

A grayscale photograph of a person sitting on a metal bench in what appears to be a shelter or public space. The person is wearing light-colored pants and dark shoes. The background shows a patterned carpet and a metal railing.

# EMERGENCY SERVICES PROGRAM

*Emergency shelters are the starting point to gaining*  
**long-term stability.**

**Homelessness looks different across the state. During crisis situations, individuals and families are forced to sleep outside, in tents, and in cars instead of a shelter with a roof and warm bed. We need more options and resources that the Emergency Services Program offers.**

Homes for All Coalition  
Minnesota Coalition *for the Homeless*

In April we met with individuals staying in shelters across the state. Our conversations revolved around a few questions.

What resources exist to help find jobs, housing, and transportation?

Do we need more shelter beds in this area?



In this booklet, you'll find quotes from individuals and families directly impacted by homelessness and the lack of resources across Minnesota. Homelessness is an emergency. Individuals are in crisis. **We need the Emergency Services Program (ESP) strengthened.**

**We need ESP investments now.**

Today 12:33 P.M.

"The shelter has really saved my family. My kids get to school every day and they don't even know that this is a shelter. It's just a safe place until we get into our new home."



"They can only do 6 or 9 beds out here. My children took up a big portion of the beds. There's just not enough, period."

"Being homeless we go through a lot and it hurts us inside and out. Some of us want to get a job and go through schooling. We want to get into something but we're stuck out here."

"There's such a vast difference between what is available in the Twin Cities versus in Rochester. At least your self-respect is back being able to have a shower, fresh socks, having your personal possessions. I don't like the stigma of the grizzled old grump—some of us have just worn down."



Youth 24 and under make up

**46%**

of our homeless population

"We absolutely need more staff and resources to help people get back on their feet. People to help with stability and housing, job placement, mental health and being able to identify what exactly people need."

"We need opportunities for people to come into shelter, resources for them to live in the world and get jobs, and opportunities to continue to fulfill their dreams and their life."



"Yes, more shelters! Stepping Stone has allowed for me to become employed and now all my funding comes from me, for me, by me."

"The shelter in Virginia saved my life! We need more beds so others can get the help they really need, like I was able to get."

**26%**

of all people experiencing homelessness since 2015 were **NOT** in a formal shelter

"A lot of people don't realize once [your assistance] is gone, it's gone. If you use it at the wrong time, you're gonna need it later and you won't have it."

**What would it look like if you had more; more beds, more resources, more options?**

"If I hadn't had WRAP or UCAP I would be lost—they even offered transportation. I tried to do as much as possible myself, but I'm far from home. My anxiety was up here cause it was too much. I had never been homeless in my life, in an instant it can be gone."

*"It's hard work, and some of the stories and people's lives break you a little bit. My kids call [our caseworker] grandma."*

**"When we work with the essence of a person's being they can learn patience, restrained flexibility and for them to know where they are at with God."**

"Yes need more family bedrooms or room separators so families can have privacy."

Older adults (55+) had a  
**25% INCREASE**  
of homelessness  
since 2015



**"I hope someone listens because this isn't working - I waited so long for my family to get help."**

**"I wish everyone could understand what it's like to be without a home for my kids- we're good parents, there just isn't help."**

**WHERE  
WE LIVE  
IMPACTS**

**everything**

# Unsheltered went up **93%** in Twin Cities Metro

Unsheltered went up **36%**  
in Greater MN

Unsheltered  
went  
up **62%**  
since 2015

*Facts from Wilder Foundation Homeless Study 2018  
Photos from Monica Nilsson and Deb Holman*



Quotes from  
across Minnesota



Minnesota  
Coalition *for the*  
Homeless