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Public, Private, and Non-Profit Leaders Announce New Plan to End Homelessness in Minnesota by 2020

Homelessness in Minnesota has decreased 8 percent overall and 20 percent for families with children since the initial Heading Home Plan was launched in 2014

The new plan outlines additional strategies for strengthening public-private-non-profit collaboration

Governor Dayton has proposed \$115 million for affordable housing in his 2018 Public Works Bill

ST. PAUL, MN – Thanks to a new, long-term commitment by the Heading Home Minnesota Funders Collaborative, leaders from the public, private, and non-profit sectors today announced a new plan to prevent and end homelessness by 2020. The new plan, [Heading Home Together: Minnesota's 2018-2020 Action Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness](#), will accelerate progress towards ending homelessness for veterans, chronically homeless individuals, unaccompanied youth and young adults, and families with children.

“We know how to end homelessness. Our partners across Minnesota are getting remarkable results. Despite this progress, many Minnesotans remain precariously housed in every corner of our state,” said Cathy ten Broeke, State Director to Prevent and End Homelessness. **“This plan and the commitment of these partners give us the opportunity to accelerate our progress and have a positive impact on the lives of more Minnesotans.”**

Despite rising rents and low vacancy rates, homelessness in Minnesota has decreased by 8 percent since 2014, when the initial Heading Home plan was launched. Homelessness has decreased by 20 percent for families, 27 percent for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness, and 56 percent for veterans since 2010.

The new plan will grow and formalize partnerships between state and local government, philanthropic, advocacy, faith, tribal, providers, community leaders, and those with lived experience of homelessness throughout the state to meet its goals and ensure that homelessness becomes rare, brief and one-time. A Leadership Circle will launch in April to collectively monitor progress, analyze gaps, and take action. This Leadership Circle will be Co-Chaired by Mary Tingerthal, Minnesota Housing Commissioner and Susan Bass Roberts, Pohlads Foundation Vice-President and Executive Director.

“Homelessness is an unacceptable problem that we know can be solved. In order to do this, we all have an important role to play,” said Susan Bass Roberts, Vice President and Executive Director, Pohlads Family Foundation. **“I am proud that through our new strategic focus on housing stability, the Pohlads Family Foundation will partner with others in our community to identify specific actions we can take to increase housing stability for families and youth.”**

The plan also identifies seven main principles for preventing homelessness from occurring and ensuring that people who do experience homelessness are quickly connected with safe and stable housing:

- (1) Identify and engage all people experiencing homelessness;
- (2) Ensure that everyone experiencing or at risk of homelessness can access a safe and appropriate crisis response through diversion, prevention, shelter, or crisis housing with appropriate services;
- (3) Rapidly link people experiencing homelessness with housing and services tailored to their needs, prioritizing the most vulnerable;
- (4) Prevent the loss of affordable housing and fill the gap in the number affordable and supportive housing opportunities available to people at risk of or experiencing homelessness;
- (5) Use a person-centered, trauma-informed, Housing First response to homelessness;
- (6) Help people experiencing or at risk of homelessness increase employment and income;
- (7) Organize plans and partnerships and increase system capacity to prevent and end homelessness on an ongoing basis.

The full plan and executive summary can be [viewed here](#).

Governor Dayton's \$115 Million Proposed Investment in Affordable Housing

More than 554,000 Minnesota households spend at least 30 percent of their income on rent or mortgage payments. With Minnesotans spending a higher percentage of their incomes on housing, they have fewer resources for other essentials such as education, food, healthcare, and transportation. Governor Dayton's public works proposal would invest \$115 million to improve access to safe, affordable housing, and ensure public housing remains safe and healthy for its residents. These investments will build upon the work the Dayton Administration has done since 2011 to expand access to affordable housing, and support the work of the new [Governor's Task Force on Housing](#). To learn more about Governor Dayton's 2018 public works proposal invests in strong communities and economies, [click here](#).

About the Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness

The Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness is made up of the Commissioners of 11 state agencies, the Chair of the Metropolitan Council, and the Governor's office. In December 2013, the Council developed and released the first version of Heading Home. The plan was re-issued in January 2016 with new strategies to guide efforts in 2016 and 2017. This current version of the plan includes strategies to guide efforts to end homelessness in Minnesota from 2018 through the end of 2020.

About the Heading Home Minnesota Funders Collaborative

The Heading Home Minnesota Funders Collaborative is a member organization comprised of grant makers and intermediaries committed to working together to prevent and end homelessness in Minnesota. The Funders Collaborative is investing in the support and infrastructure needed to realize Heading Home Together and this collective impact effort.

About the Pohlاد Family Foundation

The [Pohlاد Family Foundation](#) is built on a strong legacy of service and giving back to the community. Founded by Carl and Eloise Pohlاد in 1993, the Foundation has given more than \$160 million to improve the quality of life and provide opportunities for those most in need in the Twin Cities region. As of 2017, the Foundation has identified housing stability as its primary focus, and has set a new goal for its efforts: preventing and ending homelessness for families and youth in the Twin Cities.