

The following are represented in this Continuum of Care region:

- State Agencies
- Community Action Agencies
- Faith-based Non-profit Organizations
- Other Community Non-profit Organizations
- Local Government
- Housing & Redevelopment Authorities
- Minnesota Housing
- Minnesota Department of Human Services
- Domestic Violence Organizations
- Mental Health Initiatives
- Veterans Programs
- Food Shelves
- Youth Provider
- HUD
- Educational Institutions
- Advocacy Groups
- Developers



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it’s the only thing that ever has.” Margaret Mead

**Wilder Research
Homelessness in Minnesota
Key findings from the
2009 statewide survey**

- The tough **economic climate** has had a big impact. Forty percent of homeless adults reported a job loss or reduced hours as a reason they lost their housing.
- The use of **food stamps** is the highest since the Wilder study began in 1991.
- There has been an increase in **long-term homelessness**. Adults who are homeless for at least one year are significantly more likely to experience serious barriers to stable housing.
- Increased numbers. The largest percent increase—57%—was among **young adults** whose numbers increased from 661 in 2006 to 1,041 in 2009.
- Overall, the single-night count of **homeless youth** age 12-21 (1,268) represents a 46% increase from 2006.
- The largest increase in turnaways from shelters was also among **youth**.
- **Racial** disparities persist.
- **Barriers** to obtaining and maintaining housing
 - Criminal background
 - Credit problems
 - Court eviction or bad rental history
 - Cost of application fees
 - No local rental history
- Common **pathways into homelessness**:
 - Lack of access to housing and other resources
 - Economic conditions
 - Health, trauma and personal characteristics
- **Pathways out of homelessness**:
 - Support and services
 - Safe, affordable housing

RIVER VALLEYS CONTINUUM OF CARE



It is our mission to prevent, respond to, and help end homelessness in Southeastern Minnesota by coordinating services and maximizing resources.

Our Goal:

Identify the needs of the homeless in our communities.
Determine and implement solutions that meet those needs.

What is the Continuum of Care?

The Continuum of Care is a community plan to organize and deliver housing and services to meet the specific needs of people who are homeless as they move to stable housing and maximum self-sufficiency. It includes action steps to end and prevent a return to homelessness.

The River Valleys Continuum of Care planning region consists of 20 counties in southeast/south-central MN. The counties include: Blue Earth, Brown, Dodge, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Le Sueur, Martin, Mower, Nicollet, Olmsted, Rice, Sibley, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca, Watonwan and Winona.

Since 1997, the River Valleys MN Continuum has leveraged approximately \$22 million to alleviate homelessness.

Continuum of Care Model

Outreach and Assessment
Homeless Prevention
Rapid Re-Housing
Emergency Shelter
Transitional Housing
Permanent Supportive Housing
Affordable Housing
Support Services

Why is the Continuum of Care Significant?

- It helps communities identify gaps in housing and services for the homeless.
- It allows communities to look comprehensively at needs and to anticipate policy or demographic changes in order to develop the capacity to respond to these changes.
- It identifies strategies to improve homeless services and housing options and provides training opportunities to build organizational capacity.
- It helps communities construct a common vision and set of common goals.
- It helps providers establish ways of coordinating and linking resources to avoid duplication and facilitate movement toward permanent housing and self-sufficiency;
- It involves stakeholders outside the traditional homeless system with the goal of educating and encouraging them to become a part of the solution;
- It is the highly collaborative process through which federal homeless dollars are accessed.



2009 MN Homeless Study Wilder Research Statewide Counts on October 22, 2009

Total number of homeless in MN

Unaccompanied Minors	227
Young Adults (age 18-21)	1041
Adults (age 22-54)	4585
Adults (age 55+)	526
Children with Parents	3251
Homeless people in detox	24
Total	<u>9654</u>

This is a 25% increase over the 2006 study!

How Can I Participate?

Who: Anyone concerned about homelessness

What: Donate and/or meet to address homelessness

Where: Varies between Owatonna and Rochester

When: Bi-monthly morning meetings, the third Thursday of the month.

Please contact Mary Ulland Evans, CoC Coordinator, at 507-732-8555, or email her at mary.ullandevans@threeriverscap.org

Meeting information available at www.threeriverscap.org