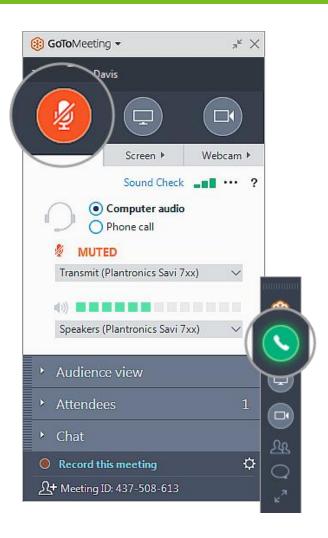




# Homework Starts with Home Information Session: Leveraging Mainstream Systems

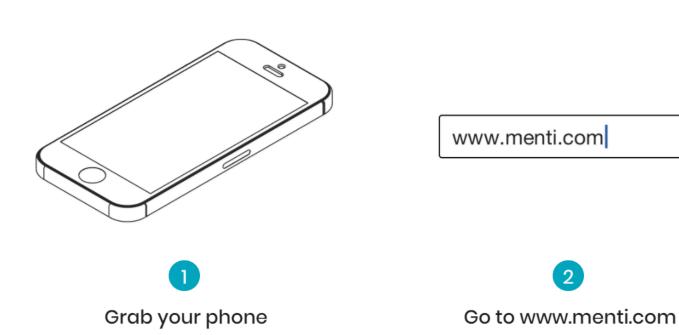
# Meeting logistics

- This session is being recorded and may be posted publicly.
- We will leave time at the end for questions.
- Don't forget to sign out and get your guest parking validation before you leave.
- If joining remotely...
  - Please mute your line unless you are speaking. Webinar audio controls are orange when muted.
  - Please do not put your line on hold as this may trigger hold music.
  - We will not be monitoring the chat function.



## To pose questions throughout this session...

Go to www.menti.com and use the code 51 30 3





Enter the code 51 30 3 and vote!

### Go to www.menti.com and use the code 51 30 3

# Which of the following best describes you?

Mentimeter







# Today's presenters

- Eric Grumdahl, Minnesota Department of Education and Minnesota Office to Prevent and End Homelessness
- Amy Stetzel, Minnesota Office to Prevent and End Homelessness
- Alison Niemi, Minnesota Department of Human Services and Minnesota Office to Prevent and End Homelessness
- Pete Bernardy, Results Management Team, Minnesota Management and Budget

# What do we mean by "mainstream systems"?

# Mainstream systems, programs, or services are those that:

- Typically serve a wide group of people (e.g., everyone below an income threshold)
- Don't exist to specifically serve people experiencing homelessness
- Can create housing stability when people experiencing homelessness can access and use their resources

Go to www.menti.com and use the code 51303

# Examples of mainstream programs

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# Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness

- Corrections
- Human Rights
- Human Services
- Metropolitan Council
- Public Safety
- Transportation
- Minnesota Housing and Finance

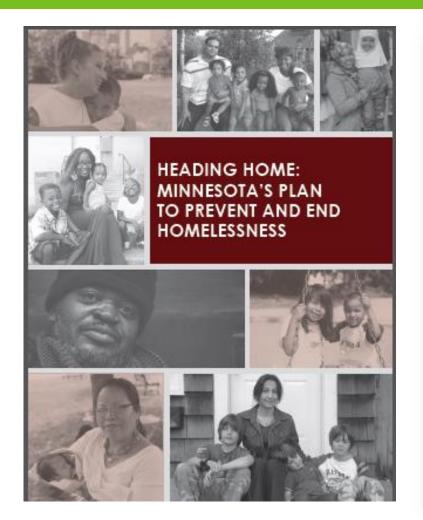
- Veterans Affairs
- Education
- Employment and Economic Development
- Governor's Office
- Health
- Higher Education

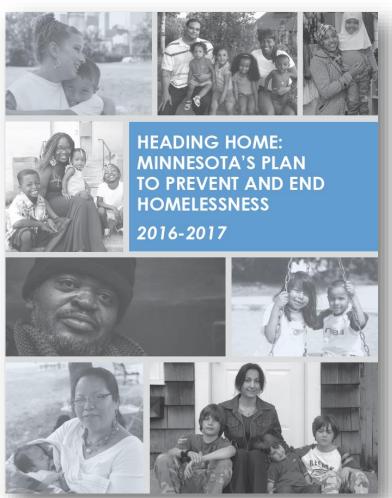
# Our Vision: Housing Stability for All Minnesotans

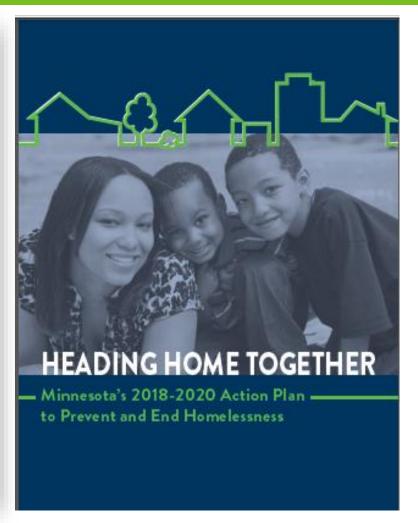
Stable housing results in better educational outcomes for our children, a stronger workforce now and in the future, increased public safety, better health, reduced health care costs, and reduced disparities among communities.

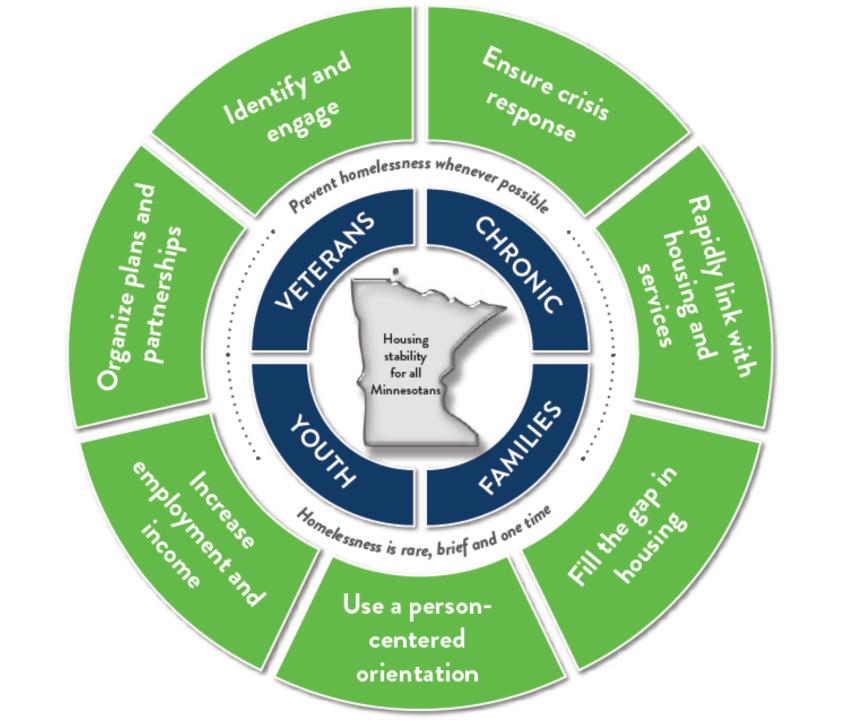
- Governor Dayton

## A New Plan – A New Partnership









# <u>Prevent</u> homelessness whenever possible, and otherwise making it <u>rare</u>, <u>brief</u>, and <u>non-recurring</u>



A set of guiding principles designed to improve access to resources that can help prevent or end homelessness for families and individuals.











# Foundational Service Practices: Why were they developed?

- People experiencing homelessness are often unable to access and use mainstream programs to the same extent as people who are more stably housed.
- While all low-income populations face barriers to applying for, retaining, and
  using the services provided by mainstream programs, these barriers are
  compounded by the inherent conditions of homelessness, such as transience,
  instability, and a lack of basic resources.
- The underlying structure and operations of mainstream programs are often not conducive to ensuring that the special needs of homeless people are met.

# Foundational Service Practices: How were they developed?

- Informed by interviews with key partners from around the state
- Incorporated national research, current federal and state guidelines, and program subject matter expertise



- Ask the question
- Collect and store data
- Develop response protocol

# Know the housing status of the people you are serving.



- Simple, easy and clear instructions
- Connect with homeless services staff
- Go to where people already are

# Actively reach out to people experiencing homelessness.



- At application/re-application/to receive services or benefits/to ask questions
- Drop-in hours
- Services are not cut off or dropped simply due to missed appointments

Limit requirements for in-person appointments at a particular location or office.



- Data sharing between agencies
- Hands-on application assistance
- Extra response time or other lenience if needed
- Funds to help with getting documents
- Free storage (DB101/HB101)

Assist with the process of gathering required verifications or documentation.











Custom Search





HOME MY SITUATION PROGRAMS & SERVICES MY VAULT GLOSSARY PARTNERS

### My Vault

If you are looking for a new place to live, the Vault is a safe place to build a plan. Your HB101 Plan can help you decide on your needs and wants, review your money and budget, and present yourself in a positive way. Your HB101 Plan won't find you a place, but it will help you figure out what to look for and how to pay for it.

Learn how your Vault can help you make a housing plan.



Get Help Now

Do you have a disability?

Are you 60 or older?

Are you a veteran?

Are you homeless?

Other?

Sign in or register to work with your Vault.

**Vault Tips** 

Do one activity at a time and come back later.

. . . . . . .

Sign In Register

- Do not require a personal mailing address or phone number
- Allow recipients a choice in how they want to receive information
- Allow for a 3<sup>rd</sup>-party contact person or authorized representative

# Allow for multiple methods to communicate about benefits and services.



- 1. Know the housing status of the people you are serving
- 2. Actively reach out to people experiencing homelessness
- Limit requirements for in-person appointments at a particular location or office
- 4. Assist with the process of gathering required verifications or documentation
- 5. Allow for multiple methods to communicate about benefits and services

### Results for Children and Youth initiative

- Multi-agency results-based initiative within Minnesota state government
- **Vision**: Ensure all Minnesota youth thrive and are prepared to contribute to the World's Best Workforce.
- Context: Minnesota ranks first in the nation for overall child well-being, but near the bottom for children of color and American Indian children.
- Mission: Eliminate barriers and create opportunity so that all children experience safe, stable, and nurturing environments and relationships – at home, at school, and in the community – and:
  - All children are ready for school
  - All children succeed from elementary school to high school:
  - Post-secondary education is affordable, accessible, and useful
  - These outcomes are universal, regardless of cultural, economic, and geographic backgrounds

# A work in progress

New cohort of systems and programs applying FSPs to their work:

- DHS Child Welfare
- MDH Home Visiting
- DEED Youth Programs
- MDE Early Childhood Family Education
- OHE Emergency Grant
- OHE Get Ready!
- MHFA Bridges

# Federal guidance

- Leveraging mainstream systems is a critical Federal strategy to prevent and end homelessness, including:
  - Using mainstream systems as direct support for people facing homelessness
  - Using mainstream systems to bolster or finance homelessness programs
- USICH's Enlisting Mainstream Resources and Programs to End Homelessness references specific Federal guidance across numerous programs.
- In many cases, Federal guidance indicates what is possible, but implementation is at local discretion.
- https://tinyurl.com/USICH-Mainstream-Systems



Federal programs targeted to homelessness are vital, but not sufficient, to achieve the goal of ending homelessness for all Americans. As described in Opening Doors, we must also enlist the larger set of federal, state and local programs that serve low-income Americans.

These "mainstream" resources, like TANF, Medicaid, and Housing Choice vouchers, provide housing, health care, income supports, and other forms of assistance. Many are significantly larger in scale than targeted homelessness programs and offer forms of assistance that targeted programs cannot. Some can help finance essential housing and services interventions, like supportive housing and rapid re-housing, that serve as the backbone of efforts to prevent and end homelessness.

Since state and local leaders often determine whether and to what extent these programs and resources support efforts to end homelessness, it is critical for the homelessness service system to build partnerships with the agencies that administer them. Your conversations should reinforce the importance of housing stability in achieving their broader mandates of economic success, health, or educational achievement. To help you with those conversations, federal agencies have clarified some of the ways that mainstream programs can serve and/or prioritize people experiencing homelessness, help finance and support housing and services interventions, or provide other assistance.

This document details some of the key federal mainstream programs and systems, and the ways that they can support efforts to prevent and end homelessness, along with guidance and tools that can assist you in enlisting these programs. This list is not exhaustive, and it will be updated as more guidance and resources are released.

#### Mainstream Housing

#### **Housing Choice Vouchers and Public Housing**

Housing Choice vouchers and public housing administered by public housing agencies (PHAs) are two of the largest sources of federal housing assistance for low-income households, and PHAs can play many different roles within community efforts to end homelessness. For example, they can provide affordable housing to people exiting homelessness, including supportive housing that is linked with dedicated case management and supportive services. You should work with your PHAs to adopt policies and practices that can prioritize people experiencing homelessness for housing assistance, decrease barriers to entry, link housing assistance to services to expand supportive housing, and other strategies.

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

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## Examples: PHAs and economic assistance

### **Public Housing Agencies**

- CSH's PHA Toolkit for Public Housing Agencies and their partners who want to end homelessness <a href="http://www.csh.org/phatoolkit">http://www.csh.org/phatoolkit</a>
- HUD's guide on collaboration between Continuums of Care and PHAs to end homelessness <a href="https://www.hudexchange.info/news/resources-for-coc-and-pha-collaboration-to-end-homelessness/">https://www.hudexchange.info/news/resources-for-coc-and-pha-collaboration-to-end-homelessness/</a>
- Minnesota Housing and MN-NAHRO's <u>Achieving Housing Stability Together</u> guide for potential roles for Minnesota's PHAs in ending homelessness

### **TANF / MFIP programs**

• HHS's Information Memorandum on the role that TANF can play in ending homelessness <a href="http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/tanf-acf-im-2013-01">http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/tanf-acf-im-2013-01</a>

# Examples: Education and workforce systems

#### **Education**

- HHS's guide on Expanding Early Care and Education for Homeless Children <a href="http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ecd/interagency-projects/ece-services-for-homeless-children">http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ecd/interagency-projects/ece-services-for-homeless-children</a>
- HUD and ED's guide on Housing and Education Cross-Systems Collaboration
   <a href="https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/resources-for-homeless-youth/housing-and-education-cross-systems-collaboration/">https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/resources-for-homeless-youth/housing-and-education-cross-systems-collaboration/</a>

### **Workforce systems**

DOL and USICH's Partnerships for Opening Doors report
 https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset library/Partnerships for Opening Doors.pdf

# Other examples

### Creating preferences, expedited access, and monitoring performance

MDE's Early Learning Scholarship Program

### Changing policies to improve participation for people in crisis

DHS's Child Care Assistance Program

### Go to www.menti.com and use the code 51 30 3

# **Questions?**

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# Thank you!

### For more information about Homework Starts with Home:

MDE's Homework Starts with Home page: <a href="http://education.mn.gov/MDE/fam/home/">http://education.mn.gov/MDE/fam/home/</a>

Minnesota Housing's Multifamily Grants page: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/MH-HSWH-2018">http://tinyurl.com/MH-HSWH-2018</a>

Register for upcoming info sessions: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/HSWH-info-sessions-2018">http://tinyurl.com/HSWH-info-sessions-2018</a>

Questions? Contact Diane Elias at diane.elias@state.mn.us or 651.284.3176