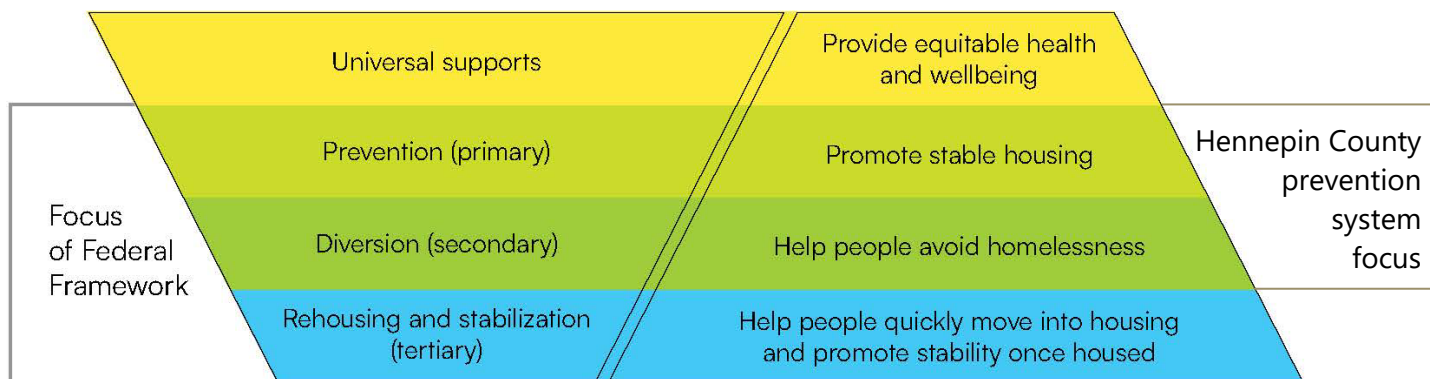
Initial planning

Hennepin County identified a **framework** and **working definition** of homelessness prevention. Our framework pulls components from the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, [Ending Homelessness Before It Starts: Federal Homeless Prevention Framework](#), (released September 2024).

The framework includes categories of homelessness prevention adopted from the public health prevention model. ¹

¹ United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (2024). Ending Homelessness Before It Starts: A Federal Homelessness Prevention Framework. https://usch.gov/sites/default/files/document/Federal%20Homelessness%20Prevention%20Framework_2.pdf

Categories of homelessness prevention



Primary prevention is interventions that seek to promote protective factors for housing security for populations with one or more risk factors for homelessness.

Diversion is intended for people who are at imminent risk of experiencing sheltered or unsheltered homelessness.

Rehousing and stabilization are a series of targeted resources to support individuals in the rapid transition out of homelessness and to assist with stabilization supports.

Promising approaches

The report identified Promising Approaches² communities should consider as they create and implement homelessness prevention plans.

Approach	Promising indicators
Housing status assessments and screenings	Early screening could identify those at risk before there is a housing crisis. Proactively identifying and working to address racial and ethnic inequities among people experiencing and at risk of homelessness, people served by prevention programs, and other factors will help new or revised screening tools and processes advance racial equity.

² United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, 2024, pg. 3)

<p>Housing problem solving</p>	<p>The approach recognizes that for some households, light-touch assistance and minimal resources can help resolve a housing crisis by building on their existing strengths, resources, and networks. Housing problem solving approaches are intended to be flexible, easily accessible, and have few administrative requirements, to provide quick support for time-sensitive needs. Housing problem solving may involve services like mediation between the household and their landlord or a family member they live with, or an exploratory conversation about strengths and support networks they can tap into.</p>
<p>Expand Coordinated Entry</p>	<p>Expanding the capacity of Coordinated Entry access points and building in 'no wrong door' approaches will help more people access Coordinated Entry from wherever they are seeking services, Increasing referral points makes it easier for people to access assistance and for the partners to ensure that households are matched to resources that they are eligible for and that meet their circumstances and level of need.</p>
<p>Education and homelessness response system collaborations</p>	<p>Collaborations between the homelessness response system, the education sector, and other community partners to support housing stability can improve housing, education, and other outcomes for families. McKinney-Vento liaisons, in partnership with the homelessness response system, can ensure that youth and families experiencing homelessness are connected to comprehensive resources, including rehousing and stabilization services and supports.</p>
<p>Workforce collaborations</p>	<p>Workforce programs can play a critical role in strengthening financial well-being and housing stability through economic advancement and, ultimately, lessening the risk of homelessness.</p>
<p>Data sharing</p>	<p>Sharing data allows partners from two or more systems to collaborate more effectively. In the context of prevention work, merged data can provide cross-system partners with critical insights into the characteristics and needs of people experiencing</p>

or at risk of homelessness who are being served by multiple systems and shared data can inform the design of strategies and interventions that better meet these needs.

Goals for homelessness prevention response ³

1. Identify people who are at risk of homelessness and help them stay in their homes or quickly settle into new homes
 - a. Work to identify and support people who are at risk before they enter the homelessness response system.
 - b. Provide clear, up-to-date information on available resources and programs
 - c. Reduce barriers to accessing prevention programs
2. Tailor the type and level of resources, based on need
 - a. Offer a range of prevention programs to meet various needs
 - b. Ensure people are matched to resources based on their needs
 - c. Provide accessible services
3. Scale programs appropriately
 - a. Bring in partners from multiple systems to increase the resources and programs available to help
 - b. Appropriately match resources to local needs

Application of the USICH homeless prevention framework in Hennepin County

Hennepin County is using the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness' adopted public health framework to categorize homelessness prevention goals, objectives, and strategies. Application of this framework focuses prevention strategies on:

1. The continuum of risk factors and experiences leading to homelessness
2. Maintaining stability following an exit from homelessness

The USICH model guided development of Hennepin County's homelessness prevention definition, delineating what is within and outside of the scope of prevention.

Hennepin County has adopted the following definition:

³ United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, 2024, pg 9.

Homelessness prevention includes promoting stable housing by increasing protective factors for those with highest risk of future homelessness and helping those who are at imminent risk of homelessness to resolve their housing crisis.

Applicable housing situations include households on leases, unstable temporary housing with friends or family, self-pay hotel/motel stays, and unstable exits from justice or human service systems (i.e. incarceration, foster care, treatment, hospitals, etc.).

We have structured this needs assessment report in alignment with these prevention categories:

- Primary
- Diversion
- Rehousing/stabilization

The Needs Assessment Workgroup recommends consideration and, where appropriate, incorporation of both the promising approaches and goals from the USICH Prevention Framework Report in the development and implementation of the strategic plan.

Needs assessment methodology, approach

Quantitative data

We began our analysis in spring of 2024, focusing initially on a county-wide needs assessment for an upcoming Request for Proposals (RFP) through Minnesota Housing. We conducted this assessment in three parts:

- Focus groups of community providers and contracted providers
- Data analysis
- Surveys of participants of lived expertise

We used these data to expand the work of the needs assessment workgroup to add new data sources as outlined below, conduct further interviews with people with lived expertise, and compile a resource/services inventory list. We collected data from the list below, and a small workgroup met once or twice per month to review the various data sets, identify trends, and assess for gaps and needs across Hennepin County.

Data sources and methodology

Focus groups (community & contracted providers, individuals with lived expertise).

RentHelp Minnesota – Hennepin County data

Hennepin County Homelessness Prevention System Inventory

Data analysis from multiple sources:

- RentHelp Hennepin data (HDS)
- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) reports (CORE, Demographic, Entry/Exit)
- Greater Twin Cities United Way 211
- Hennepin County Shelter Hotline, Diversion, Housing Court, and Homeless System Inflow Analysis
- Homeless Response System Prior Living Situation Analysis (HMIS)
- Homeless and Highly Mobile Data, Minnesota Department of Education and Hennepin County public school districts
- United for ALICE data

- Hennepin County Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation data (CSTS)
- Minnesota Department of Corrections
- United States CENSUS Data

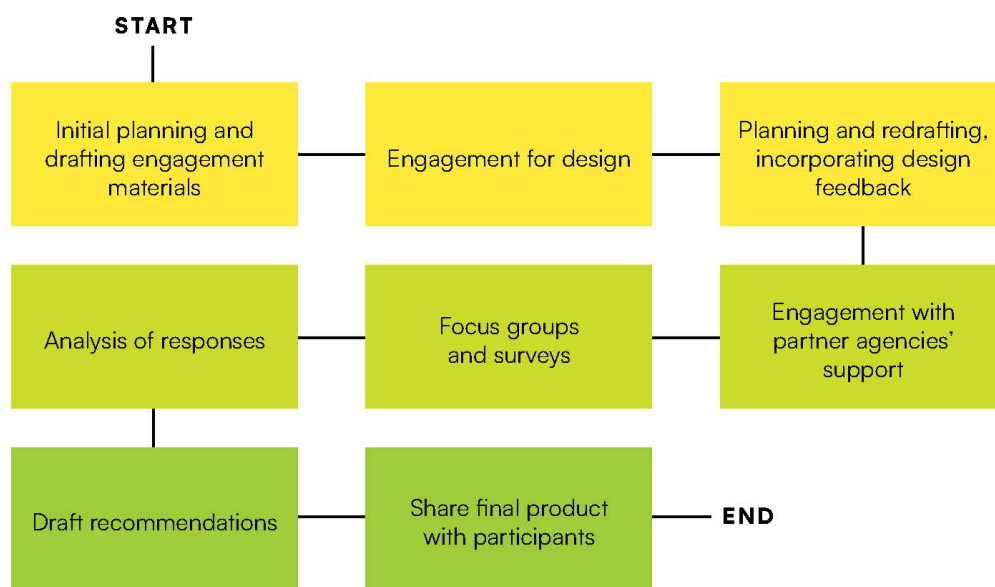
Qualitative data

The primary purpose for gathering qualitative data was to capture insights from individuals with lived expertise on: (1) service impacts and gaps; (2) potential improvements and solutions; and (3) ideas for Hennepin County and its partners to collaborate with and engage the community in the future. These data are meant to complement, expand upon, and provide context to quantitative data sets.

Methodology

Steps:

1. Plan
2. Design consult
3. Redesign
4. Engagement
5. Analysis and recommendations



Design consultations

Hennepin County engaged individuals with lived expertise in order to gather feedback on the populations we would prioritize for engagement, outreach approaches, and who could help shape the specific questions we would use to collect feedback in surveys and focus groups.

Areas	Feedback
Groups to engage	Expand the list of priority populations and partner with community agencies.
Approach	Create a welcoming environment, increase survey and focus group participation by partnering with community agencies or others community members. Humanize the experience and participants and ensure participants know how the data will be used.
Draft focus group and survey questions:	Start with a positive question. For demographic questions, ask participants how they identify. Ask a screening question to identify people who have used prevention services to avoid asking for feedback on programs people haven't used.

Redesign

Hennepin County then redesigned the approach by focusing on agencies that served populations identified by the design groups, engaged community agencies as partners in the process, and redrafted focus group and survey questions to reflect the feedback.

Engagement

Engagement	Purpose	Strategy	Partners/ Participants	Quantity
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<p>Design consultation groups</p>	<p>Co-design the process for engaging participants and facilitating needs assessment sessions, with leadership from community members with lived experience and expertise</p>	<p>Gathered recommendations for structuring and facilitating the needs assessment formats (surveys versus interviews versus focus groups) and identified ways to support participants as they share their expertise with us. Changed engagement content and approaches to include feedback.</p>	<p>Grave's Foundation Cohort Hennepin LEAG (Lived Experience Advisory Group)</p>	<p>Four participants over two meetings</p>
<p>Focus groups of people with lived experience</p>	<p>Gather stories of lived experiences with prevention services in a group setting.</p>	<p>Partner agencies hosted groups of no more than five participants. We selected agencies based on populations they serve. Partner agencies recruited participants.</p> <p>We limited discussion questions to encourage in-depth responses.</p> <p>Participants received \$25 unless compensated from another source.</p>	<p>Volunteers of America Cornerstone Youth Advisory Board LEAG</p>	<p>16 people in four focus groups</p>
<p>Focus groups with service providers</p>	<p>Hear experiences and feedback from community agencies and</p>	<p>Virtual group meetings with community providers.</p>	<p>Contracted and noncontracted homeless</p>	<p>Nine focus groups with providers</p>

	<p>county staff providing prevention services to the community.</p>	<p>We limited discussion questions to encourage in-depth responses.</p>	<p>prevention community providers.</p> <p>Contracted DOCCR housing providers.</p> <p>Hennepin County RentHelp/Prevention staff</p> <p>Hennepin County Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation staff</p>	
<p>Surveys</p>	<p>Get feedback from people with lived experience to share with prevention services.</p>	<p>Multiple choice or ranking questions and answers. Engaged people interested in sharing input but who were unable to participate in focus groups. Online survey included 17 questions. We compensated participants with \$10 for their time.</p>	<p>Partner agencies that distributed surveys to individuals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cornerstone • Graves Foundation • VEAP • Volunteers of America • YMCA 	<p>Forty-two individual survey responses</p>

Analysis and Recommendation

Summaries of feedback shared during focus groups and surveys is included in the Qualitative Data Section of this report. Data were then used to create the key findings and recommendations.

Homelessness prevention system goals

At the beginning of the needs assessment process, Hennepin County staff conducted an analysis of multiyear prior living situation data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) among households newly experiencing homelessness and entering the Hennepin County homeless response system.

This analysis identified and quantified the various pathways into homelessness among Hennepin County residents, and three broad housing situations emerged as the most prominent settings from which residents were entering homelessness (following housing loss). These grouped prior living situation situations were as follows:

- 1) **Temporary housing with family or friends:** 54% of households experiencing homelessness in Hennepin County resided temporarily with family (24.2%) or friends (29.3%) immediately prior to their homelessness episode.
- 2) **Leased or owned housing:** 20% of households experiencing homelessness in Hennepin County resided in leased rental housing (18.9%) or in an owned home (1.3%) immediately prior to their homelessness episode.
- 3) **Exits from systems:** 16% of households experiencing homelessness in Hennepin County exited from either incarceration (3%), a hospital or other medical facility (5.7%), substance abuse treatment facility (5.1%), a mental health or psychiatric facility (1.5%), or a foster home or foster care group home (0.5%).

Given that these housing settings represent the situations from which housing loss most predominantly result in homelessness, staff subsequently translated each of the three housing situations into a set of three corresponding system goals. These goals are, therefore, both supported by reliable multiyear data and aligned to the North Star of preventing homelessness among all residents, regardless of their current circumstance or housing setting.

This needs assessment, as a result, is structure both around the framework for homelessness prevention those high-risk populations.

Needs assessment data

Primary prevention includes interventions that seek to promote protective factors for housing security for populations with one or more risk factors for homelessness. These interventions, among other resources, might include eviction and foreclosure prevention, legal support, rent and/or utility subsidies, workforce, education, and income supports focused on people at high risk of experiencing housing instability or homelessness.⁴

Quantitative data – primary prevention

United Way ALICE data

ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) refers to households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county. While conditions have improved for some households, many continue to struggle, especially as wages fail to keep pace with the rising cost of household essentials (housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and a basic smartphone plan). Households below the ALICE Threshold — ALICE households plus those in poverty — can't afford the essentials.

Figure 1

ALICE data within Hennepin County (2022).

2022 Point in Time data

Population: 1,260,120

Number of households: 542,072

Median household income: \$89,399 (state average: \$82,338)

Labor force participation rate: 71% (state average: 68%)

ALICE households: 25% (state average: 26%)
average: 10%)

Households in poverty: 11% (state average: 10%)

⁴ United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, 2024, pg 19

U.S. Census (American Community Survey) Data

The American Community Survey (ACS) is an ongoing survey that provides vital information on a yearly basis about our nation and its people. Information from the survey generates data that help inform how trillions of dollars in federal funds are distributed each year.

[American Community Survey Data – Home page](#)

[DPO2: Selected Social Characteristics](#)

[DPO3: Selected Economic Characteristics](#)

[DPO4: Selected Housing Characteristics](#)

[DPO5: Demographics and Housing Estimates](#)

[S1701: Poverty Status in last 12 Months](#)

United Way 211 data

Figure 1

This figure breaks down the resources most sought by United Way 211 callers seeking Hennepin County resources in 2023 and 2024. On average, 211 received 2,500 calls per month for housing expense assistance in Hennepin County in 2024.

Hennepin County Top 10 211 requests



Category	2022	2023
Housing/shelter	64,733	43,250
Utility assistance	7,395	7,370
Material goods	5,293	4,857
Legal services	4,062	5,092
Individual and family support services	4,006	3,826
Food	2,762	7,025

Information services	1,713	2,451
Mental health assessment and treatment	2,421	2,898
Tax organizations and services	2,336	1,898
Transportation	1,342	1,860

Figure 2

This figure breaks down the most frequent Hennepin County housing-related requests in 2023 and 2024 among United Way Twin Cities 211 callers.

Hennepin County Top 5 211 housing requests



Category	2023	2024	Progress
Housing expense assistance	26,009	28,986	110%
Emergency shelter	10,016	9,841	98%
Utility assistance	7,370	7,062	96%
Food	7,025	6,941	99%
Residential housing options	4,574	3,953	86%

Housing cost burden in Hennepin County

Households that spend 30% or more of their income on housing related costs are housing-burdened, and households that spend 50% or more of their income on housing related costs are severely housing cost-burdened.

Figure 1

This figure presents 2017-2023 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data on Hennepin County households across area median income thresholds who are housing cost-burdened and severely housing cost-burdened.

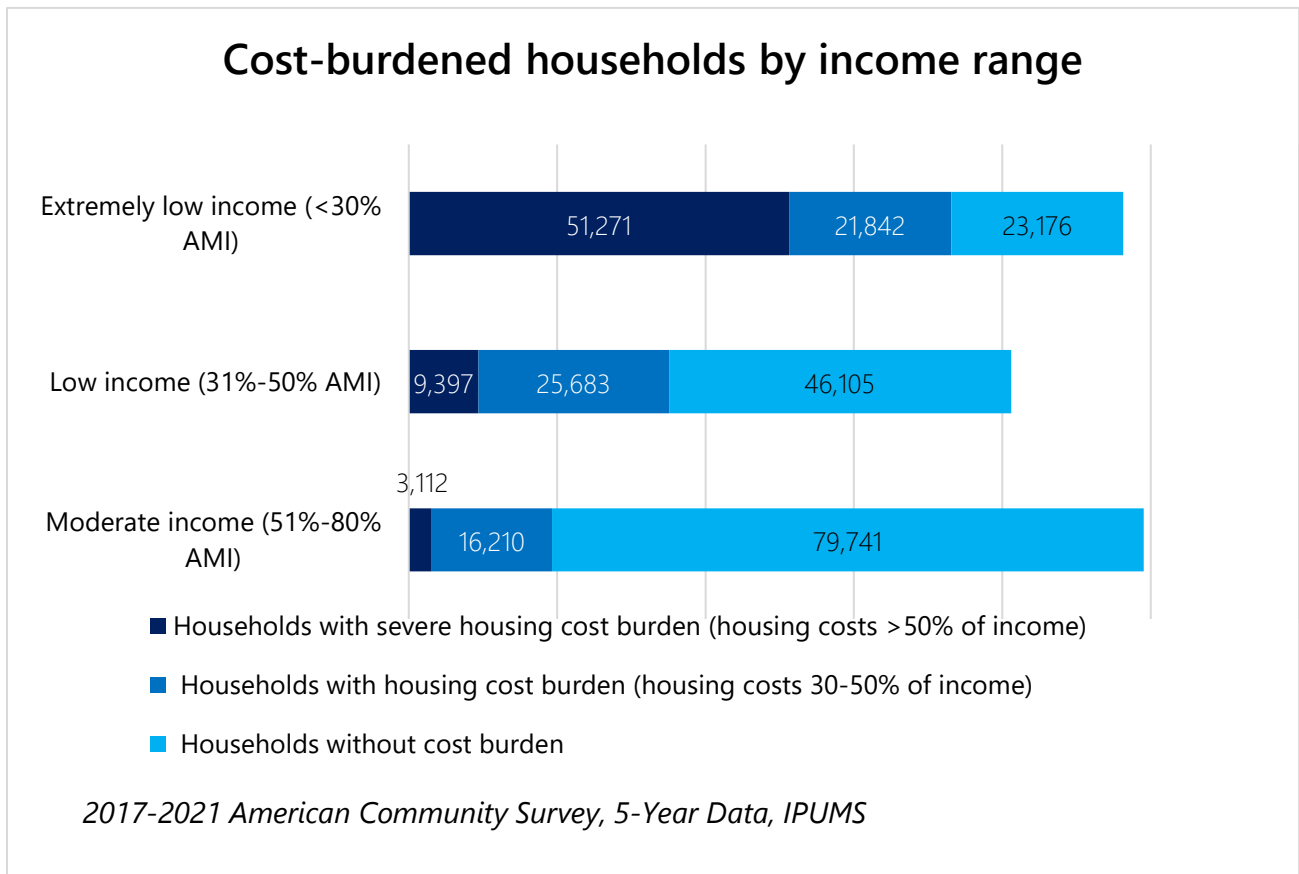


Figure 1

Hennepin County School to Housing

Hennepin County’s School to Housing program provides operated and contracted case management and rent assistance to families at risk for homelessness. Partner districts include Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Hopkins, Intermediate 287, Richfield, and Robbinsdale school to housing programs, LHPA Rent assistance for eviction prevention, and rent assistance for Hennepin County’s TeenHope program (supporting young parents enrolled in MFIP). Data are from November 2023 to December 2024.

Figure 1

Programs	# clients served	Total assistance paid	Average payment	Average monthly assistance	Declined
School to Housing	362	\$1,850,000	\$5,715	4.7 months	12

Race of clients	Percentage	Race of clients	Percentage
American Indian	1%	Multiracial, more than one race	10%
Asian	1%	White	10%
Black – African American, other	65%	Preferred Not to Answer	10%
Black Somali	3%		

Ethnicity	Percentage	Status	Percentage
Hispanic	7%	Disabled	10%
Non-Hispanic	88%		
Preferred not to answer	5%		

Figure 2

This figure outlines various outputs from county-contracted School to Housing programs, including the Stable Homes, Stable Schools program serving Minneapolis Public Schools and the Northwest Collaborative serving Osseo and Brooklyn Center school districts.

Programs	# clients served	Total assistance paid	Average payment	Average monthly assistance	Declined
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Contracted programs	412	\$1,600,000	\$3,678	1.6 months	Unknown
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Race of clients	Percentage	Race of clients	Percentage
American Indian	4%	Multiracial, more than one race	5%
Asian	<1%	White	7%
Black – African American, other	76%	Preferred Not to Answer	7%
Black Somali	<1%		

Ethnicity	Percentage	Status	Percentage
Hispanic	8%	Disabled	7%
Non-Hispanic	68%		
Preferred Not to Answer or Unknown	24%		

Hennepin County Tenant Resource Connection hot line

The data below break down the resources sought by tenants contacting the Hennepin County Tenant Resource Connection (TRC) hot line in 2024. The TRC fielded a total of 10,000 calls in 2024.

Figure 1

TRC calls in 2024

Reasons for calls, as reported	% of calls
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Rent, deposit or utility assistance	88.2%
Housing search	2.9%
Other	2.7%
Rent assistance, housing search	2.3%
Employment	1.8%
Rent assistance, employment	1.5%
Application status	0.7%
Housing search, employment	0.1%

Hennepin County administers emergency rent assistance (ERA) through two primary funding sources: Hennepin Eviction Prevention (HEP) and from some funds through the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP) funds. FHPAP funds can be utilized as ERA funds, short-term and/or medium-term assistance of direct assistance and/or supportive services or combination of both.

Figure 2

This figure outlines 2024 denials data from Hennepin County's RentHelp Hennepin program, which provides emergency rent assistance for households at risk for eviction.

All ERA denials, 2024

Declination category	# of applications declined, by category	% of all RHH applications	% of all RHH applications
Declined – no funding available at this time	755	54%	13.9%
Declined – potential fraud	3	–	0%
Declined by program	620	44%	11.4%

Declined by property manager	15	1%	0.3%
Declined by renter	5	–	0.1%
Declined final	12	<0.1%	0.2%
Grand total	1,410	100%	26%

Figure 3

This figure reflects the ages and types of households that received assistance from RentHelp Hennepin in 2024. Most families have a Head of Household between 25 and 39 and 42.6% of all households are families. Single adult households make up 51 % of the households who received assistance in 2024. Heads of household between 25 and 39 made up 43.1% of the households who received assistance.

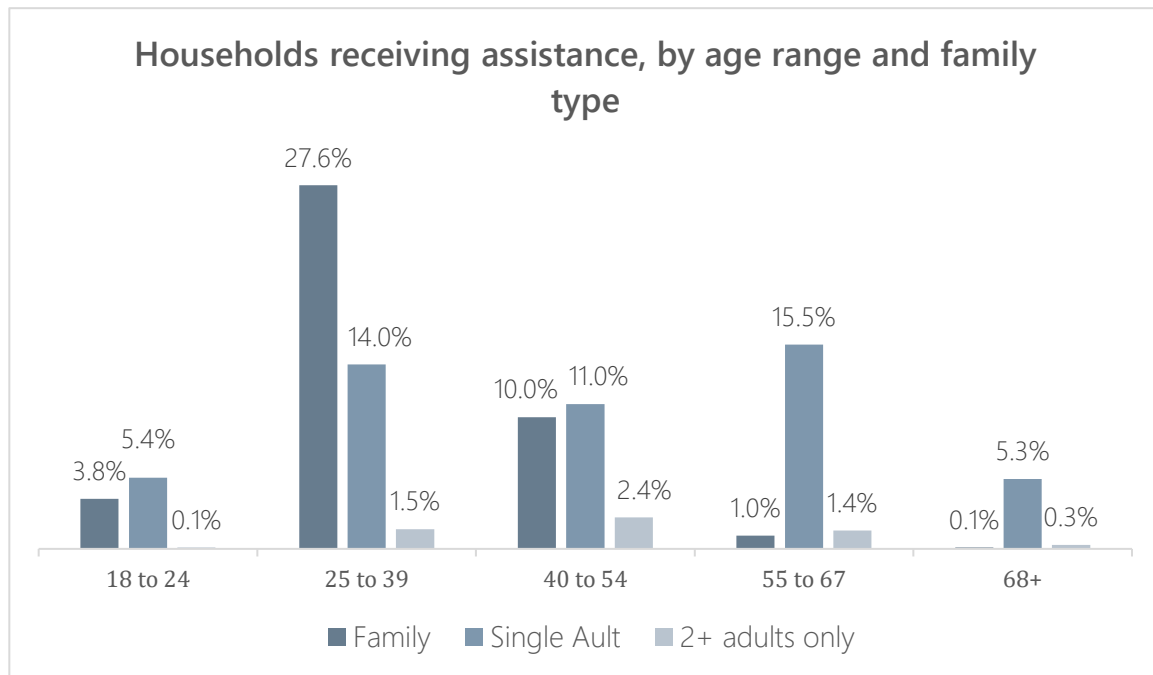


Figure 3

This figure reflects the racial breakdown of unique households that received assistance from RentHelp Hennepin in 2024. Black households made up 68.6% of the population we served in 2024, with White households being the second largest group at 15.1%.

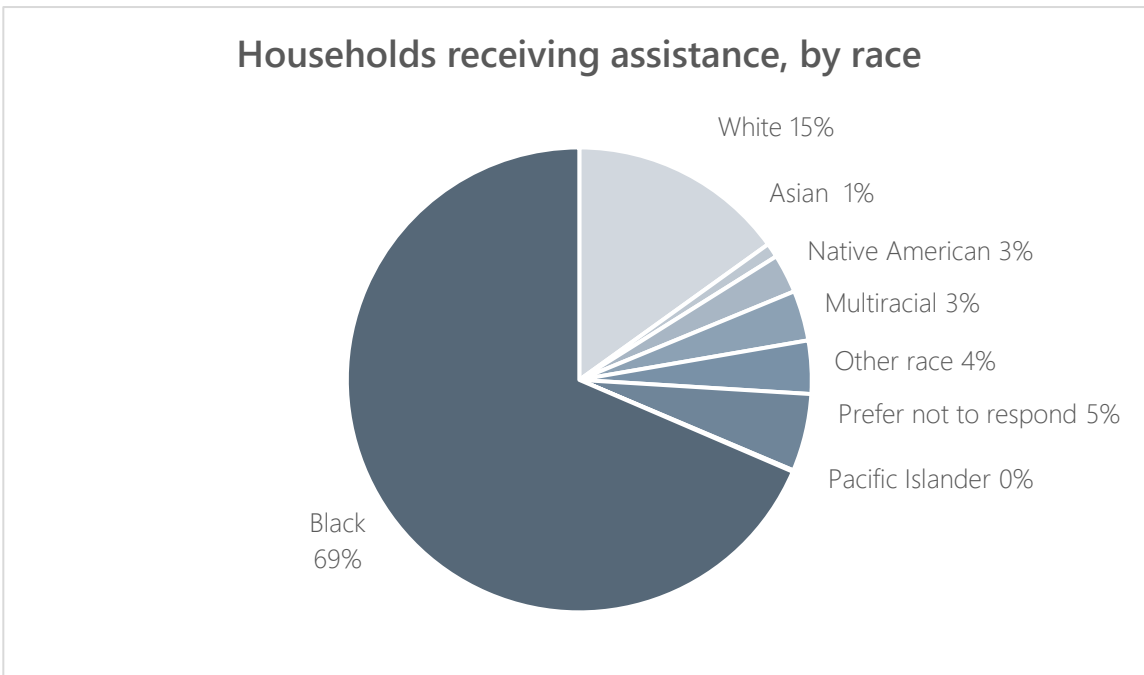


Figure 4

This figure outlines the racial breakdown of households that received assistance two or more times from RentHelp Hennepin in 2024, representing a subpopulation of households at persistent risk for eviction.

Race	Count of race	% of race
Black	372	74.8%
White	65	13.1%
American Indian	17	3.4%
Multiracial	15	3.0%
Some other race	12	2.4%

Asian	8	1.6%
Prefer not to answer	8	1.6%
Grand total	497	100.0%

Figure 5

This figure outlines the age breakdown of heads of households that received assistance two or more times from RentHelp Hennepin for the year of 2024. Approximately half of the households we served had a head of household who was 39 or younger; 42.7% were between 25 and 39. The next most common age range was the 55 to 67 group, accounting for 22.3%.

Age range	Count of age range	% of age range
18-24	40	8.0%
25-39	212	42.7%
40-54	98	19.7%
55-67	111	22.3%
68+	36	7.2%
Grand total	497	100.0%

Figure 6

This figure outlines the racial breakdown of households that received assistance from RentHelp Hennepin three or more times in 2024. The racial gap, specifically between Black and White households, only grew with each repeat application. Of all the households that received assistance in 2024, Black households made up 68.6% and White households made up 15.1%. Black households that received assistance a second time made up 74.8%, while White households accounted for 13.1%. The gap increased again for households who received assistance three or more times, with Black households making up 82.1% and White households at 9.5%.

Race	Count of race	% of race
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American Indian	2	2.1%
Black	78	82.1%
Multiracial	4	4.2%
Prefer not to answer	1	1.1%
Another race	1	1.1%
White	9	9.5%
Grand total	95	100.0%

Figure 7

This figure outlines the age breakdown of heads of households that received assistance three or more times from RentHelp Hennepin in 2024. The percentage difference between the age ranges of the heads of households who received assistance two or more times versus three or more times is not drastically different.

Age range	Count of age range	% of age range
18-24	11	11.5%
25-39	41	42.7%
40-54	15	15.6%
55-67	22	22.9%
68+	7	7.3%
Grand total	96	100.0%

RentHelp Minnesota – Hennepin County Targeted Paid applications

RentHelp Minnesota was a statewide emergency rent assistance program in operation between August 2023 and October 2024 that provided households with up to 18 months of rent assistance. RentHelp Minnesota data among Hennepin County renter households are presented in Figures 1-3.

Figure 1

This figure provides a summary of the number of households served and amount of assistance received among Hennepin County households enrolled in RentHelp Minnesota in 2024. In total, there are 1,937 approved applications associated with Hennepin County households in 2024.

Timeframe	Number of clients served	Total assistance paid	Average payment per client	Average months of assistance paid
2023	409	\$2,826,547	\$6,911	8
Aug	3	\$13,708	\$4,569	4
Sep	54	\$385,050	\$7,131	8
Oct	86	\$566,913	\$6,592	8
Nov	139	\$899,284	\$6,470	8
Dec	127	\$961,591	\$7,572	8
2024	1,954	\$13,481,630	\$6,8994	8
Jan	189	\$1,422,600	\$7,527	8
Feb	180	\$1,337,887	\$7,433	8
Mar	236	\$1,630,734	\$6,910	8
Apr	346	\$2,345,298	\$6,778	8
May	356	\$2,351,086	\$6,604	8
Jun	248	\$1,664,280	\$6,711	8

Jul	173	\$1,201,633	\$6,946	8
Aug	157	\$1,002,016	\$6,382	7
Sep	66	\$506,430	\$7,673	8
Oct	3	\$19,665	\$6,555	9
Grand total	2363	\$16,308,177	\$6,901	8

Figure 2

This figure reflects household incomes categorized by percentage of Area Median Income (AMI) among households that received assistance from RentHelp Hennepin in 2024.

AMI status	Total Hennepin County-2024	Percentage of those assisted
30% AMI and below	1211	62.52%
31-50%	483	24.94%
Over 50%	243	12.55%
Program Total	1937	40%

Figure 3

This figure outlines eviction status among households that received assistance from RentHelp Hennepin in 2024.

Eviction status	Total Hennepin County in 2024	Percentage of those assisted
Past due rent	1,542	80 %
Eviction filing	264	14%
Past eviction filing	96	5%

No eviction status	35	2%
Program total	1937	40%

Eviction Data

Figure 1

This figure illustrates the year-over-year trend in eviction filings and eviction judgments over the 10-year period of 2015-2024. The substantial dip in both filings and judgments in 2020 and subsequent spike in filings and judgments in 2022 can be attributed to State and Federal level eviction moratoriums that were in effect between 2020 and 2022.

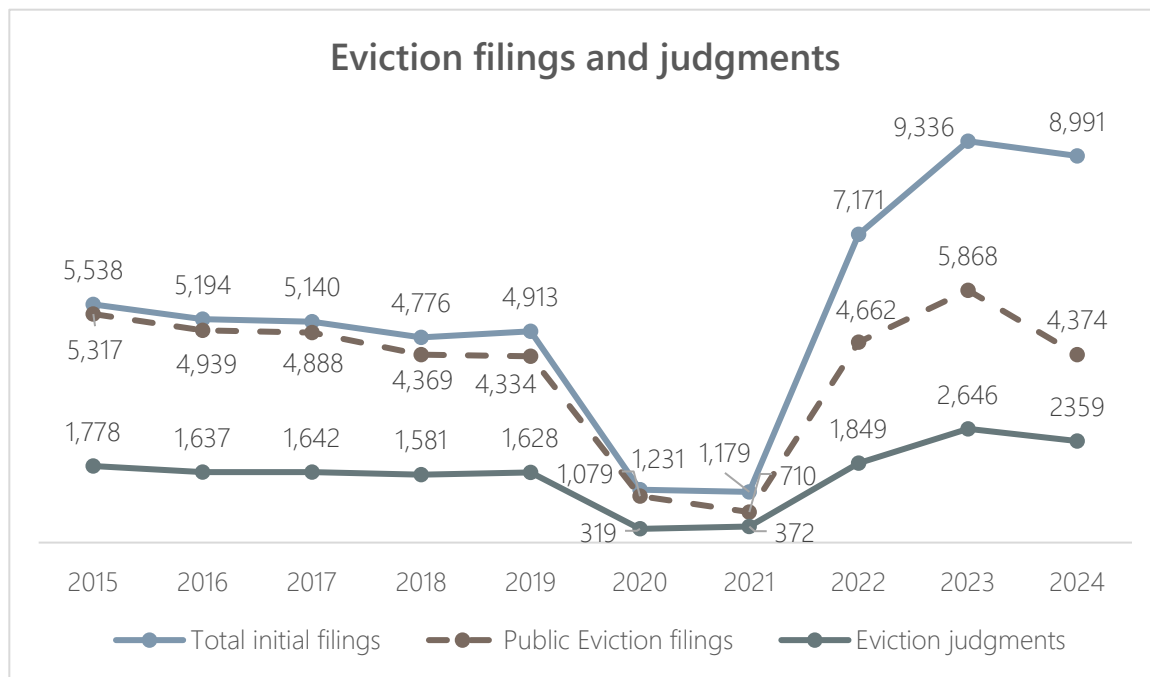


Figure 2

This figure illustrates month-over-month eviction filing trends in between January 2024 and February 2025. The substantial drop in filings and judgments in January 2024 can be primarily attributed to the implementation of tenant protections statewide that newly took effect in January 2024, including a requirement for property managers to issue a 14-day notice to tenants in advance of filing for eviction with the court (therefore delaying the majority of filings in January 2024 by two weeks).

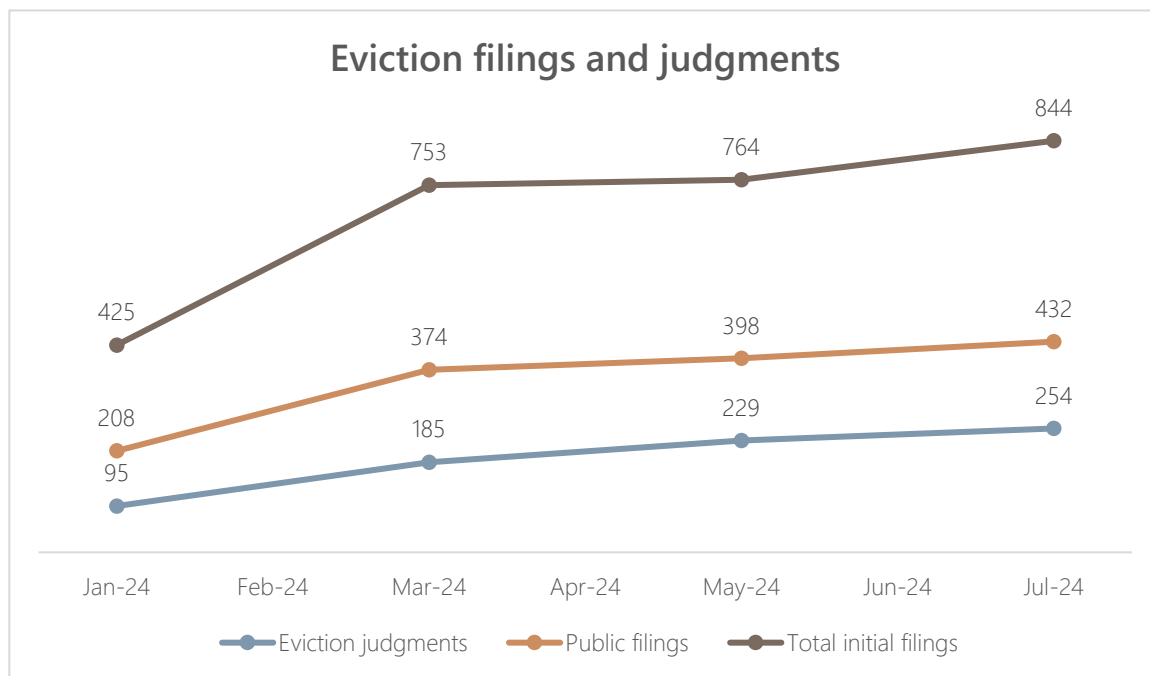


Figure 3

This figure illustrates the Hennepin County zip codes with the highest eviction rates in 2024, with total eviction filings, filing rates, and eviction judgments. Eviction rate captures the percentage of renter households within a zip code that receive an eviction judgment during a given period.

All Hennepin County zip codes

Zip code	City	Filings	Evictions	Filing rate	Eviction rate	Ratio	Rental units

55403	Minneapolis	396	213	4.7%	2.5%	0.54	8,445
55404	Minneapolis	373	218	3.6%	2.1%	0.58	10,399
55408	Minneapolis	360	179	2.9%	1.5%	0.50	12,253
55411	Minneapolis	208	110	4%	2.1%	0.53	5,159
55414	Minneapolis	183	104	1.8%	1%	0.57	10,427
55429	Brooklyn Park/ Brooklyn Center	174	92	3.7%	2%	0.53	4,660
55428	Brooklyn Park/ New Hope	15	95	2.8%	1.7%	0.69	5,465
55443	Brooklyn Park	135	97	4.6%	3.3%	0.72	2,960
55407	Minneapolis	125	68	2.1%	1.2%	0.54	5,818
55423	Richfield	112	51	1.9%	0.9%	0.46	5,864
55416	Golden Valley/ Edina	111	41	1.3%	0.5%	0.37	8,569
55430	Brooklyn Center	108	72	3.7%	2.5%	0.67	2,881
55343	Hopkins	107	53	1.5%	0.7%	0.50	7,256
55406	Minneapolis	97	61	1.7%	1.1%	0.63	5,660
55405	Minneapolis	94	64	1.9%	1.3%	0.68	4,957
55412	Minneapolis	90	59	3.6%	2.3%	0.66	2,516

Housing Court appearance data

The Hennepin County Internal Services Data and Analytics (ISDA) team conducted an appearance rate analysis at the Hennepin County (Minnesota's Fourth District) Housing Court. Figures 1-2 represent appearance rate data between 2021 and 2025. Based on these figures (total cases and percentages by appearance status), appearance rates decreased between

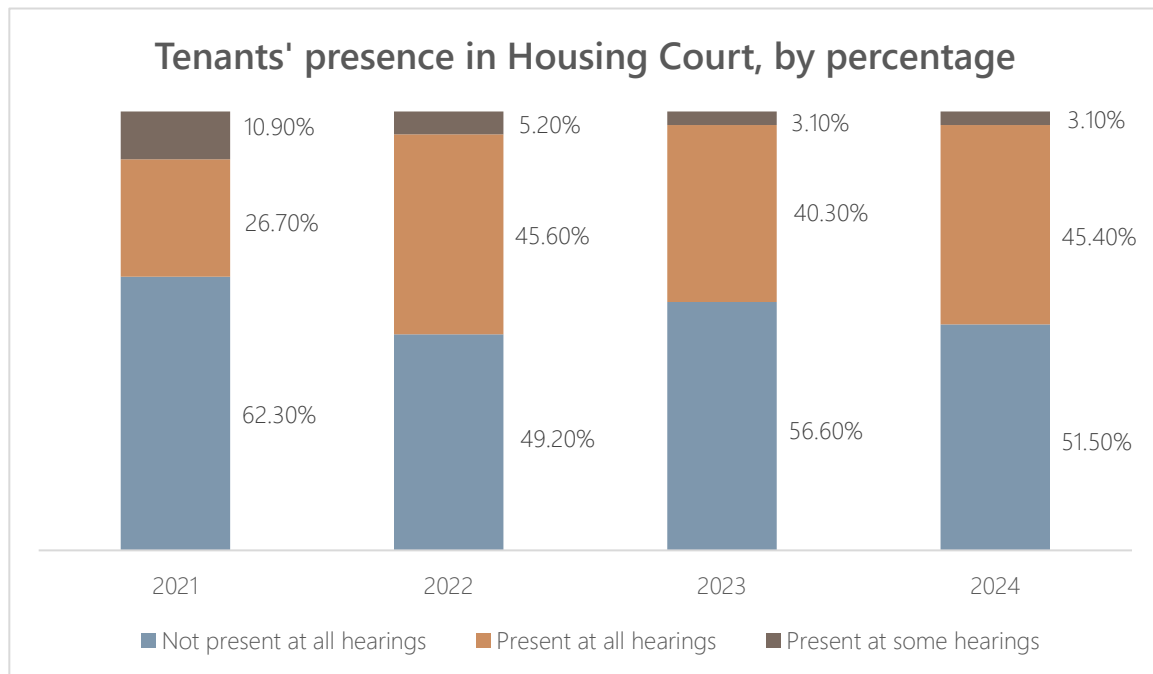
2022 and 2023 and increased by nearly the same percent change between 2023 and 2024. Appearance rates increased over the first half of 2025.

Figure 1

Tenants' presence in Housing Court, by numbers

Year	Not present at all hearings	Present at all hearings	Present at some hearings
2021	490	210	86
2022	2,172	2,012	231
2023	3,292	2,340	180
2024	1,684	1,483	101

Figure 2



Qualitative data – Primary prevention

Hennepin County needs assessment focus group data

Hennepin County defined homelessness prevention for survey and focus group participants as experiences or services at any point after housing stability was at risk or immediately before housing was lost. Nearly all responses for primary prevention centered around emergency rent assistance for renter households at risk for eviction.

Successes

Source of feedback	Feedback on solutions and success stories
Focus groups of people with lived experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency rent assistance and prospective rental subsidies keep people in housing.
Focus groups with service providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early point of intervention – i.e. 14-day notice of intent to evict as eligible documentation is ideal for preserving housing stability, where funding allows. • Centralized processing and payment system (RentHelp Hennepin) reduces “runaround.” • Housing court intervention along with legal assistance is working to disrupt pathways into homelessness. • Provider collaboration is improving.
Focus groups with Hennepin County prevention area staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased team capacity allows members to respond more effectively to residents’ and colleagues’ needs. • Strong internal teamwork, culture and partnership improve collaboration. • Creating person-centered connections makes a huge impact in times of crisis. • Connecting people with long term resources (via a case manager, for example) helps address underlying barriers to housing. • Timeliness of application processing is critical to meeting urgent needs.

Challenges

Source of Feedback	Feedback on barriers and challenges
Focus groups with people with lived experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some organizations require a denial letter from the County before they can apply for emergency assistance. • People experience “runaround,” and need to retell their life stories and traumas to several organizations. • The application process is difficult and slow. Online application, then interview, and required documentation. • Interactions with staff that are unempathetic
Focus groups with service providers <i>Underserved populations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rental environment does not match need. • Prevention system is overwhelmed. • Emergency assistance is a short-term solution that does not achieve housing stability. • Translation services are sparse. • Latino-immigrant community • Somali-immigrant community • Indigenous community • Domestic violence survivors and agencies serving them • Older adults
Focus Groups with Hennepin County prevention area staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERA Application: Technology represents a significant barrier to many seeking support and can disrupt communication flows between Hennepin County staff and residents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Online interactions that are a struggle for some residents include automated emails, encrypted emails, communication tab (HDS), uploading documents, and logins. These can result in missed communications that are critical for receiving support/maintaining housing.

Underserved populations

- Accessing resources translated into different languages, including Hmong and Somali
- Frequency and amount of rent assistance; caps on assistance
- Finding affordable housing options
- Emergency assistance for people in scenarios not covered for eligibility
- Confusion between MN EA benefits and RentHelp Hennepin

- Single adult households under 55
- Seniors/elderly
- Residents lacking tech fluency
- Native American/Indigenous
- Non-English speaking residents, especially Hmong and Somali
- Youth, especially 16 to 24
- Parents with children in foster care or children staying with kin

System recommendations

Source of feedback	Suggestions for intake process
Focus groups with people with lived experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the ERA application process faster and easier to access. • Intervene at the first sign of housing instability. • Ensure staff are trauma-informed, empathetic, and aware of biases • Consider net income or income available to individuals/families, not gross income. • Ensure property managers and tenants are aware of resources to help
Focus groups with service providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reassess the prevention model – is the type of assistance provided meeting the need?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate case management to help toward achieving housing stability. • Focus on building provider relationships as prevention tool. <p>Provider requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger coordination from the county to provide more programmatic strategy, ongoing updates for funding, guidelines for eligibility criteria • Feedback on HDS user interface and impact on administrative duties. Request ongoing updates on HDS' impact on the RentHelp Hennepin program and how it is helping prevention reach its goals • Inclusion for more impactful decision making in the prevention and coordination systems while bringing more transparency to how the Provider Governance group makes decisions
<p>Focus groups with Hennepin County prevention area staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate caps on rent assistance. • Consider providing support prior to housing court. • Consider using net income over gross income for eligibility. • Offer wraparound services in addition to rent assistance that could provide longer-term stability to residents - finance/budget class, finding employment. • Evaluate existing processes for tech accessibility and consider creating alternative processes for those who cannot overcome technology barrier.

Hennepin County needs assessment survey data, 2025

Participants answered 16 multiple choice questions and one text response question. A total of 26 respondents completed the survey. Participants were identified by community and school partners. Surveys were completed virtually through a Qualtrics form. The survey introduction included the text below, along with a list of common prevention services.

***Purpose:** To receive guidance from individuals with lived expertise to inform Hennepin County prevention strategies and approaches, specifically, what services were helpful, what services were not, and what services were missing*

that could prevent homelessness. Hennepin County is seeking feedback from individuals that have used prevention services or can speak to what would have prevented homelessness or housing instability.

Questions that allow multiple answer selections are labeled. Columns labeled "adjusted %" indicate that the percentage was calculated based on sample size rather than the total number of responses for "select multiple" questions.

Survey results: Demographic data

Participant demographic data

Are you Hispanic?	Count	%
Yes	14	58%
No	10	42%

How would you best describe yourself?	Count	%
American Indian, Indigenous, or Alaska Native	1	4%
Asian or Asian American	4	16%
Black, African American, or African	4	16%
White or Caucasian	2	8%
Multiple races	7	28%
Other	7	28%

What is your age?	Count	%
25-34	8	33%
35-44	8	33%

45-54	4	17%
65-74	2	8%
75-84	2	8

Including yourself, how many adults and children (under 18) are there in your household?	Count	%
1	9	33%
2	4	4%
3	9	21%
4	11	25%
5 or more	7	4%

Survey Result: Finding Assistance

Question: How did you hear about the prevention program?

Choices	Count	%
Provider recommendation	5	23%
Other Hennepin County entry points/staff	5	23%
Another person already served by the program	1	5%
Friend/family member	1	5%
Property manager*	1	5%
VEAP*	9	41%

Question: Where are you most comfortable asking for help or applying?

Choices	Count	%
Community agency	18	82%
Government	2	9%
School	1	5%
Other	1	5%

Question: Where were you living when you needed help keeping your housing or not becoming homeless?

Choices	Count	%
Friends/family	8	36%
In a leased apartment/house	11	50%
Owned house	1	5%
Other, please describe:	2	9%

Question: How many places did you have to reach out to for help before you found someone who could help you?

Choices	Count	%
One agency	9	41%
Two or more agencies	13	59%

Question: Did you find assistance in time to stay in your home?

Choices	Count	%
Yes	17	77%

No	5	23%
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Question: If you were denied prevention services now or in the past, what were the reasons for the denial? (Multiple selections allowed)

Choices	Count	Adjusted %
Did not meet income requirements/eligibility	9	43%
I was not denied prevention services	9	43%
Rent was too high for your income - you would not be able to keep up with rent in future months	5	24%
Amount of assistance needed was too large for the provider to pay	3	14%
Housing situation did not qualify for prevention	3	14%
Couch-hopping/doubled up with the same household for 12 consecutive months	3	14%
Unsheltered or staying in shelter	2	10%
Already working with another provider, program, or housing subsidy e.g. Rapid Rehousing (RRH), Emergency Assistance (EA)	1	5%
Other	1	5%

Question: What prevention service did you receive? (Multiple selections allowed)

Choices	Count	Adjusted %
One-time financial assistance for damage deposit, first or last month's rent, etc.	9	43%
Short-term rent payment (1-6 months)	5	24%

Utility assistance	5	24%
Housing search	4	19%
I did not receive prevention services	4	19%
Long-term rent payment (7-24 months)	3	14%

Survey result: System recommendations

Question: Of the prevention services you received, what was the most helpful? (Multiple selections allowed.)

Choices	Count	Adjusted %
Short-term rent payment (1 to 6 months)	9	43%
One-time financial assistance for damage deposit, first or last month's rent, etc.	7	33%
Housing search	5	24%
Long-term rent payment (7 to 24 months)	4	19%
Utility assistance	4	19%
Legal assistance	2	10%
Other, please describe:	2	10%
Transportation assistance	0	0%
Mediation support	0	0%

Question: What would you change about getting prevention services? (multiple selections allowed)

Choices	Count	Adjusted %
Make it easier to find help	15	71%
Extend time limits on assistance/ make assistance available for a longer period of time	9	43%
Eligibility criteria (reasons for qualifying/ not qualifying)	9	43%
Reduce paperwork necessary to apply for assistance	6	29%
Make the recertification process for keeping assistance easier	6	29%
Nothing	4	19%
Other	3	14%

Question: What do you see as the most significant barrier to accessing and maintaining, safe, dignified affordable housing? (multiple sections allowed)

Choices	Count	Adjusted %
Lack of affordable housing	18	86%
No income or not enough income	11	52%
Housing search is challenging	9	43%
Lack of credit and/or rental history issues	9	43%
Changes in family situation	7	33%
Units are not the right location and/or number of bedrooms	7	33%
Justice system involvement/records	5	24%

Transportation	5	24%
Mental and/or chemical health needs	5	24%
Other	2	10%

Question: In addition to financial assistance, what service would have helped you avoid homelessness? (multiple selections available)

Choices	Count	Adjusted %
Assistance finding housing	10	47.6%
Help understanding tenant rights and responsibilities	10	48%
Childcare assistance	7	33%
Money management/budgeting	7	33%
Interpreter services	6	29%
Help resolving issues with landlord	5	24%
Help locating/coordinating services	4	19%
Independent living skills	3	14%
Mental and/or chemical health services	3	14%
Help in housing court or with eviction records	3	14%
Culturally specific services	3	14%
Help working with voucher programs to clarify recertification mistakes or	3	14%
Other	0	0%

2024 FHPAP needs assessment and 2025 Hennepin County prevention needs assessment surveys

Several questions appear on both the 2024 FHPAP Needs Assessment and the 2025 Hennepin Needs Assessment surveys. This section will look at those common questions.

Questions that allow multiple answer selections are labeled. Columns labeled “adjusted %” indicate that the percentage was calculated based on sample size rather than the total number of responses for “select multiple” questions.

Participant demographic data

Are you Hispanic?	Count	%
Yes	15	38%
No	25	63%

How would you best describe yourself?	Count	%
American Indian, Indigenous, or Alaska Native	2	5%
Asian or Asian American	5	13%
Black, African American, or African	11	29%
White or Caucasian	6	16%
Multiple races	7	18%
Other	7	18%

What is your age?	Count	%
18 - 24	2	5%
25 - 34	15	35%

35 - 54	21	49%
55 or older	5	12%
Including yourself, how many adults and children (under 18) are there in your household?	Count	%
1	9	33%
2	4	4%
3	9	21%
4	11	25%
5 or more	7	4%

Question: If you were denied prevention services (see definition above) now or in the past, what were the reasons for the denial?

Choices	Checked Percent	Checked Count
Did not meet income requirements/eligibility	12	32%
I was not denied prevention services	13	35%
Rent was too high for your income - you would not be able to keep up with rent in future months	7	19%
Amount of assistance needed was too large for the provider to pay	4	11%
Housing situation did not qualify for prevention	7	19%
Couch-hopping/doubled up with the same household for 12 consecutive months	3	8%

Unsheltered or staying in shelter	2	5%
Already working with another provider, program, or housing subsidy e.g. Rapid Rehousing (RRH), Emergency Assistance (EA)	2	5%

Question: What would you change about getting prevention services? (Multiple selections available)

Choices	Count	Adjusted %
Make it easier to find help	21	57%
Extend time limits on assistance/ make assistance available for a longer period of time	6	16%
Eligibility criteria (reasons for qualifying/ not qualifying)	14	38%
Reduce paperwork necessary to apply for assistance	12	32%
Make the recertification process for keeping assistance easier	11	30%

Question: What do you see as the most significant barriers to accessing and maintaining safe, dignified, and affordable housing? (Multiple selection available)

Choices	Count	Adjusted %
Lack of affordable housing	25	68%
No income or not enough income	16	43%
Housing search is challenging	9	24%
Lack of credit and/or rental history issues	12	32%
Changes in family situation	7	19%

Units are not the right location and/or number of bedrooms	7	19%
Justice system involvement/records	5	14%

Secondary prevention (diversion)

Diversion is intended for people who are at imminent risk of experiencing sheltered or unsheltered homelessness. These interventions are meant to actively resolve housing crises so households can remain in place or move directly into new housing without entering the homeless response system.⁵

Quantitative data - Diversion

Hennepin County diversion data

This figure reflects data on calls to the Hennepin County Shelter Hotline (HSH) from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. Residents contact the HSH when they are without a safe place to sleep that night and are seeking shelter or other available temporary housing. The largest share of households calling the HSH during this period previously resided in temporary housing with friends or family, while others resided in leased housing (with or without a subsidy), stayed temporarily in a self-pay hotel or motel, or were already experiencing sheltered or unsheltered homelessness.

Figure 1

Prior living situation	% of all households (N=8,090)	% of family households (N=2,191)
Staying or living in a friend/family member's room, apartment or house	36.9%	44.7%
Place not meant for habitation (e.g., a vehicle, an abandoned building, bus/train/subway station/airport or anywhere outside)	25.3%	16.9%

⁵ United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, 2024, pg 31.

Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy	12.9%	16.6%
Emergency shelter, including hotel or motel paid for with emergency shelter voucher, Host Home shelter	9.2%	9.5%
Other	4.9%	2.1%
Hotel or motel paid for without emergency shelter voucher	4.0%	4.7%
Client doesn't know/data not collected	3.4%	2.1%
Hospital, or other residential non-psych facility	1.9%	0.5%
Rental by client, with ongoing housing subsidy	1.5%	2.8%

Hennepin County Homeless System Inflow Analysis

The Homeless Response System Inflow Analysis committee reviewed critical data sources and extracted key themes, observations and queries relating to characteristics and factors for those entering homelessness and those experiencing housing instability.

“Inflow” refers to households that become homeless. As they engage with the Homeless Response System to access services, the system captures demographics and circumstances specific to the households. This data can help identify trends or patterns that lead to deeper insights into needs and gaps in prevention programming.

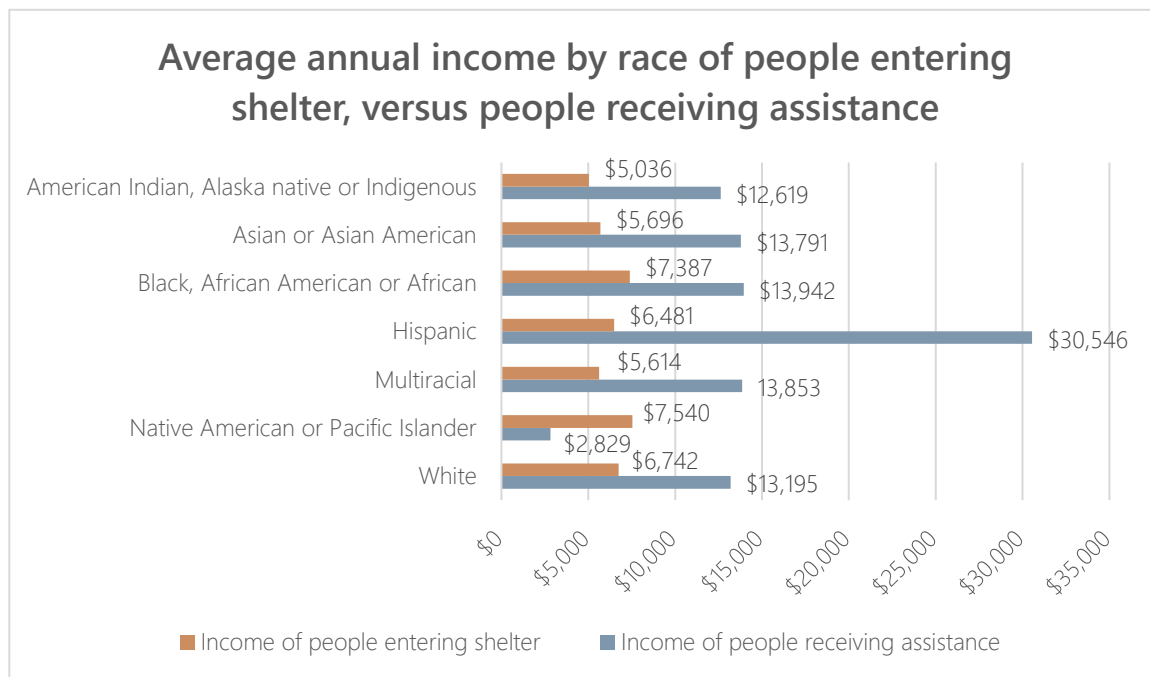
According to a study conducted by the Hennepin County Internal Service Data and Analytics (ISDA) team for 2024, 53.2% of households were staying with family or friends before entering homelessness. 43% of Hispanics surveyed resided with family prior to homelessness while 22 to 28% of other race/ethnic groups reported staying with family before entering homelessness (HMIS, 2023). Of families reporting their prior night stay, 60% said they resided with family or friends which makes them more likely to stay with family than single individuals. Of single individuals, 52% reported staying with family or friends (HMIS, 2023).

Single adults make up over half the population of households using the homeless response system families, and children are one-fourth of the population.

Single adults made up 55% of the households that entered homelessness in 2023. While adult and child household type make up about 26% of the households that entered homelessness in 2023. Youth-led household with a child (youth and child) account for 5% of households entering homelessness. 13% of the annual inflow occurred in the month of December, marking the highest all-population inflow of the year. The lowest inflow was February at 6%.

Figure 1

This graph shows the average annual income broken down by race, of people entering shelter versus people receiving emergency rent assistance through the RentHelp Hennepin program.



According to this graph, the income of residents entering shelter is around half, if not more, when compared to those receiving emergency rent assistance, with the exception of Native American or Pacific Islander. Especially notable is the population of 'Other' where income is 4x greater for those receiving emergency rent assistance than those entering shelter.

Of those entering shelter, 64% of households had income upon entry. These data points support prevention's practice of prioritizing households with 30% AMI or below, serving Hennepin County's lowest-income residents.

Homeless and highly mobile data

The Minnesota Department of Education receives data from public school districts and charter schools in Minnesota each year regarding homeless and highly mobile (HHM) students. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act defines homelessness as children and youth "who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence." This includes students that are doubled up with others as homeless. Districts report the number of students identified as HHM in the fall and then again following the end of the academic year. Hennepin County also receives HHM data directly from partner school districts.

Figure 1

HHM data and comparison between years and counties as reported to MDE in the fall of 2023.

MDE state data 2023-2024	Students enrolled	HHM data
State of Minnesota	869,967	10,019
Hennepin County	174,322 (20%)	3,768 (38% of total HHM)
Ramsey County	88,892 (10%)	1,239 (12% of total HHM)

Figure 2

The number of HHM reported to Hennepin County for the entire school year from partner districts. The second column shows the percentage of increase between 2021 to 2023 academic school years.

Partner districts	HHM 2023-2024	% increase since 2021
Minneapolis	3056	38%
Bloomington	719	28%
Osseo	657	14%
Robbinsdale	382	46%

Eden Prairie	361	74%
Richfield	240	52%
Intermediate 287	180	51%
Hopkins	173	32%
Brooklyn Center	106	15%

Figure 3

The nighttime residence for students identified as HHM for partner districts in the 2023-2024 academic year. The breakdown between nighttime residence is consistent with prior years reporting.

Nighttime Residences 2023-2024	Partner district %
Doubled up	69%
Shelter	21%
Hotel/Motel	6%
Transitional housing	2%
Unsheltered	2%

Figure 4

This is the race and ethnicity of students identified as HHM within our partner school districts.

Race/Ethnicity 2023-2024	Partner districts %
American Indian	5%
Asian	9%

Hispanic / Latinx	31%
Black or African America	44%
White	6%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0
Two or more races	6%

Hennepin County people exiting institutions

Minnesota Department of Corrections, 2023 Homelessness Report

The Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) collected, reviewed, and analyzed data on releases from Minnesota Correctional Facilities between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023. In that year, there were a total of 4,791 releases from Minnesota Correctional Facilities. Approximately 17.5% of those releases were to homelessness, to either known or unknown locations, compared to 19% the previous calendar year. This is reflective of a continued downward trend

Figure 1

Releases to Homelessness, Known and Unknown Locations by County 2023

Top 10 Counties:

County	Known location	Unknown location:	Total
<i>Hennepin</i>	226	32	258
<i>Ramsey</i>	98	28	126
<i>St. Louis</i>	36	16	52
<i>Stearns</i>	32	6	38
<i>Clay</i>	27	9	36
<i>Olmsted</i>	32	3	35

<i>Polk</i>	16	10	26
<i>Anoka</i>	21	2	23
<i>Dakota</i>	16	1	17
<i>Beltrami</i>	14	2	1

Hennepin County Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation

Information was collected from CSTS for juvenile and adult probation clients open at the end of 2024 (12/31/2024). Of the 21,684 clients open, 78% were not homeless, 13% had an unknown homeless status, and **6% (n=1,224) were homeless**. The following information includes those who are residing in a facility or were currently homeless. For purposes of these data, those living in facilities are included below though it is unclear whether these would be classified as homeless. For this reason, they are reported both separately and in the overall totals.

Figure 1

Gender

Approximately 80% of those living in a facility or currently homeless were male.

Homeless status	Homeless	
	Total	Percent
Female	240	19.6%
Male	984	80.4%
Total	1,224	100%

Figure 2

Race

Race information for those currently in a facility or homeless is indicated below. More than half were Black/African American, one-third identified as white, and 7.5% were American Indian/Alaskan Native.

Homeless status	Homeless	
Black/African American	669	54.7
American Indian/Alaskan native	96	7.8%
Asian/Pacific Islander	23	1.9%
Missing/Unknown	21	1.7%
Multiracial	9	0.7%
White	406	33.2%
Total	1,224	100%

Hispanic ethnicity is collected separately from race information. However, it is often reported as unknown or missing. Due to the high level of missing/unknown data, this is excluded.

Age

Nearly half of all clients in a facility or homeless were between the ages of 25 and 39 years old.

Homeless status	Homeless	
Age category	Total	Percent
>18	15	1.2%
18-24	108	8.8%
25-29	181	14.8%

30-34	244	19.9%
35-39	212	17.3%
40-44	177	14.5%
45-49	123	10%
50-54	71	5.8%
55-59	48	3.9%
60-64	27	2.2%
65+	18	1.5%
Total	1,224	100%

Figure 3

Hennepin County homeless system inflow analysis

Hennepin County's Internal Service Data and Analytics' unit conducted a living situation analysis for prior living situation for individuals entering shelter in 2024. In that analysis, 17.8% of single individuals reported exiting institutions into homelessness while only 4.3% of family members reported exiting institutions into homelessness.

Figure 1

Prior living situation	Family	Single
Hospital/other non-psych med facility (HUD)	1.2%	5.1%
Jail prison or juvenile detention facility (HUD)	1.2%	3%
Psychiatric hospital/facility (HUD)	0.5%	1.9%

Residential project or halfway house (HUD)	0.1%	1.3%
Substance abuse treatment facility (HUD)	0.9%	5.5%
Foster care home or foster care group home (HUD)	0.5%	1%

In addition, we observed disproportionality for these groups:

- 20% of the gender nonbinary/transgender population reported a strikingly disproportionate percentage of exits from institutions into homelessness.
- 7.2% of the Indigenous populations reported exiting a substance use treatment program into homelessness, which is more than twice as high as 4 out of the other 5 race/ethnicities (HMIS, 2023).

Qualitative data - Diversion

Successes

Source of feedback	Feedback
Focus groups with people with lived experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School staff can connect families and youth with housing resources • Transitional housing program beneficial to some and allowed opportunities for savings • Friends and family can prevent shelter stays.
Focus groups with service providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs offering medium-term assistance with support services like School to Housing increase opportunity to address root causes of instability

Challenges

Source of feedback	Feedback
Focus groups with people with lived experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot access resources when doubled up because not considered homeless. Penalized for staying for family/friends and not entering shelter

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fear of getting family/friends in trouble with their benefits or losing their housing by staying with them • If housed, lack the skills or knowledge to stay housed.
Focus groups with service providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot access resources when doubled up because not considered homeless/not on a lease • Host family/friends at risk of violating their lease putting housing stability in jeopardy

System Recommendations

Source of Feedback	Feedback
Focus groups with people with lived experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer services and homelessness resources to those doubled up • Offer peer support for families and individuals. Someone that has been through this before and can offer support and a sense of community. • Offer basic skill classes, such as financial literacy, renter skills, employment/resume building, how credit works, etc.
Focus groups with service providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer services and homelessness resources to those doubled up – county redefine definition of homelessness to include doubled up population • Consider how to protect host residents

Tertiary prevention (rehousing and stabilization)

Rehousing and stabilization refer to a series of targeted resources that aim to support individuals in the rapid transition out of homelessness and to assist with stabilization supports. This category weighs the importance of housing people, and of reducing their chances of experiencing recurring episodes of homelessness.⁶

⁶ United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, 2024, pg 33.

Qualitative data – Rehousing and stabilization

Successes

Source of feedback	Feedback
Focus groups with people with lived experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focusing on housing first 2 • Organizations in the community that offer a diverse array of services – one stop shop
Focus groups with service providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to partner more intentionally with housing providers prioritizing individuals exiting institutions
Focus groups with Hennepin County DOCCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals with chemical dependency needs most successful with housing services and resources. • Housing providers vetted to ensure clean, well-maintained, and dignified accommodations for individuals • Probation officers advocate for individuals to access housing resources

Challenges

Source of feedback	Feedback
Focus groups with people with lived experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of awareness of benefits tenants or supports tenants may be eligible for through supportive housing • Housed someplace that is not a good fit, or unsafe, or with drug/alcohol usage. • Property managers unwilling to rent to tenants with criminal backgrounds • Partners that are violent or disruptive can cause families to lose housing
Focus groups with service providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discharge process from institutions varies dramatically from institution to institution • Types of housing supports will vary by individual need

Focus groups with
Hennepin County
DOCCR

- Lack of affordable housing for individuals with backgrounds, gender, or limitations due to supervision location
- Individuals lacking identification documents and staffing support as they transition out of facilities
- Individuals need financial literacy as some not ready to be on their own and others fail to pay rent even with adequate income. Individuals with mental health or substance use disorder struggle to maintain housing
- Navigating housing supports and resources for clients can be a burden for agents who must balance addressing clients' basic needs with their work responsibilities
- As individuals stabilize, they feel penalized when they lose access to resources and services

Housing programs

- Challenging for probation officers to understand different referral processes, eligibility criteria, program structures, and available housing resources for clients.
- Lack of information to share with clients regarding different housing providers
- Some individuals find it difficult to follow the rules and expectations in structured housing programs
- Increase in clients with mental health/substance use disorder entering housing programs

Specific population needs and gaps

- Clients with a felony who do not belong to a specific population need the most assistance but struggle to find housing because of their record

- Need housing resources for clients on conditional release, convicted of felonies, for those convicted of sex offenses.
- Limited housing options available for women, particularly those with children
- Female clients on a waitlist are choosing to remain homeless or stay in unsafe situations to qualify for GRH eligibility for their own apartment, accepting any other housing services would disqualify them
- Populations 18-24, many fall into homelessness due to difficulties maintaining employment or lack of motivation to work.

System recommendations

Source of feedback	Feedback
Focus groups with people with lived experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer support and connections. Trusted case managers or peer supports that tenants feel safe and comfortable sharing disclosing housing challenging, including drug use or domestic violence. • Need more sober housing following treatment. • Housing that is low barrier • Support to develop independent living and employment skills (especially when homelessness was first experienced as child or teen) • Help people express themselves and find their purpose

Focus groups with service providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop strategy for prevention that includes how to outreach/engage with institutions and provides transition process flow
Focus groups with Hennepin County DOCCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More information about the housing program before placements so clients can understand the program's structure, expectations, limitations, and what they are committing to.• Point person for agents who specialize in specific client populations and can help navigate housing resources and related services• Educate housing organizations and landlords about conviction and probation statuses• Financial literacy programs to help clients develop money management skills for maintaining a home• Legislation to create more housing and programming for those reentering the community

Resource inventory

The Tenant Resources Connections project "1.0 Resource List" was used as the basis of the resource inventory. We added additional funded resources such as housing vouchers, FHPAP grants, DOCCR funding, and additional assistance. See tables below for a summary of some of the key findings. The resource inventory can be found here:

Resource type	Number of organizations providing assistance
ERA	58
Utility	13
Veterans	12
Housing vouchers	11
Chemical Dependency Support and Mental Health	9
Disability and Stabilization	9
Domestic Violence/ Sex Trafficking	8
Employment and Financial Stability	8
Legal representation	4
Mediating payment plans	4
Repairs	4
Skill building	4
Mediation	3
Mental Health	3
Case Mgmt	2

Landlord /Property Manager	2
Legal advice	2
Affordable Housing	1
Energy Assistance Program	1
Housing Stabilization Svcs	1
Housing Support (GRH)	1
Money management	1
Navigation	1

City

All (County)	48
Minneapolis	44
Saint Paul *	15
Bloomington	6
Golden Valley	4
Brooklyn Center	3
Minnetonka	3
Hopkins	2
Plymouth	2
Red Lake	2

St Louis Park	2
Apple Valley	1
Arlington, VA	1
Brooklyn Park	1
Cass Lake	1
Cloquet	1
Eagan	1
Eden Prairie	1
Maple Grove	1
North Plymouth	1
Mound	1
New Brighton	1
New Hope	1
Onamia	1
Rogers	1
Roseville	1
Van Nuys, CA	1
Waubun	1
Mobile	2
ERA income eligibility	

All	20
30% AMI	11
"Low income"	3
150% FPG	2
200% FPG	2
50% AMI	1
30% of income spent on rent	1

