

A set of silver keys with a red house-shaped keychain is shown on a light-colored wooden surface. The keychain is a small wooden house with a red roof and a silver chain. The word "Welcome" is written in red text over the keys.

Welcome

“Making Homelessness Rare” Breakout Session

Heading Home Hennepin Annual Meeting, November 19, 2024

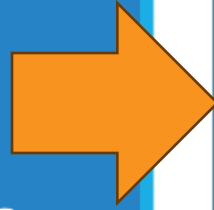
Co-facilitators:

- **Jewelean Jackson**, Member, Hennepin County Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG) and Hennepin County Prevention Governance Group
- **Heidi Schmidt Boyd**, Program Manager, Hennepin County Housing Stability

Goals for this Session

1. Discover how prevention programs are impacting residents through innovative programs, partnerships, and collaboration.
2. Learn how emergency rent assistance programs are being coordinated to better serve residents.
3. Engage in a community conversation about eviction prevention.

Landscape of Homelessness Risk in Hennepin County



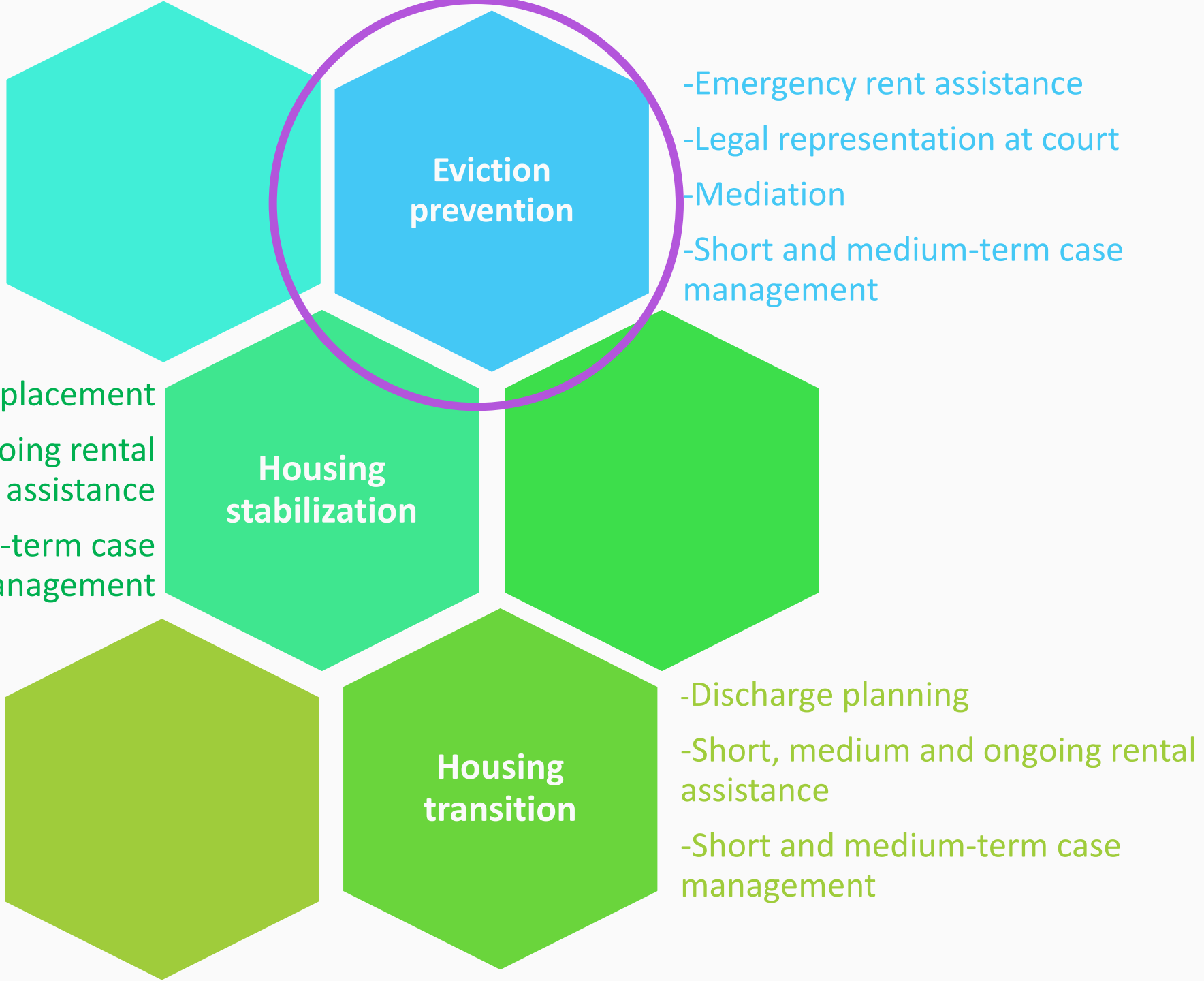
Severe Housing Cost Burden: 60,000 low-income renter households spending at least 50% of their income on housing-related costs

Precarious Housing: Estimated 10,000 residents in temporary, unstable housing with family or friends

Institution-to-Homelessness Pipeline: 15% of homelessness episodes are the result of exits from carceral, treatment, and other institutional settings (e.g. foster care)

Key terms and acronyms

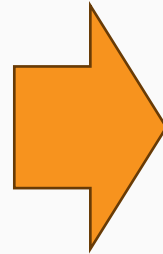
- **Homelessness Prevention** – (1) promoting stable housing by increasing protective factors for those with highest risk of future homelessness and (2) helping those who are at imminent risk of homelessness resolve housing crises.
 - **Eviction Prevention** – a set of strategies and programs designed to help people at risk of losing their homes to stay housed, often by providing financial assistance, legal aid, and mediation.
- **Area median income (AMI)** - Set by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) each year, based on household size.
- **Case management** - A collaborative process to plan, secure, monitor, and evaluate the options and services required to meet a person's needs.
- **Emergency rent assistance (ERA)**– Programs that provide rent assistance to low-income Hennepin County residents. Including but not limited to: Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP), School to Housing, County emergency assistance (EA/EGA).
- **School to Housing (STH)** – Homeless prevention resources for families with school-age children, funded through Local Homeless Prevention Aid.
- **RentHelpHennepin (RHH)** – Hennepin County's coordinated emergency rent assistance application and payment system.
- **Housing and Development Software (HDS)** – The vendor who created and supports RHH.



2020 to 2024 changes impacting eviction prevention

2020

- Annual ERA: ~\$5M
- 10% legal representation
- Many different applications for ERA
- Few tenant protections
- Minimal rent/mediation/legal coordination at court
- No targeted school-age ERA



2024

- Annual ERA: ~\$14M (plus add'l \$13.5M RentHelpMN)
- 100% legal representation
- Central application for FHPAP, STH, and other
- Tenant protections 2024 – 14-day notice, more clarity in lease costs/fees, etc.
- Rent assistance and mediation available before and at all pre-trial eviction hearings
- Access to ERA through elementary schools

Panelists:

- **Kate Dillon**, Program Director, Align Minneapolis; and Prevention Governance Group member
- **Beth Bailey**, Director, Community Mediation and Restorative Services (CMRS)
- **Yolanda Henderson**, Community Member
- **Frema Curley**, Supervisor, Rent Help Hennepin

What has changed with emergency rent assistance in Hennepin County in the last year?

What challenges do you anticipate in the year ahead?

What are you most excited about in 2025?

What did you notice about the services you received through RentHelpHennepin's emergency rent assistance program?

How has lived experience been incorporated in the way you do your work?

From your perspective, what do you think we need to do to communicate ERA programs more effectively to the community?

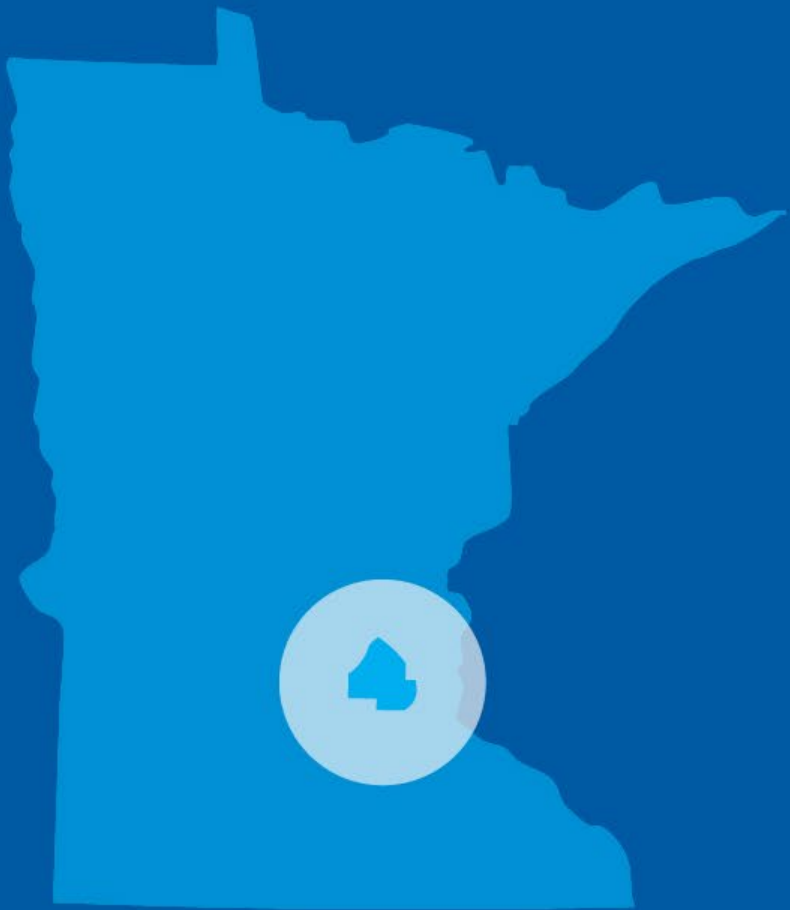
It's your turn!
What's your
opinion?



What factors might suggest that someone should be prioritized for case management services, to stabilize housing?

Community input





Hennepin County

Thank you!

