

# Ending Chronic Homelessness in Hennepin County

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# What is Chronic Homelessness?

*A person who is chronically homeless is someone who...*

- Is living with a disability

*AND*

- Has been experiencing homelessness

- For the last 12 months consecutively

*OR*

- For at least 4 episodes in the past 3 years totalling 12 months



# Who is Chronically Homeless?

*Chronically homeless people often experience...*

- Severe and persistent mental illness
- High behavioral health needs
- High medical fragility
- Greater barriers to housing: legal, criminal, etc
- Poor or no rental history



# Partnership with Built for Zero

- Community Solutions -> Built for Zero
- Supports with:
  - Project Planning
  - Technical support
  - Large community collaboration
  - Funding opportunities

**Built  
For  
Zero.**  
COMMUNITY  
SOLUTIONS

**Hennepin County  
is the ONLY Large  
Community Poised to End  
Chronic Homelessness**

A decorative graphic in the top right corner consisting of several overlapping circles of varying sizes and shades of teal. The largest circle is semi-transparent and contains a smaller, solid teal circle. To its left and below are two smaller, solid teal circles, each containing a white triangle pointing towards the top right.

267

people experiencing  
chronic homelessness in  
Hennepin County

(July 2024)



# Intervention

# s





# HMIS and BNL

- HMIS: Homeless Management Information System
  - Database used to collect and track data on homeless services
- BNL: By Name List
  - Report drawn from HMIS
  - Person-level information on service connections and housing eligibility
  - Tracking inflow and outflow
  - Moving from reporting to resource matching



Reduction of 99 in previous 3mo  
ZERO chronic returns from housing in July



# Case Conferencing

- Weekly meeting dedicated specifically to chronic households
- Coordination with internal and external teams
- Action oriented
- Housing resources available for matching





# Case Management Connections

- Connections to Homeless to Housing and Streets to Housing teams
- Collaboration and regular meetings with external shelters and outreach teams to provide support and keep chronic households top of mind
- % of chronic households with active CM is rising





# Flexible Funds

- \$400,000 in flexible funds to resolve housing barriers and access housing quickly
- Low barrier
- Move in costs, housing debt, etc.





# Housing Stability

- 44 evictions withdrawn
- 60 households stabilized
- 26 diagnostic assessments completed
- 29 clients connected to mental health services



# Panel Discussion

# Participants

Courtne Thunberg

Senior Psychiatric Social Worker, Hennepin County

Kayla Van Batavia

Assistant Shelter Manager, Simpson Housing Services

Miracle Gray

Lead Housing Stability Navigator, MySkye Care

Toni Wenbourne

Homeless Access Team Social Worker, Hennepin County

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