



# Study of Homelessness

A LOOK AT HOMELESSNESS AND  
HOUSING INSTABILITY IN THE  
CITY OF RED WING

# Goals of the study

1

Improve understanding of the overall scale and breadth of homelessness in Red Wing

2

Identify best practices in addressing homelessness and the extent to which they are being implemented in Red Wing

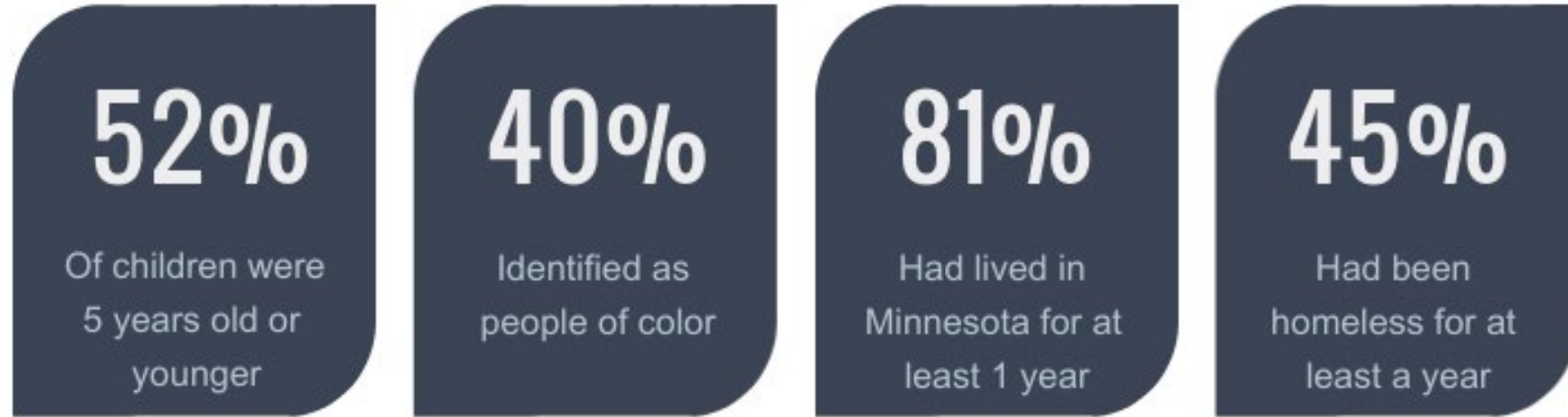
3

Set the stage for community conversations and planning to increase the impact of Red Wing's efforts to end homelessness

# Measuring homelessness in Red Wing: Key stats

As of May 2021, there were **68 clients** in **Goodhue County** who had been placed on the Coordinated Entry priority list and were waiting for housing.

January 2020 point-in-time count: **459 people** experiencing homelessness in the **SE MN region**



## **Who becomes homeless in Southeast Minnesota?**

Source: 2018 Wilder Homeless Study

# Racial equity impact analysis

	<b>People of color</b>	<b>African American</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>
<b>Clients active on the Coordinated Entry Priority List in Goodhue County, June 2020-May 2021 (n=123)</b>	34%	23%	8%
<b>Goodhue County census data (<u>Minnesota Compass, 2015-2019</u>)</b>	6%	1.3%	3.3%

# Affordable housing

Currently, there is a mismatch between the cost of housing in Red Wing (**median rent = \$704** for a one-bedroom unit) and household income of people experiencing homelessness in Southeast Minnesota (**median monthly income = \$592**).

(Sources: [Red Wing 2040 Community Plan](#), [mhomeless.org](http://mhomeless.org))

In Goodhue County, **41 percent of renters** in the county are cost-burdened and paying more than 30 percent of their income towards housing.

(Source: Goodhue County [Comprehensive Housing Needs Analysis](#))

According to the Wilder Homeless Survey, **46%** of people experiencing homelessness in Southeast Minnesota are **on a waitlist for housing**.

# Is there enough affordable housing in Red Wing?

- The inventory of rental properties in Goodhue County was 2.5% vacant, including a **1.4% vacancy rate among the affordable/subsidized properties** and a 3.6% vacancy rate in the market rate properties.
- The equilibrium vacancy rate for rental housing is considered to be 5.0%, which allows for normal turnover and an adequate supply of alternatives for prospective renters. In effect, the supply of general occupancy rental housing in the County is below the level adequate to meet demand.
- The **statewide rental vacancy rate** in Minnesota in 2019 was **4.8%**.

# Affordable housing is the key to addressing the homelessness crisis

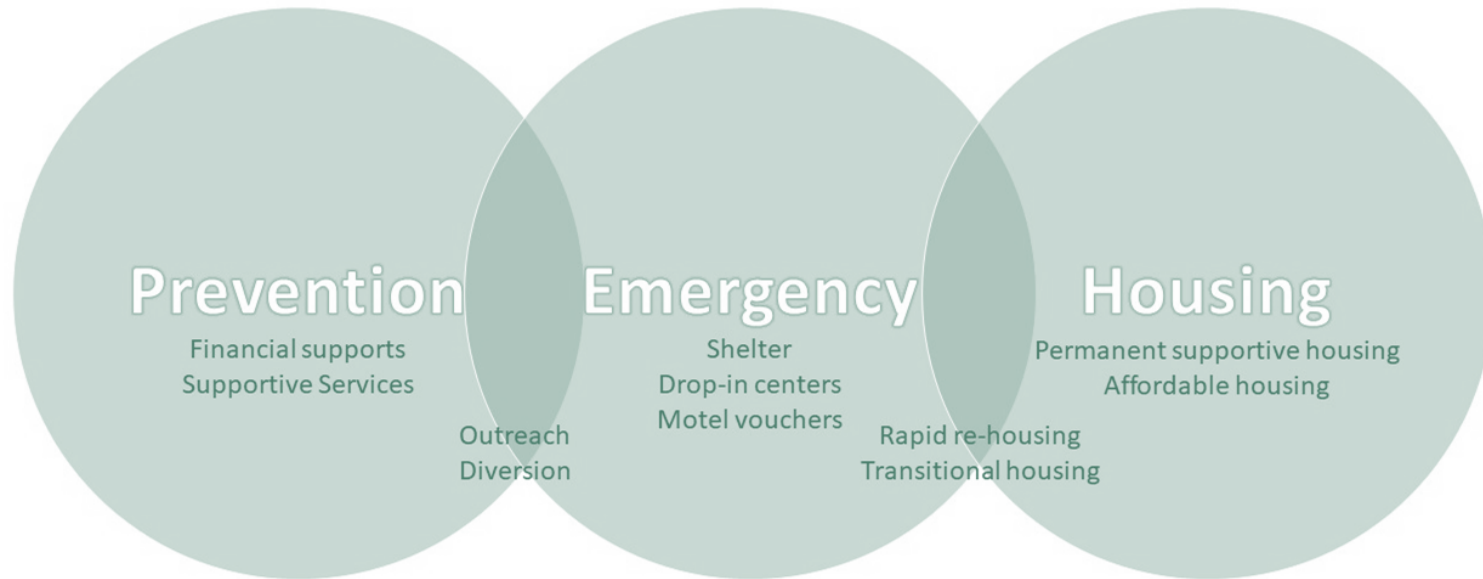
## + Recommendations

Commit to following through with the recommendations related to increasing affordable housing outlined in the [Red Wing 2040 Community Plan](#) and the Goodhue County [Comprehensive Housing Needs Analysis](#).

Explore new, creative solutions to increasing affordable housing







## **Best practices and approaches to ending homelessness**

# Emergency shelter in Red Wing

Intervention	Program/Agency	Notes
Emergency shelter	Hope and Harbor	Seasonal, volunteer-based shelter 24 beds for single adults Annual budget of \$55,000
Emergency shelter	Housing Support/HOPE Coalition	Motel vouchers for emergency use Served 114 people in 2020 Variety of funds, including \$30,000 per year from the Red Wing Area Homeless Committee

# Recommendations: Emergency shelter

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Develop one comprehensive plan to address emergency shelter needs in Red Wing. The plan should include strategies for evaluating outcomes for the emergency shelter and related interventions.

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Use national best practices (low-barrier, Housing First).

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Commit equally to funding and supporting prevention and affordable housing.

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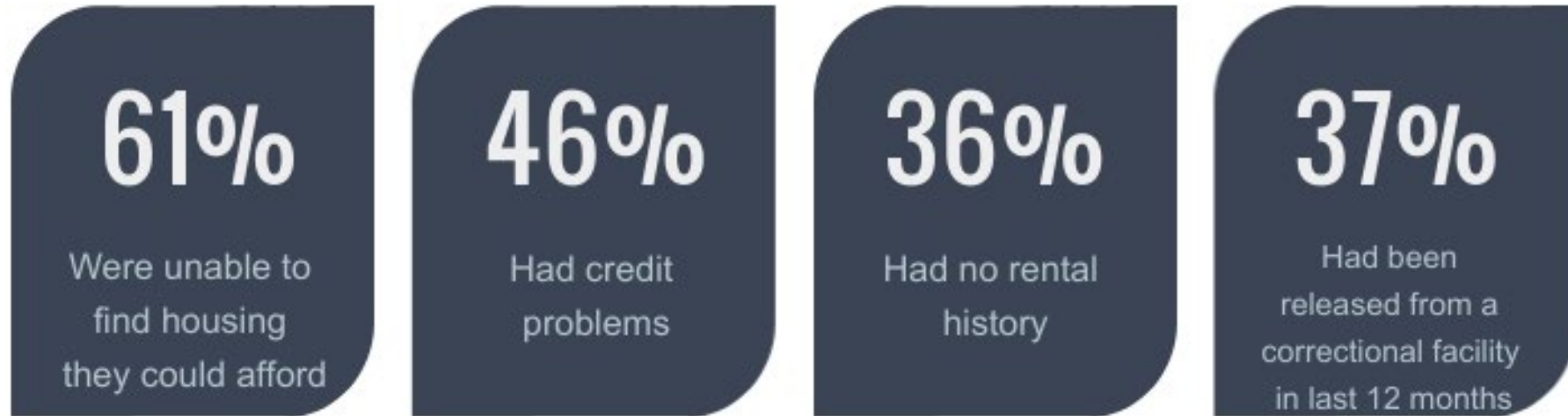
Community buy-in is needed if a congregate site is pursued.

# Supportive housing in Red Wing

Intervention	Program/Agency	Notes
Permanent supportive housing	Maple Hills/CommonBond	8 units for high-priority homeless households
Rapid re-housing	Hill Street Project/Red Wing HRA/Three Rivers CAP	3 units Families receive temporary rental assistance and services but can stay as long as needed
Transitional housing	Housing Support/HOPE Coalition	3 units

# Recommendations: Supportive housing

- + Build capacity of local agencies to access healthcare funding and increase availability of support services for people who may benefit from additional support.
- + Advocate for funding and resources to increase supportive housing options in Red Wing. Increase navigation services to help people on the Coordinated Entry System priority list with accessing housing and services.
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Source: [mnhomeless.org](http://mnhomeless.org)

## **Accessing housing in Southeast Minnesota**

# Recommendations: Increasing access to housing

- + Develop a housing access improvement plan that includes:
- + Infrastructure to track affordable housing options in Red Wing and streamline access (staffing and/or systems)
- + Proactive engagement of property owners and managers to reduce barriers and incentivize partnership
- + Strategies to fight discrimination of protected classes

# Homeless prevention in Red Wing

Intervention	Program/Agency	Notes
Prevention	FHPAP/Three Rivers CAP	Served 22 families last year with financial assistance and supportive services; 6 of the families were in Red Wing
Prevention	Community Care Fund/HOPE Coalition	Serves around 550 people annually Pays for basic needs and living expenses Funding is from private donations and the United Way



# **Recommendations: Homeless prevention**

1. Develop a centralized, low barrier, publicized access point for emergency funds.
2. Pair supportive services with emergency funding when needed.

# Recommendations: Building infrastructure

1. Use collective impact and/or Results Based Accountability framework to create a shared vision and identify outcomes.
2. Conduct a person-centered design process to map Red Wing's homeless response system with stakeholder roles and networks.
3. Clearly define roles of stakeholders in the homeless response system and plan to move forward on recommendations.
4. Strengthen the roles of non-housing stakeholders within the homeless response system.
  - Agencies serving special populations (youth, culturally-specific providers, veterans services, faith community)
  - Community resources (e.g., the Red Wing Library and the YMCA, volunteers, police)

## **Proposed next steps**

Large group meetings to enhance collaboration and develop a roadmap to ending homelessness

Smaller workgroups to focus on specific interventions

- Developing supportive housing and increasing access to affordable housing
- Emergency shelter
- Homeless prevention and crisis response

# Thank you

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