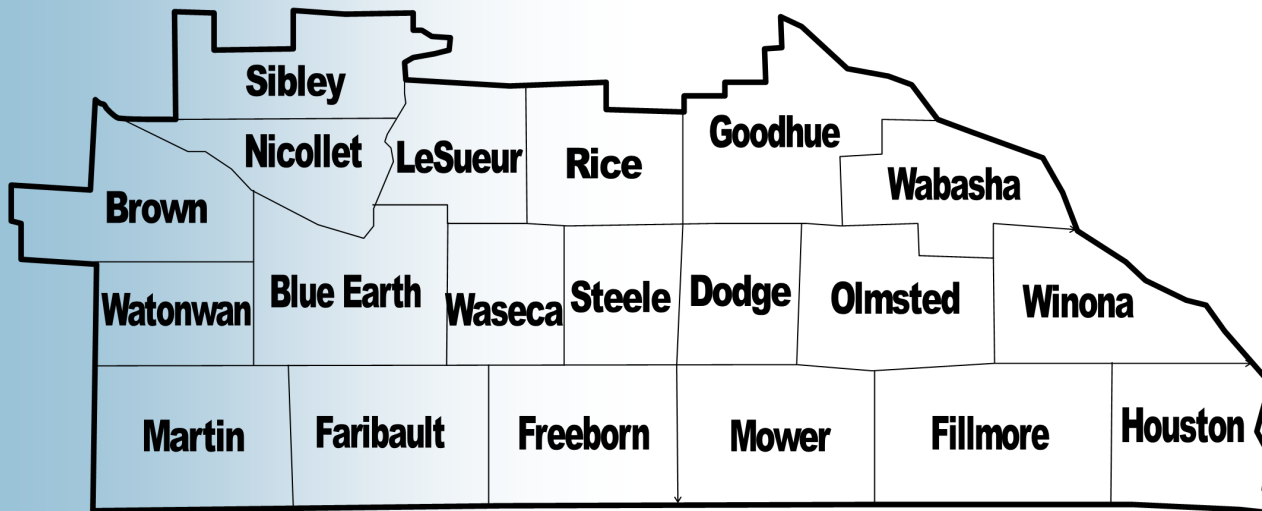


# Join us!

## If you:

- **Encounter homelessness in your work or daily life,**
- **Have experienced homelessness yourself,**
- **or**
- **Just want to end homelessness in southern Minnesota,**

**River Valleys Continuum of Care is a place where you can make a difference.**



River Valleys CoC covers the area of 20 counties southeast & south central Minnesota.

## Get in touch:

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1414 North Star Drive  
Zumbrota, MN 55992

[www.threeriverscap.org/continuum-of-care](http://www.threeriverscap.org/continuum-of-care)

River Valleys CoC meets in the morning on the third Thursday of each month in one of three locations. Visit our webpage to find upcoming meeting dates and locations. Stipends are available to assist meeting participants who are homeless.



## River Valleys Continuum of Care: **Ending Homelessness Together**

River Valleys CoC is a coalition dedicated to preventing and ending homelessness in southern Minnesota by coordinating services and maximizing resources.

## What is Continuum of Care?

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The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocates homeless assistance grants to organizations that participate in local homeless assistance program planning networks. Each of these networks is called a Continuum of Care (CoC).

The CoC process is a community-based approach that encourages the creation of collaborative, comprehensive systems to meet the diverse needs of local homeless populations.

River Valleys CoC covers 20 counties in southeast and south central Minnesota. It includes over 75 agencies across the region involved and committed to ending homelessness.



## Why Does CoC Matter?

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Over 400 people experience homelessness on any given night in southeast and south central Minnesota. Half of those people are children.

The CoC is a critical coordinating point for changing that reality and ending homelessness. It's also the access point for HUD homeless assistance grants in the CoC region.

In the CoC, people work together to improve programs, build partnerships, and increase targeted resources.

### **River Valleys CoC's overall goals are to:**

- Prevent homelessness whenever possible, and
- Make episodes of homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.

Working toward those goals, the CoC now reports:

- 400 units of permanent supportive housing,
- 32 opportunities for rapid re-housing, &
- Improved referrals for high-need households through Coordinated Entry.

## How Can I Get Involved?

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Find your niche in the CoC:

### **Volunteer or provide input for needs assessments and planning!**

- Conduct surveys and share input
- Set local and regional goals
- Review project funding applications

### **Build networks with your local CoC members! Network members include:**

- School social workers
- Emergency shelter providers
- Housing developers
- Domestic violence services
- Youth programs
- Corrections agencies
- And more!

### **Participate in Coordinated Entry to get people housed quickly!**

- Get trained as an access point or needs assessor
- Agree to prioritize people who most need your program

### **Share your knowledge! Be a presenter at a CoC meeting**

## Homelessness in southern Minnesota

*People who experience homelessness in Minnesota often stay temporarily with friends or family (double up) to avoid sleeping outside. People who are doubled up often don't think of themselves as homeless. They are also hard to locate and are NOT included in the 400 people counted above. However, people in these situations may qualify for assistance to prevent and end homelessness.*