

Homelessness and housing instability in Red Wing: Potential strategies

This is a list of strategies/ideas put forward throughout the community discussions and workgroups to potentially include in the final plan.

Developing supportive housing and increasing access to affordable housing.

Recommendations from the Study on Homelessness in Red Wing

- 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.
- Develop a housing access improvement plan.
- 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, for example:
 - Consider establishing a Community Land Trust.
 - Review of barriers in zoning requirements, with a focus on potential racial equity issues.
 - Increase and promote affordable home ownership opportunities.
 - Leverage rehabilitation of abandoned or foreclosed properties. (Example: [Neighborhood Stabilization Project](#) in St. Petersburg, Florida)
 - Increase single room occupancy (SROs) and opportunities for roommate connections.
 - Create an [inclusionary housing initiative](#).
 - Make accessory dwelling units (ADUs), and duplexes easier for homeowners to utilize. (Example: [Bozeman, MT](#), see case study on p. 31)
 - Implement recommendations in the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund's report on unsubsidized affordable housing, "[The Space Between](#)."

Ideas from the community discussions and workgroups

- Address NIMBY ("not in my backyard") barriers that make siting new affordable/supportive housing difficult
- Increased flexibility in zoning
- Landlord mitigation fund
- Make it easier for people to get information about housing programs; e.g., have texting options rather than requiring phone calls
- Need education/public awareness on what is affordable housing and who it's for

- Incentives for developers to build new affordable

Ideas from Community Discussion #2

- Fund low-barrier rental assistance at county or city level
- Centralized list and single access point for affordable housing
 - Make accessible to employers
- Partner with landlords
 - Education on the benefits of Section 8
 - Assistance with getting units up to code and other incentives for providing affordable housing
 - Risk mitigation funding
- Fund new affordable housing—look at multiple housing financing sources
- Increase home ownership opportunities for low-income buyers

Emergency shelter

Recommendations from the Study on Homelessness in Red Wing

- Community members and stakeholders should work together to develop one comprehensive plan to address emergency shelter needs in Red Wing.
- Any funding or resources dedicated to the development of an emergency shelter should be matched by added funding or resources to increase resources across the homeless response continuum, including prevention, supportive services and affordable housing.

Ideas from Community Discussion #2

- Host homes for Youth
- Establish a year-round shelter
 - Build community buy-in
 - Look at temporary shelter options
- Strengthen connection between motel voucher system and Coordinated Entry
- Increase community collaboration and use of volunteers

Homeless prevention and crisis response

Recommendations from the Study on Homelessness in Red Wing

- Develop a centralized, low barrier, publicized access point for emergency funds.
- Pair supportive services with emergency funding when needed.
- Strengthen the roles of non-housing stakeholders within the homeless response system.

Ideas from Community Discussion #1

- By-name list: Real-time, includes person's needs, existing supports and strengths
- Availability of unrestricted funds

Ideas from Community Discussion #2

- Coordination of resources: One agency identified to collect data and community needs on people at-risk of homelessness
- Centralized access and navigation: Create a single point of contact (SPOC) that advocates for the client through prevention, emergency shelter, to interim housing to permanent housing. Advocate assists with applications, coordinating among resources
- Community education
 - Publish information on available resources and how to access them
 - Work with local employers who benefit from the availability of affordable housing for employees
 - Tenant rights
- Long-term prevention measures
 - Financial planning and budgeting education
 - Connection with mentors
- Eviction prevention: Reach out to landlords prior to eviction proceedings
- [Tenant/Landlord connection program](#)

Overall

Recommendations from the Study on Homelessness in Red Wing

- Any plans completed through the upcoming facilitation process should include [Community Solutions' indicators for a racially equitable homeless response system](#).
- 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)

Ideas from the community discussions and workgroups

- Develop a broader communications and awareness campaign to build community buy-in
- Education and training opportunities related to financial wellbeing and being a good renter
- Have a central organization designated to lead efforts