



STPAUL.GOV

Saint Paul's Work to Respond to the Housing Crisis and Support Our Residents

August 4, 2021



Community First Comprehensive Public Safety Framework

RESPONSE TO CRIME/ CRISIS

Crime & Violence



Emergency Response

Prevent & respond to incidents of violent, dangerous and criminal activity in our city.

- Police Officers
- Fire Fighters
- Paramedics

Crisis & Concern



Crisis Intervention

Interrupt cycles of crime & violence, and lighten the load for officers, by engaging professionals as rapid responders to connect people in crisis to supportive resources.

Examples:

- Social Workers
- Community Public Health Workers
- Housing Counselors

PROACTIVE INVESTMENTS

Residents



Evidence-Based Crime Reduction

Data-driven investments to reduce high-potential residents' likelihood to become an offender or victim.

Examples:

- Grief Counseling
- Youth Jobs/ Summer Programs
- Workforce Training
- Housing for Returning Residents

Neighborhoods



Safety by Design

Investments in Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) in our highest-potential neighborhoods.

Examples:

- Lighting & Sight-Line Improvements
- Activation of Public Spaces
- Natural Access
- Cleaning & Maintenance



Guiding Priorities

Heading Home Ramsey

Homelessness is brief

Expanded, coordinated, and equitable prevention strategies to ensure homelessness is rare

Increased and accessible health and supportive services

Increased supply and diversity of housing

Families, individuals, youth and marginalized/underserved communities achieve economic self-sufficiency and thrive

Community First Public Safety Commission

More appropriate responders for each situation who can best assist those in need

Decriminalize behavior & response, particularly for people & communities of color

More efficient deployment of law enforcement; Reserve & focus police resources for where they are most needed

Focus on prevention and community safety

Improve systems & increase accessibility

City of Saint Paul Unsheltered Response Commitment

- Find long-term and permanent options to serve our unsheltered population
- Respond to the immediate needs of individuals sheltering on the street, in tents, caves, parks, and under bridges



RESPONSE TEAM

Our Coordinated Response

City of Saint Paul

- Mayor and Deputy Mayor
- City Council
- Department of Safety & Inspections
- Parks and Recreation
- SPPD
- Public Works
- Planning & Economic Development
- Libraries
- City Attorney's Office
- Emergency Management

Ramsey County

- County Board of Commissioners
- County Administrator
- County Social Services
- Saint Paul-Ramsey Co Public Health Clinic 555 Outreach Team
- Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Homeless Outreach Team
- Ramsey County Probation
- Ramsey County Veterans Services
- Emergency Management
- Ramsey County Emergency Housing

Partners

- People, Inc.
- Radian Health
- Listening House of St. Paul
- Mothers First
- Catholic Charities/Higher Ground
- Model Cities of St. Paul, Inc.
- Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities
- Downtown Alliance
- Metro Transit
- MNDOT
- Faith community
- Saint Paul residents and businesses

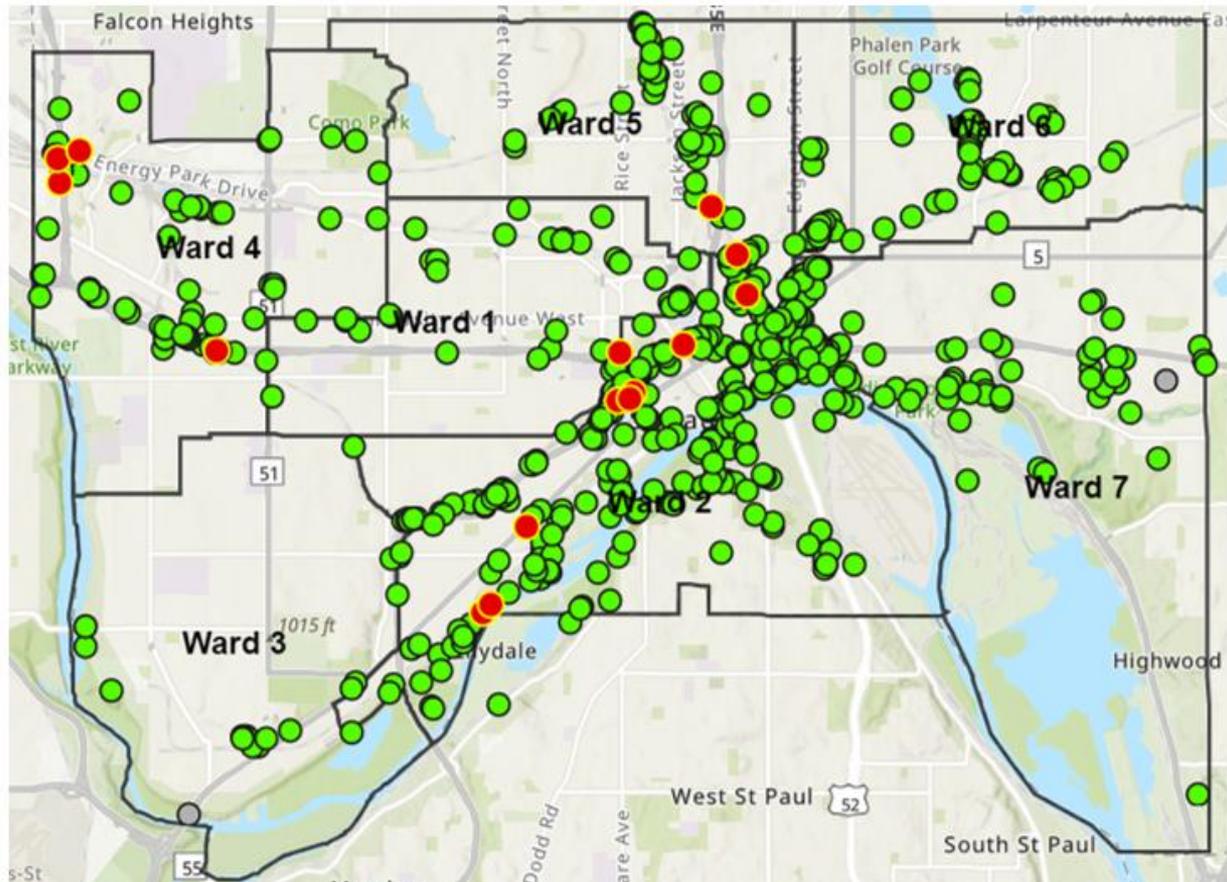
City Unsheltered Workgroup: city department leadership and staff; primary focus is to coordinate strategy and response to encampments and support residents experiencing homelessness broadly

HHR Workgroup: 40+ member city/county/service provider group formed through HHR to plan/develop/advance proposals for a Rapid Response Team and Frequent Users of Emergency Services (aka "Familiar Faces")

Area Action Plan Workgroup: city/county/Met Council/service providers and private sector partners; geographic focus; tactical and operational; implement strategies to address safety and cleanliness downtown as part of post-COVID return

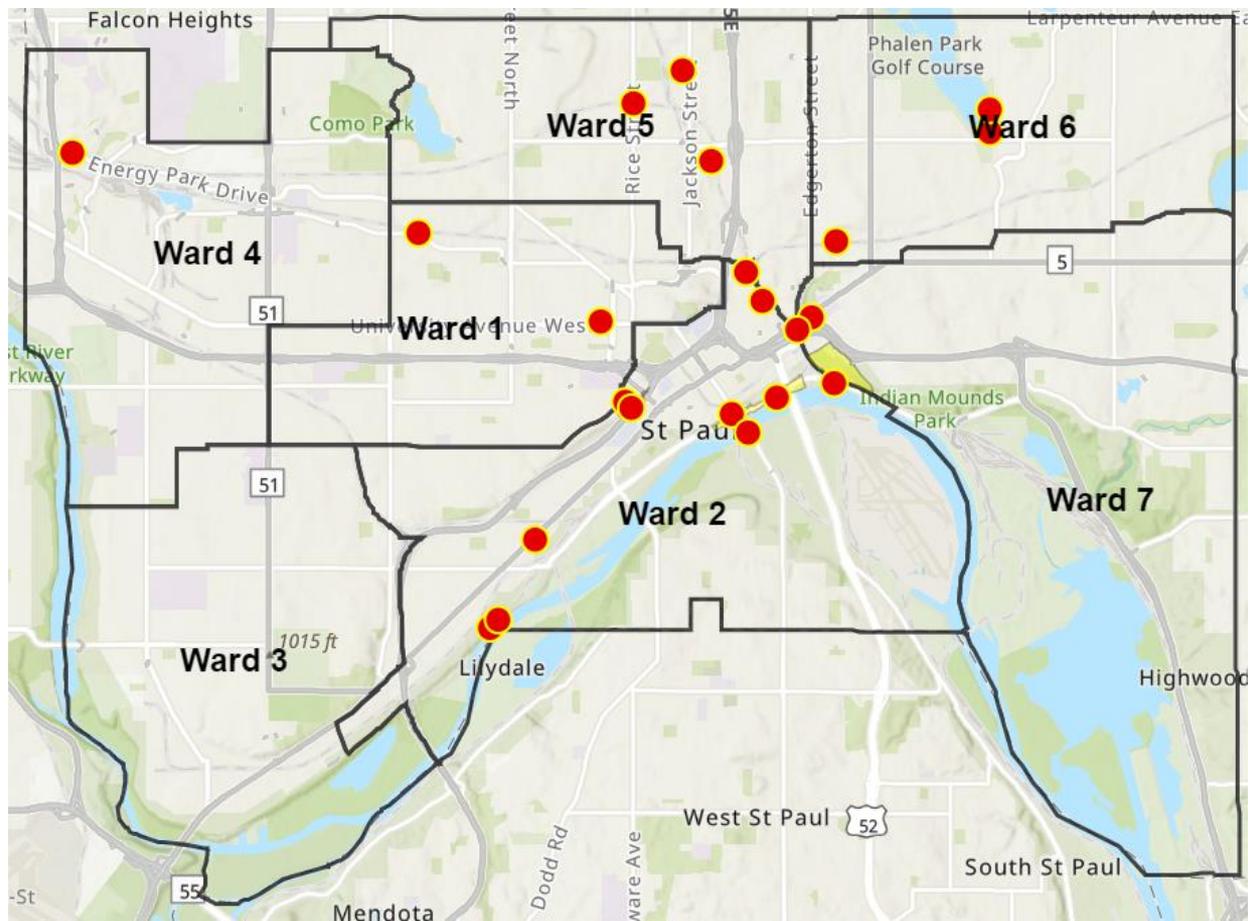


Encampment Locations since 2019



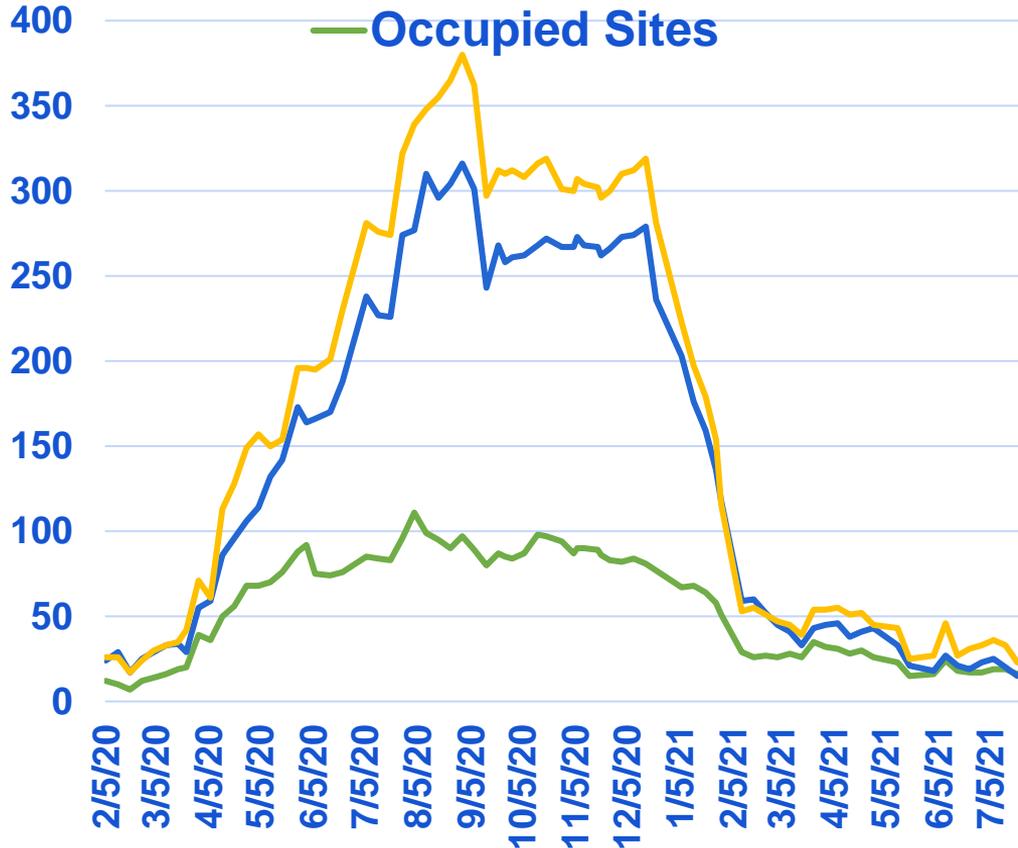


7.30.2021 Unsheltered Homeless Encampments Saint Paul, MN





7.28.2021 Unsheltered Homeless Encampments Saint Paul, MN Summary Data



Total Tents = 20

Total Estimated Occupants = 28

Currently Active Encampments = 17

Largest Encampments:

Location	Size
Under Lafayette bridge	2 tent - 4 people
155 Randolph	2 tent - 2 people
35 E Bike Path	2 tent - 2 people
Energy Park Drive and BNSF	2 tent - 1 people
Behind 1645 Iglehart	1 tent - 2 people



2021 Encampment Management Strategy

- 2020 experience confirmed that homeless encampments do not provide a safe, healthy or secure living environment
- City has thoughtfully closed approximately 65 unique encampments (many multiple times) over the last ten months, aligning resources and services with occupants prior and during closures
- Many occupants are now in new, low-barrier shelters that have been established through city/county partnerships and have access to county 'Step Up' programming
- City will continue to close encampments based on safety risks as long as low barrier shelter beds are available
- City is committed to maintaining all previously closed encampment sites clear. Those who re-occupy will be provided 72 hour notice and access to shelter referrals/services before a site is re-closed



Our Commitments/The City's Roles and Responsibilities

- **Relationship building and information coordination at the individual level for residents sheltering outdoors in Saint Paul** (*adding a dedicated team in the Department of Safety and Inspections*)
- **Location response** (tents, under bridges, in caves, on streets, in wooded areas, in parks, etc. *(DSI, Parks, CAO, SPPD, SPFD, Emergency Management)*)
- **Rapid Response to emergency and non-emergency situations** (*SPPD and SPFD now; TBD based on workgroup recommendations and advancement of the Office of Neighborhood Safety*)
- **Housing strategy and investments** (*Planning and Economic Development Department*)
- **Tenant Protections** (*Office of Financial Empowerment*)



City of Saint Paul Long Term Encampment Strategy

Dedicated, three-person team to respond to unsheltered AND people experiencing homelessness

- Team Lead
- Housing Counselor
- DSI Inspector

Goals:

- Divert calls from emergency responders
- Providing a supportive and appropriately trained response team
- Connect residents to longer-term supportive community resources
- De-escalate situations without risk of resident harm
- Reduce negative encounters with law enforcement officers
- Holistic response to unsheltered residents



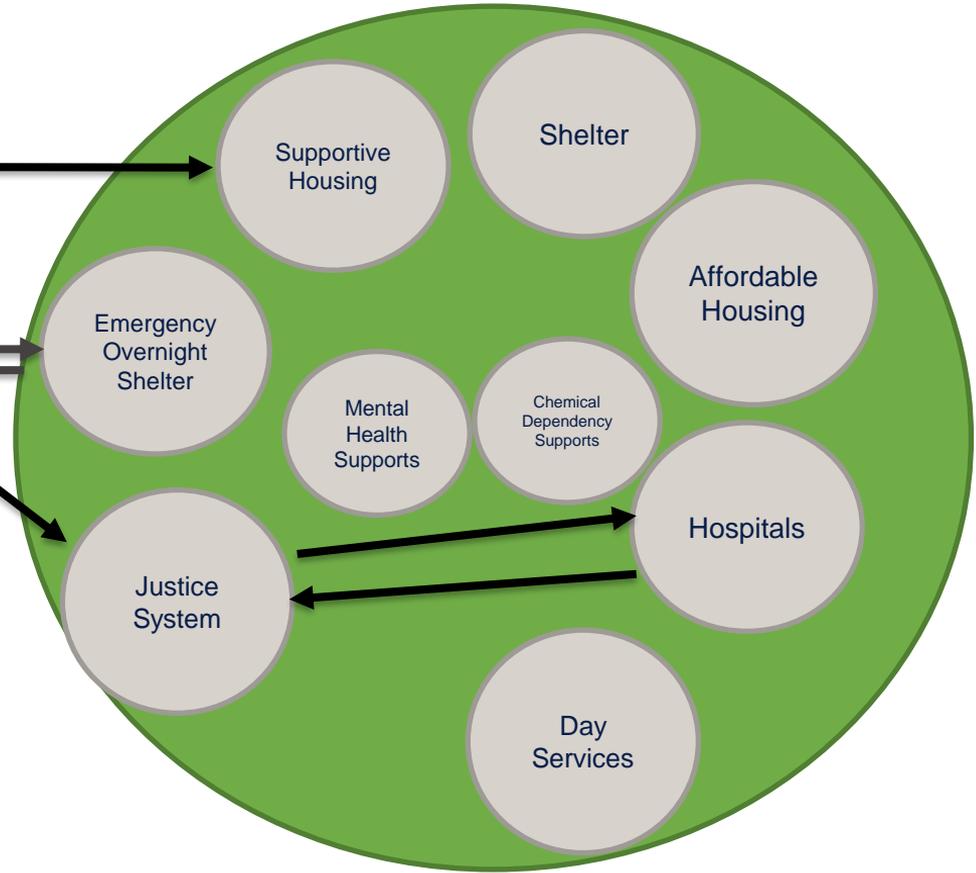
Goal #1. Information

Connect individuals to the ecosystem of supports; identify gaps so we can work toward solutions

By Name Registry

- 1. "K"
- 2. "V"
- 3. "L"
- 4. "J"
- 5. ...
- 17. "C"

- 18. "B"
- 19. "T"
- 20. Male at Rice
- 21. Male at Phalen
- 22. Male at Mounds
- 23. Female at Mounds



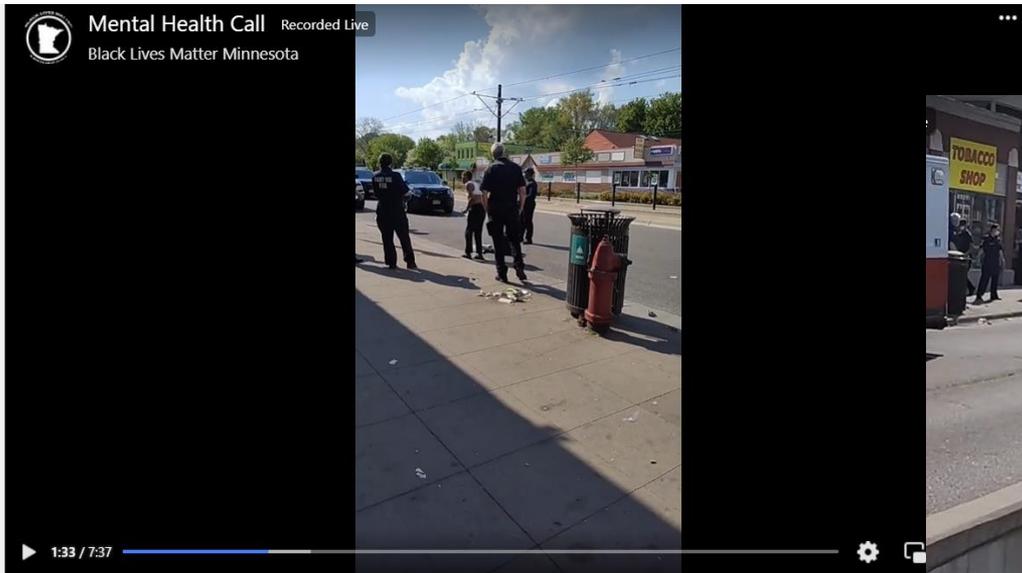


Goal #2. Response

Match law enforcement and EMS response to need; match business and neighbor response to situation

Saint Paul Police and Fire responding to a situation where a woman is in a mental health crisis:

<https://www.facebook.com/BlackLivesMatterMN/videos/mental-health-call/470142574079960/>





Goal #2. Response

Match law enforcement and EMS response to need; match business and neighbor response to situation

Attached you will find a zipped folder with photos from today (3/25/21) and yesterday's car theft (3/24/21) enclosed.

In the folder from 3/24/21, there is a photo of two men laying in our parking lot. The individual on the left (striped pants) went into the parking lot behind the Freedom House and kept trying car doors until he found an unlocked door. I witnessed him go into the red car, remove items from the driver's area of the car and put it in his bag (shown in the second photo).

*Again, as [CK] likely mentioned to you, our employees are afraid to go to their cars because of the Freedom House individuals who are very often laying/sitting in our parking area. **We are also very concerned about our clients being exposed to the never-ending urination-defecation near the buildings, vandalism, vagrancy, begging, fights and screaming, litter (including condoms and syringes), and apparent drug use since the Freedom House opened.***





Goal #2. Response

Match law enforcement and EMS response to need; match business and neighbor response to situation



Just FYI — for about the past hour (starting around 12:50pm), there have been a couple of individuals in the Freedom House parking lot screaming (obscenities) at each other. It hasn't come to physical blows yet, but the fight appears to have the potential. And no one from Freedom House has intervened.

Their screaming is loud enough that it can be heard in our building, especially on the side of the building facing their parking lot.

That includes our conference room which we were we normally facilitate zoom meetings. We've had to move our zoom set-up as we're concerned the screaming (with obscenities) could be picked up on the zoom audio while we're on with a client.

You can imagine how VERY frustrating and unnerving this is for all of us just trying to have a meeting with our clients.

Email exchange regarding a cart:

Neighbor #1: *I will add this photo to the others. I just took this photo outside my building, 291 W. 7th St. across the street from freedom house.*

Commander Mollner: *I just spoke to the "owner" of that cart and he's heading over to remove it.*

Business contact: *There has been an abandoned cart on Chestnut since Sunday, this morning it is in the traffic lane at Exchange. Any chance you could look into this also?*

Neighbor #1: *The same grocery cart from yesterday is now just a block over.*

Commander Mollner: *Good Morning, I just visited that area and sent a photo of the cart and graffiti on the power box to Public Works and DSI. Thank you for bringing it to our attention.*





Goal #2. Response

Match law enforcement and EMS response to need; match business and neighbor response to situation

Emails:

#1: *"I was assaulted Tuesday by the homeless man we call [REDACTED]. He tried to tackle me. Bryan the sheriff who is working the area tracked him down. What is it going to take? Someone being killed? Afraid to walk to my car. ??????"*

#2: *The [REDACTED] at Irvine Park Towers was assaulted on Tuesday (7/27) by the Freedom House regular, an African American man nicknamed "[REDACTED]".*

If you don't know who he is, see attached photos from one of last week's emails.

From one of our second floor office on Monday (7/26) a couple of my employees watched a knife fight break out between two men from Freedom House next to the dry cleaners.

911 was called, but again as good as the Saint Paul Police are at their jobs, they can't magically appear when a knife fight or crime is taking place.

What are you waiting for — one of us to be murdered, one of the neighborhood kids to be abducted?

The situation is getting out of more and more control and more people are likely to get hurt or dead.

Ramsey County Sheriff Office Report:

No BWC

ON 07/27/2021 at about 0900 hours, I Squad 2785 (B. Luna) was parked in the parking lot at 280 W. 7th Street (old Dairy Queen parking lot). I was approached by the [REDACTED] of Irving Park Towers ([REDACTED]) on a disturbance issue. [REDACTED] told me the following. He was walking around the building (291 7th Street, W., St. Paul, MN.) and he approached the party ([REDACTED]) and asked him to leave the property.

[REDACTED] got upset with [REDACTED] and they started to yell at each other.

[REDACTED] said that [REDACTED] called him names but left the property. [REDACTED] is a frequent visitor to the Freedom House (296 7th St. W., St. Paul, MN.).

I asked ([REDACTED] if [REDACTED] assaulted him (ie. punch, kick, spit, or hit him with anything). [REDACTED] said "no but it looked like he lunged at me". No

physical harm or injuries reported.

Report made for documentation.



Housing Strategy and Investments: Homeless Prevention & Response



Housing Strategy

Objective 1:

Meet the needs of those with the lowest incomes by *increasing* supply

Objective 2:

Invest in low and moderate income residents by *investing* in the supply

Objective 3:

Explore innovative approaches to meeting housing needs

Objective 4:

Build wealth for residents and communities

Objective 5:

Promote fair access for all of us



The Opportunity

- Create a strategy for production of increased **permanent** supportive housing supply, reducing housing instability and homelessness, and reducing strain on shelter capacity (shelter expansion itself is not the focus)
- ARP funds provide additional opportunity to provide deeply affordable housing, including permanent supportive housing. ARP investment for this use is important given the size of the problem and the costs associated with building deeply affordable housing, including permanent supportive housing.



The Opportunity

- Builds off the engagement and work done around Unsheltered Homelessness and expanded shelter capacity
- Furthers community input around prioritization of 30% AMI housing and solutions for unsheltered homeless
- Aligns with ARP focus areas to support the homeless or those at risk of homelessness, and the production of housing supply that addresses the population heavily impacted by COVID.



30% AMI Fund Proposal

Goal:

Create a strategy and implementation plan for creation of a 30% AMI fund through ARP resources, in coordination with Ramsey County. This will include a short-term action plan for increased permanent supportive housing supply and a long-term plan for production of deeply affordable housing, including permanent supportive housing.



30% AMI Fund Project Outline

- Determine priority populations, housing characteristics for permanent supportive housing, and geographic or other priorities for deeply affordable housing.
- Estimate production scale that can be achieved
- Determine funding needs and eligible uses for ARP and any other sources required for capital, operations, and supportive services.
- Identify and secure any necessary staffing resources.
- Identify and secure real estate and current pipeline opportunities for short-term action plan.



30% AMI Fund - Benefits

- Potential new options to better serve our extremely low-income residents, including unsheltered residents, to reduce homelessness, housing instability, and the myriad negative individual and community impacts associated
- Long-term decrease in number of people living in encampments
- Reduced demands on shelter-capacity with more options for individuals to move up and out into housing that is further down the continuum
- Engagement of stakeholders and others in co-creating solutions
- Opportunity to increase sustainability of housing resulting in reduced costs for renters served



30% AMI Fund - Scope

- Engagement with providers and those potentially impacted and served by permanent supportive housing
- Creation of new permanent supportive housing opportunities for formerly homeless households
- Creation of affordable housing units for extremely low-income renters
- Potential zoning actions associated with particular projects



THANK YOU