



A Plan to End Long-Term Homelessness in Rochester and Olmsted County

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Updated July 2009

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Dear Rochester and Olmsted County Policy-makers and Citizens,

The face of the homeless is not always recognizable to the public, but for those that work with poverty, youth, veterans, mental illness, chemical dependency and persons being released from prison, the deficiencies are known.

The Heading Home Olmsted Committee involved a diverse cross section of individuals from the private, private non-profit, and public sector. We are grateful to all the partners that helped formulate this plan, and are proud of the final document. We have developed a road map that will make a life altering difference to people who are homeless or who are at risk of homelessness within our county.

Olmsted County has made a commitment to address important issues in our community such as homelessness, and we are proud to have developed a plan that aligns Olmsted County with the Governor's goal to end long-term homelessness by 2010. The outcome will not only benefit the homeless, but the quality of life for all the residents in the county and the state.

Please join our efforts to help make "Heading Home Olmsted" a success!

Respectfully,

Judy Ohly
Heading Home Olmsted Committee
Olmsted County Commissioner
Rental Property Owner
Olmsted County Housing and Redevelopment Authority Commissioner

Executive Summary

The *Heading Home Olmsted* plan seeks to prevent and end long-term homelessness in Rochester and Olmsted County by using evidence-based service models and combining public-private resources. Our vision is a community where all persons have options for safe temporary or emergency housing and choices for a permanent place to live.

According to the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, there are approximately 2 million homeless Americans during the course of a year. In Minnesota, the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation has conducted a comprehensive *Statewide Survey of People Without Permanent Shelter* every three years since 1991. The most recent Wilder survey (October 2006)¹ reports there are 9,200 persons who are homeless or precariously housed on any given night in Minnesota. According to the Rochester/Southeast Minnesota Continuum of Care², on the night of the most recent homeless survey, there were 458 persons in our region experiencing homelessness. A large proportion of these persons are in Rochester or Olmsted County.

The crisis of homelessness has not been ignored by localities or the nation. In fact, over the past two decades much has been learned from the private and public agencies working to prevent homelessness and helping to move people out of long-term despair. And what we have learned is that we can go beyond *managing homelessness* to actually *ending it*.

Heading Home Olmsted sets forth five goals focused on three populations³ who are currently faced with the greatest challenges in temporary and permanent housing choices in Rochester/Olmsted County. *Heading Home Olmsted* also suggests ways to strengthen community and public policy support for ending homelessness.

¹ Wilder Research, <http://www.wilderresearch.org>

² SEMN Regional Plan to End Long-term Homelessness

³ Chronic homeless adults with disabilities; unaccompanied minors and homeless youth; homeless offenders re-entering community after prison release

Heading Home Olmsted Goals:

1. Expand resources to fund supportive services, outreach services, case management and housing subsidies for adults with chronic disabilities living in community scattered sites
2. Develop an on-site housing option for homeless youth and secure funding for supportive and outreach services
3. Develop a housing site option for homeless sex-offenders with appropriate support services and expand supportive services for non-sex offenders in generic community housing
4. Educate and build Neighborhood Support for Housing Solutions
5. Increase and leverage public investment and promote affirmative public policies that sustain adequate housing and support services for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless

Persons experiencing homelessness have a variety of needs. Our community is recognized for its proactive, innovative approaches to community problems. Now is the time to move forward and end homelessness in Rochester and Olmsted County.

"Ending homelessness is the right thing to do and makes great economic sense."

- Governor Tim Pawlenty

Mission

We seek to prevent and end long-term homelessness in Rochester and Olmsted County by developing local housing and supportive services that use evidence-based models and combine public and private resources.

Our vision is a community where all persons have options for safe temporary or emergency housing and choices for a permanent place to live.

"We can either waste money keeping people homeless or spend those dollars on a long-term solution that produces positive results for people and their communities."

- Corporation for Supportive Housing

Background

In 2000, the National Alliance to End Homelessness set forth *A Plan, Not a Dream: How to End Homelessness in Ten Years*⁴. Using research and innovative program data from around the country, the plan outlined a new vision ... one that included strategies to end the problem of homelessness by providing affordable housing, needed services, and by preventing homelessness from occurring in the first place.

The federal government announced its commitment to end homelessness in the FY-2003 Federal Budget and reinvigorated the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) to coordinate national efforts. The U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National League of Cities, and the National Association of Counties all passed resolutions in 2003 to end chronic homelessness in ten years. Since then over 220 communities have undertaken efforts to end homelessness and 150 communities have completed plans to end homelessness.

⁴ National Alliance to end Homelessness, available on website at <http://endhomelessness.org>

In March 2004, Minnesota adopted a statewide plan to end the cycle of homelessness with *Minnesota's Business Plan to End Homelessness*⁵ and *Heading Home Minnesota*, a coordinated public-private partnership to end homelessness, has funded four regional *Heading Home Initiatives* in Hennepin, Ramsey and St. Louis Counties and Southeast Minnesota.

Minnesota has well-established government agencies that have proven track records on issues of homelessness and affordable housing⁶ - the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency has demonstrated national leadership in its creative approach to providing affordable housing, and the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness promotes coordination and efficient programming across agencies.

The "Heading Home Olmsted" plan is intended to be a complementary effort to both the State's Plan and the Heading Home Southeast Minnesota Plan to End Long-Term Homelessness⁷.

Local Context

The median income for residents in Rochester and Olmsted County generally ranks above the State norm and our overall rates of unemployment and poverty are comparatively low. Mayo Clinic enriches the quality of healthcare available locally and regionally. There is an active, involved business community and political leaders who support citizen participation in local problem-solving. In Olmsted County there is a strong public and non-profit human service network.

Ironically, it is because of these factors that homelessness can be somewhat invisible and conditions of people in poverty unnoticed. There are

⁵ Minnesota's Business Plan to end Homelessness (2004) is available online at <http://www.mnhousing.gov/initiatives/housing-assistance/homelessness/index.aspx>

⁶ "Bring Minnesota Home," Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless, <http://mnhomelesscoalition.org>

⁷ Southeastern Minnesota Regional Plan to End Long-term Homelessness (2005) is available online at http://www.threeriverscap.org/programs_coc.html

people living under bridges in Rochester, and we have people who are unable to meet their basic needs throughout Olmsted County.

We are a wealthy community and fortunate to have a myriad of resources; yet we are still challenged with the same barriers to ending homelessness as exist in other communities in Minnesota and across the Nation:

- ***Affordable housing***

Housing is considered "affordable" if it consumes 30% or less of a household's gross income. The 2007 "Fair Market" rent⁸ in Olmsted County is currently at \$536/month for an efficiency apartment, \$572/month for a one-bedroom, and \$752 for a two-bedroom. A majority of the homeless population lives on limited earnings or fixed incomes. Many adults with disabilities must rely solely on assistance benefits. The monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments for an individual are \$603 in Olmsted County. If SSI represents an individual's sole source of income, \$181 in monthly rent is affordable!

Rental subsidies can sometimes help with housing costs, but resources are limited. The Federal Department of Housing & Urban Development's Section 8 program has a portable subsidy arrangement, but in Olmsted County there is a waiting list of several years. While other housing assistance programs may have funding available, it's often restrictive (like no deposit payments or the money is available for one-time help or crisis assistance). In addition, some subsidized housing has restrictions that prevent certain segments of the homeless population (felony offenders) from gaining access to permanent housing at an affordable level.

- ***Funding and Service Silos***

Although there is a fairly strong commitment to collaboration in our region, our "system" remains largely fragmented with funding and

⁸ National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC), [website http://www.nlihc.org](http://www.nlihc.org)

services lacking the integration needed to go beyond "managing the homeless" to "ending homelessness." For the most part, local collaborative initiatives have focused on *long-term homelessness*, mostly involving single adults. Less has been developed for homeless youth, offenders, and families.

- ***Myths and Stigma***

Housing proposals seeking to prevent or end long-term homelessness often face public push-back because of fear, misunderstanding, stigma, or bias.

State and local ordinances aimed at ensuring safe neighborhoods can add to the difficulty in securing temporary or transitional housing, for example, for those with credit problems or criminal backgrounds.

Planning Process

A "Heading Home Olmsted Committee"⁹ was established by the Olmsted County Community Services Department in September, 2007. The work reflected in this document includes input from the entire Committee as well as information from three sub-committees who identified local needs and developed strategies to specifically address ending homelessness with disabled adults, youth, and offender populations.

The Rochester/Southeast Minnesota Continuum of Care (CoC) is a regional planning consortium to organize and deliver housing and services to meet specific needs of people who are homeless. The planning region consists of 20 counties in southeast and south central Minnesota and allocates federal resources to projects based on a community ranking process. The CoC is a partner in the "Heading Home Olmsted" planning process.

⁹ See Appendix A for full listing of members

Scope

The following definitions encompass those whose needs are being addressed in *Heading Home Olmsted*:

- Households experiencing **long term homelessness** include "individuals, unaccompanied youth, and families with children lacking a permanent place to live continuously for one year, or have been homeless at least four times in the past three years, excluding any period of institutionalization or incarceration." *State of Minnesota*
- A **chronic homeless** person is "an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more, or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years." *Federal HUD*
- **Homeless youth** means a person 21 years of age or younger who is unaccompanied by a parent or guardian and is without shelter where appropriate care and supervision are available, whose parent or legal guardian is unable or unwilling to provide shelter and care, or who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. *State of Minnesota*
- **Youth at-risk of homelessness** means a person 21 years of age or younger whose status or circumstances indicate a significant danger of experiencing homelessness in the near future. *State of Minnesota*

Existing Local Resources

Olmsted County has a long track record of developing local partnerships with public, non-profit, and private-sector stakeholders to address solutions to community challenges. A variety of local and regional agencies, both public and private, have considerable experience in serving people experiencing housing instability and homelessness.

We are currently partners in the *Heading Home SE Minnesota Plan*. We receive funding through the Long Term Homeless Supportive Services Plan for our Homeless Services Team, which is a part of the Governor's Initiative to End Homelessness.

The listing below identifies the principle local services now addressing housing stability and permanency efforts in Rochester and Olmsted County. The list also identifies the organization that operates the services, indicating its non-profit, public, or private status. Almost without exception, services are supported through a combination of private and public funding (local, state, federal government).

Existing Emergency Shelter

Dorothy Day Hospitality House Private, non-profit agency	23 beds for homeless single adults; sometimes families if space is available
Rochester Salvation Army Private, non-profit agency	Emergency Shelter Vouchers. When Dorothy Day is full or if law enforcement finds a need in the night, homeless people seeking a place to sleep can access these vouchers for a short-term motel/hotel stay
Interfaith Hospitality Network Private, non-profit agency	14 homeless persons can be served at a time; families only, no singles
Women's Shelter Private, non-profit agency	30 beds in two shelters available for women and children who are homeless due to domestic violence or who fear harm.
Rochester Area Family Y Private, non-profit agency	LINK Program. Limited funding to assist youth with emergency shelter
Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center Private, non-profit agency	Residential Treatment. Short-term residential treatment for persons experiencing mental health episodes; 12 beds for up to 90-days; 4 crisis beds for no more than 10-day stay.

Existing Transitional Housing

Rochester Salvation Army	Transitional Living. 9 apartments with 35 beds for single adults and families.
Rochester Area Family Y	LINK Program. Rent subsidies to assist homeless youth aged 18-21 in getting a stable living arrangement
Civic INN Private, for-profit company	Commercial property with flexible lease arrangements for Olmsted County Community Service clients

Transitional Living Center	10 bed unit for ex-offenders coming out of local detention or prison, stays limited to 90 days. DFO Correction and ATTIC collaborative
Women's Shelter	One house with 11 beds available for women and children who are homeless due to domestic violence or who fear harm.

Existing Supportive Housing for Adults with Disabilities who are homeless

Olmsted County Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Public agency	Francis Apartments. Permanent supported housing; 17 efficiency apartments for adults with mental illness, chemical dependency, or HIV who are homeless
Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center	Shelter Plus Care Sites. Permanent support housing for adults with mental illness who are homeless; 12 subsidized apartments in scattered community sites
Olmsted County HRA	Bridges Program. Subsidies to persons with a verifiable serious and persistent mental illness if they meet the State long term homeless definition and are financially eligible which is determined by HRA. There are 7 subsidies.
Rochester Salvation Army	Castleview Apartments. 16 units for single adults

Existing Supportive Housing for Adults with Disabilities

Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center	Thomas House. Permanent supported group residential housing for adults with mental illness; 6 private bedrooms, board & lodging
Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center	Shared Housing. Congregate supported housing for adults with mental illness
Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center	Northgate Apartments. Permanent supported site subsidized apartments for adults with mental illness; 12 1-bedroom apartments
Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center	Scattered Site Apartments. Permanent supported housing for adults with mental illness; 38 subsidized apartments in scattered community sites
Olmsted County Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA)	Bridges Program. Subsidies to persons with a verifiable serious and persistent mental illness if they are financially eligible which is determined by HRA. There are 7 subsidies.

Specialized Housing

Cronin Home Private, non-profit agency	44 beds for persons suffering from chemical dependency, 28 male and 16 female.
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Specialized, Supportive Services

Olmsted County Adult Services Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center Hearth Connection Public-Private partnership	Homeless Services Team. Serves 40 long-term homeless single adults. Provides intensive case management services with a housing first focus. Services include, but not limited to: laundry, grocery shopping, applying for benefits from federal, state, and local agencies, mental and chemical health support and treatment, medication monitoring, and medical and dental needs.
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Homeless Prevention & Other Housing Assistance

Olmsted Community Action Program Public agency	Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP). Provides homeless prevention assistance for rent to assist participants in remaining in their homes. Services include rent, some case management, budget counseling, information and referral.
Olmsted County Veteran Services Public agency	Assists veterans in applying for temporary financial assistance from the State Soldiers Assistance Program (SSAP). SSAP is income and asset based and includes shelter, personal needs allowances and utility payments for veterans who are unable to work for a period of at least 30 days. Veterans in receipt of public cash assistance benefits such as General Assistance (GA), Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), are not eligible. In addition, there is a once in a lifetime "Special Needs Grant" for unforeseen financial emergencies. The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) also provides assistance for veterans that are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Services include resources for food, mortgage assistance, skills training, health care, chemical dependency treatment and sobriety aftercare, job search assistance, counseling and legal assistance.
Olmsted County Adult Services, Community Services Department	Crisis Housing Fund. These funds are used to help individuals with SPMI maintain their housing while in residential treatment for MI and/or CD. Funds can be

Public agency	used to pay mortgage, rent and/or utilities. Case Managers apply directly to MN Housing for funding.
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Other Options for Housing stability or permanency

Olmsted County Family Support & Assistance Public agency	Emergency County Aid is intended to provide a cost-effective intervention that resolves a current shelter crisis that the eligible household cannot otherwise meet with their own resources. Assistance available once in a 12-month period.
Rochester Salvation Army	Rural Housing Assistance and Stability Program (RHASP) assists homeless families and individuals with first month's rent and/or deposit. Assistance is provided to households who find themselves homeless according to HUD's definition.
Olmsted County Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA)	Transitional Rent Assistance Program (T-RAP). A program funded by the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) that will be used to serve single female heads of household with at least one minor child, households of color, and priority for homeless or near homeless. Household must have income below 30% of the median income. The maximum rent assistance will be \$250 and the Olmsted County HRA expects to serve 20 households.
Choices of Southeastern Minnesota Private, non-profit agency	The Choices program serves displaced home makers in the community. The assistance depends on what the displaced person needs to become employed in the community and is determined on a case by case basis.

Strategies to End Long-Term Homelessness

Goal #1: Expand resources to fund supportive and outreach services for homeless adults to live in community scattered sites

Additional services and housing is needed to fully assist the chronically homeless adult population in Rochester and Olmsted County. The "chronically homeless," as defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), is an unaccompanied homeless adult with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

Evidence exists that housing stability reduces the need for high cost services such as hospitalizations, emergency visits, and Detox. Communities are safer and benefit when services are provided to chronically homeless adults. As homeless adults become stable they will begin to contribute to our community by working, paying taxes, and spending on their basic needs. .

Housing for the adult chronically homeless population is best addressed using scattered sites within the community. Supportive services and case management are the critical components to ensuring housing stability for this population.

Strategies:

- Obtain funding to expand the availability of supportive services, case management and housing subsidies for individuals with mental health/chemical dependency conditions in scattered housing sites within the community.
- Obtain funding to develop congregate care/housing for adults with chronic chemical dependency
- Continue developing partnerships with other organizations to provide for an array of support services and treatment options.
- Build strong landlord-tenant connections to enhance availability of scattered community housing sites.

Strategy 1.a:

Obtain funding to expand the availability of supportive services, outreach services, case management and housing subsidies for individuals with mental health/chemical dependency conditions in scattered housing sites within the community.

Lead Entity: Olmsted County Adult and Family Services

Action Steps	Potential Partners	Timeline
Support Legislative efforts to add support funding to the existing housing resources/subsidies	Hearth Connection Local Legislative Delegation Minnesota Housing	2009 Legislative Session And Ongoing
Increase Community Social Services Advisory Board's priority with regard to support for supportive services funding	Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center (ZVMHC) and the Homeless Services Team	1/09 through 12/10

Strategy 1.b:

Obtain funding to develop congregate care/housing for adults with chronic chemical dependency.

Lead Entity: Olmsted County Adult and Family Services

Action Steps	Potential Partners	Timeline
Utilize banked, enhanced rate Group Residential Housing slots	Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS), Group Residential Housing (GRH) Coordinator Minnesota Housing St Louis County	1/09 through 12/09
Explore potential to utilize Chemical Dependency Treatment Funds available for Service Coordination	Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS), Chemical Health Division Community Chemical Health Services providers	1/09 through 12/09

Strategy 1.c:

Continue developing partnerships with other organizations to provide for an array of support services and treatment options.

Lead Entity: Olmsted County Adult and Family Services

Action Steps	Potential Partners	Timeline
Identify needed support services for Homeless individuals	Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center Salvation Army Dorothy Day	2/08 through 12/2010
Develop Research Based Supported Employment Programs	Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center	2/08 through 12/2010

Strategy 1.d:

Build strong landlord-tenant connections to enhance availability of scattered community housing sites.

Lead Entity: Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center

Action Steps	Potential Partners	Timeline
Coordinate and Enhance existing Landlord connections.	Hearth Connection Local Landlord Association Olmsted County Adult & Family Services	Ongoing

UPDATE October 2008: ADULTS The new Washington Village building will have four units for homeless. Shery Block states that since the Homeless Services Team program began, they have been full in a short period of time along with The Francis and Castlevew. There is a great need in our community.

UPDATE JANUARY 2009- Strategy 1.b: CD Supportive Housing Initiative-Adult Services and HRA are partnering to prepare for application for MHFA building funding in June 2009. Stakeholder group is looking for County Board approval needed to move forward with this application. The group is gathering data to support the cost effectiveness of serving this population with a Housing First and Harm Reduction Model like the San Marco in Duluth, MN.

Update April, 2009

Strategy 1.a: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding- There will be some opportunities additional funding for Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re Housing through HUD. There have been some initial regional planning meetings. Further work will be done within Region

10 through the FHPAP/ RHASP programs to be ready to respond to an RFP expected sometime in late May.

Strategy 1.b CD Supportive Housing: Planning continues for a 40 bed supportive housing project utilizing Group Residential Housing (GRH) service funding, to be located at the Community Services Campus. County Administration has determined that the project must offer a Request for Proposals (RFP) for lease of the site at the Campus for this purpose. Once given the go ahead by the County Board, an RFP will be developed for the development, construction and on-going operation of supportive housing specifically for the chronic inebriate population. Inclusive in this proposal will be the expectation that some of the individuals served by this facility would be homeless by MN definition.

Strategy 1.c and 1.d Washington Village: Four people working with the Zumbro Valley Homeless Services Team were able to move into the Washington Village apartments on February 27th. Joe Weis and Weis Management dedicated 4 apartments in this building to serve homeless individuals. The Homeless Services Team reports the new residents were the first people to move into the building and were able to choose their own apartment. All of the new residents had been living in other apartments but because they retain their "Homeless" status, they were able to move into better housing. All are very happy and the apartments are beautiful. The Team will continue to work with the new residents indefinitely to support them in this new permanent housing opportunity. Continue this strategy to partner with developers willing to provide units in new construction to serve homeless.

Update July, 2009

Strategy 1.a : Homeless Prevention Rapid Rehousing (HPRP) grant writing is taking place across the region. Local agencies include the Salvation Army and the Women's Shelter. Awards should be announced sometime in late August.

Strategy 1.b CD Supportive Housing: RFP was to lease county land was awarded to Center City Housing, Corp. from Duluth. They will be working collaboratively with Olmsted County Adult Services on planning for the 40 bed supportive housing program for chronic inebriates. Application to Minnesota Housing is due by October.

Strategy 1.c: Group Residential Housing applications are on the rise. Existing providers are adding new homes and there are two new providers who have opened homes. All are willing to serve individuals with mental illnesses, history of chemical dependency and homeless. This adds an additional 17 beds to the current GRH capacity.

Goal #2: Develop an on-site housing option for homeless youth and secure funding for supportive and outreach services

Unaccompanied minors and homeless youth are a growing population within Rochester and Olmsted County whose housing needs remain largely unmet. It is estimated that about 75 youth each year, some with young children, need emergency housing options and assistance in finding permanent living arrangements.

Youth who are homeless present unique challenges because of their age as well as barriers found among adult homeless populations- criminal record, limited or no income, poor or no credit history, and mental health, chemical, and disability conditions.

While some youth may be able to use scattered site housing, this model is less appropriate and effective for them. A single-site with centralized services and security is better able to meet the needs of homeless youth.

Strategies:

- Obtain funding to renovate/build a single-site housing facility to provide supported housing, and limited emergency housing, for approximately 20 youth (single and those with families).
- Obtain funding for case management and related services needed to assist youth in reaching personal and housing stability.
- Develop service, facility, and funding options to address needs of youth "at risk" of homelessness.

Strategy 2.a:

Obtain funding to renovate/build a single-site housing facility to provide supported housing, and limited emergency housing, for approximately 20 youth (single and those with families).

Lead Entity: LINK Program at the Rochester Area Family Y

Action Steps	Potential Partners	Timeline
Develop single site housing facility for youth	Olmsted County Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA), Minnesota Housing, Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH), others yet to be identified	2008-2010

Strategy 2.b:

Obtain funding for case management and related services needed to assist youth in reaching personal and housing stability.

Lead Entity: LINK Program at the Rochester Area Family Y

Action Steps	Potential Partners	Timeline
Apply for any and all appropriate grants	Minnesota Department of Human Services, Olmsted County Community Services, Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH),	Funding cycle FY 2009

Strategy 2.c:

Develop service, facility and funding options to address needs of youth "at risk" of homelessness.

Lead Entity: LINK Program at the Rochester Area Family Y

Action Steps	Potential Partners	Timeline
Apply for any and all appropriate grants	Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS), Olmsted County Community Services, Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH),	Funding cycle FY 2009

UPDATE October 2008 YLINK along with HRA are working on an application for a shelter for youth. It is an extensive application process and takes more than a year. They are also hoping for more supportive service dollars as well.

UPDATE January 2009, Strategy 2.a - Gary Lueders from HRA and Teresa Byland from Y-LINK are attending the 08-09 session of the Supportive Housing Institute offered by the Corporation for Supportive Housing in Minneapolis. This will help position them to apply for MHFA building funding in June 2009.

UPDATE April 2009, Strategy 2.a Y Link and Olmsted County HRA continue to partner in planning for what they hope to will be a 20 unit, new construction facility, with space for staff, to serve homeless youth. Because they have not yet secured a site for this project and continue to seek funding for the operating budget, they are not aggressively pursuing capital funds from MHFA at this time.

UPDATE July 2009, Strategy 2.a : Nothing new to report

Goal #3: Develop a housing site option with support services for homeless sex-offenders, and expand supportive services for other offenders in generic scattered-site community housing

Persons being released from prison face a wide array of re-entry challenges. Finding gainful employment with a criminal record is challenging. Local ordinances may limit where offender housing may be located. Neighborhoods are often reluctant to embrace the development of offender housing. Rental subsidies available to low income people may exclude those with certain criminal backgrounds.

Sex offenders face even more restrictions on where and with whom they can live. Offenders with mental health issues are released from prison with limited supplies of medication and face the added challenge of getting timely psychiatric/medical care for their conditions.

On average, there are more than one hundred prison releasees who are released as homeless offenders into our community each year and County probation personnel are expected to assist with their re-entry. For quite a few years, our community has made extensive use of a local hotel, the Civic Inn, for temporary or transitional housing. However, this facility/property is on the market to be sold and may no longer be available to meet short-term offender housing needs. This adds urgency for our community to develop offender housing options.

Housing stability reduces the likelihood of re-offending and builds on overall community safety.

Strategies:

- Secure funding for short-term non-sex offender housing options including congregate as well as community scattered sites.
- Obtain funding to develop a single-site supported housing option for offenders needing more intense supervision, treatment, and support.
- Continue developing partnerships with other organizations to provide for an array of support services and treatment options.

- Build strong landlord-tenant connections to enhance availability of scattered community housing sites.

Strategy 3.a: Secure funding for short-term offender housing options including congregate as well as community scattered sites.

Lead Entity: Dodge-Fillmore-Olmsted (DFO) Community Corrections

Action Steps	Potential Partners	Timeline
Work with local agencies, county board, local legislators and the Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) to obtain funding to create and maintain such sites	Housing Redevelopment Authority, (HRA), Minnesota Housing, Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC), Private for profit and non-profit companies, ATTIC Correctional Services	Accomplished *See January 2009 update below

Strategy 3.b: Obtain funding to develop single-site supported housing option for offenders needing more intense supervision, treatment, and support.

Lead Entity: Dodge-Fillmore-Olmsted (DFO) Community Corrections

Action Steps	Potential Partners	Timeline
Work with Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA), county board, legislature and local developers to find a suitable site which can be developed or redeveloped and the funding for such.	Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA), Minnesota Housing, Private developers, private non-profit organizations, treatment providers, employment support services, local and state legislative members,	Within 5 years

Strategy 3.c: Continue developing partnerships with other organizations to provide for an array of support services and treatment options.

Lead Entity: Dodge-Fillmore-Olmsted (DFO) Community Corrections

Action Steps	Potential Partners	Timeline
Continue to collaborate to see new services developed, to ensure a non-duplication of services	Employment services, social services, Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center, private treatment providers, Department of Corrections, medical community,	On-going
Develop new services in	All agencies, public and private, who	On-going

areas with gaps.	provide services that may address needs presented by supervised offenders	
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Strategy 3.d:

Build strong landlord-tenant connections to enhance availability of scattered community housing sites.

Lead Entity: Dodge-Fillmore-Olmsted (DFO) Community Corrections

Action Steps	Potential Partners	Timeline
Continue to collaborate with landlords and seek out new landlords	Private landlords, Community Supportive Housing, ATTIC Correctional Services, Minnesota Department of Corrections, Zoning and Planning	2010
Meet bi-annually or as needed with frequently used landlords to provide support and information.		2010

UPDATE October 2008 Transitional housing was obtained at the space vacated by Many Rivers. There will be 8 beds to start with. This is a short term solution, up to a year. If need be, there may be an option for 8 more beds.

UPDATE – November 2008 On December 1st DFO Community Corrections will open the Transitional Living Center using the former Many Rivers Residential Treatment Center space to house Olmsted County citizens returning to the community after a period of incarceration. It is our hope that the number of beds used for this purpose will remain at a maximum of eight and that re-entry for this group will mean moving in to stable housing in the community as quickly as possible.

DFO Community Corrections will partner with ATTIC, a private non-profit agency, that has experience in managing these types of facilities in other communities in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Wanda Berg is the DFO Community Corrections Program Manager in charge of this project and Bill Franken, Sr. Probation Officer, will be the lead staff person working with ATTIC on the day to day issues of managing this facility.

We look forward to this resource being a valuable component of re-entry services in Olmsted County.

***UPDATE- January, 2009- Strategy 3a.** “On December 1, 2008, in a partnership with the Minnesota Department of Correction and ATTIC, DFO Community Corrections opened an eight bed Transitional Living Center. This facility will provide short term housing for offender being released from prison or local detention centers. The facility will be managed and supervised jointly by the non-profit agency ATTIC and DFO Community Corrections. The eight bed facility is on the Olmsted County Human Services Campus in the building that formerly housed Many Rivers Regional Treatment Center.”

UPDATE- April, 2009- Strategy 3a Olmsted County Transitional Living Center

On December 1, 2008 DFO Community Corrections, in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Corrections, opened an 8 bed Transitional Living Center to provide short term housing for offenders being released from prison or the local detention center. Admissions came quickly and the facility was at capacity by mid February. Because demand for this type of housing has been high, the program added 2 additional beds for a total of 10 beds, on April 1, 2009. Since opening December 1, 2008 there have been 16 residents admitted to the facility. 3 residents have been able to successfully transition out of the facility to appropriate housing in the community. 3 residents have been returned to prison for parole violations. The Transitional Living Center serves to prevent homelessness and improve the chance that offenders can integrate back into the community successfully.

UPDATE- July 2009- Strategy 3a: Since December, 2008, The Transitional Living Center has had 27 admissions, 9 successful transitions to the community, 7 currently residing and capacity is 10. 11 reoffended or violated conditions of release and were returned to detention facilities. The 9 who transitioned to the community did so within 3 months to an approved living situation.

The Civic Inn was purchased by two local business men who plan to continue serving the ex-offender population. The Civic Inn has 54 rooms and has been willing to serve this difficult to place population.

Goal #4: Build Neighborhood Support for Housing Solutions

Often neighborhood concerns (*Not in my backyard - NIMBY*) interfere with the development of housing solutions needed for ending homelessness or for ensuring availability of adequate affordable housing. The myths and stigma associated with people with mental health conditions, who are homeless, and who are poor often create doubt and fear among existing residents when new developments are planned.

Strategy:

- Establish a process where proponents of housing options (builders, low income/homeless residents/service providers) can coordinate their efforts at public hearings and/or neighborhood meetings to share information, address concerns, and alleviate fears.

Strategy 4.a:

Establish a process where proponents of housing options can coordinate their efforts at public hearings and/or neighborhood meetings to share information, address concerns, and alleviate fears.

Lead Entity: Olmsted Community Action Program

Action Steps	Potential Partners	Timeline
Develop a call list for local leaders, community members who support various housing options, experts in the area of the type of housing and tenants from other low income housing. Each committee member provide two names of supporters and create a committee to meet bi-annually	Developers, Landlords, Case Managers, Law Enforcement, neighborhood residents supporting the effort	On-going
Contact experts in the field to prepare information	Develop fact sheets or presentations to educate public relating to types of housing and tenants	On-going

UPDATE -January 2009- Strategy 4.a CAP staff continue efforts to engage local leaders and housing advocates interested in speaking at neighborhood meetings.

Goal #5: Increase and leverage public investment and promote affirmative public policies that sustain adequate housing and supportive services for persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless

Federal and State investment and public-private partnerships in local housing solutions are essential. This includes policies that support rental subsidies, construction, and supportive services as well as funding packages that favor different ways for homelessness to be addressed at the local level.

Strategies:

- Build upon existing partnerships with the Department of Human Services/State of Minnesota to address new, coordinated ways of funding housing and services.
- Leverage funding opportunities through public-private initiatives such as "Heading Home."
- Advocate for changes in the discharge planning practices/policies of the state prison system that improve the effectiveness of local re-entry.

Strategy 5.a:

Build upon existing partnerships to address new, coordinated ways of funding housing and services.

Lead Entity: Paul Fleissner, Director Community Services, Joe Weis, Developer

Action Steps	Potential Partners	Timeline
Leverage funding opportunities through public-private initiatives such as "Heading Home."	Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS); Minnesota Housing; foundation and grants available through public/private resources	Ongoing; as needed to support initiatives to accomplish goals of Plan

Strategy 5.b:

Advocate for changes in the discharge planning practices/policies of the state prison system that improve the effectiveness of local re-entry.

Lead Entity: DODGE-FILLMORE-OLMSTED Community Corrections/Board

Action Steps	Potential Partners	Timeline
<p>We will work with the Department of Corrections to expand timelines to allow for better planning. Dodge-Fillmore-Olmsted (DFO) Community Corrections staff will work more closely with prison case managers and offenders prior to release so that few offenders come out lacking a specific address or residence/housing site.</p>	<p>Department of Corrections case managers; offenders to be released and local housing providers.</p>	<p>To be completed by June 30, 2008</p>

Appendix A: Heading Home Olmsted Committee

- Jeff Allman, Developer
- Jim Behrends, Director, Olmsted County Adult Social Services
- Shery Block , Homeless Services Team
- Teresa Byland, LINK Program at the Rochester Area Family Y
- Linda Bradford, Olmsted Community Action Plan
- Arlen Carey, Winona State University
- Corrine Erickson, Olmsted County Adult Services
- Lisa Flanders, Adult Foster Care Provider
- Paul Fleissner, Director, Olmsted County Community Services Department
- Bill Franken, DFO Community Corrections
- Brenda Johnson, Olmsted Community Action Program
- Nate Johnson, SE MN Association of REALTORS
- Sandy Keith, Downtown Alliance
- Doug Lambert, Director, Dodge-Fillmore-Olmsted (DFO) Community Corrections
- Gary Lueders, Olmsted County Housing Redevelopment Authority
- Mary Mewhorter, The Francis, Olmsted County Adult Services
- Cindy Norgaard, Salvation Army
- Judy Ohly, Olmsted County Commissioner and Landlord
- Alan O'Malley Laursen, Olmsted County Child & Family Services
- Angie Peterson, Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center Mental Health Center
- Susan Thompson, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency
- Mary Ulland-Evans, Rochester/Southeast Minnesota Continuum of Care
- Mary Vrieze, Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services
- Tim Van Riper, Landlord
- Joe Weis, Developer
- Mina Wilson, Director, Olmsted County Family Support and Assistance

Appendix B: Terms and Definitions

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines **homeless or homeless individual or homeless person** to include—

1. an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and
2. an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is —
3. a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill);
4. an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or
5. a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

HUD defines **homeless youth** as a person under 18 years of age that meets the criteria for homeless or homeless individual or homeless person.

HUD defines **chronic homeless** as either (1) an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has been continuously homeless for a year or more, OR (2) an unaccompanied individual with a disabling condition who has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.”

The State of Minnesota defines as **homeless** any individual, unaccompanied youth or family that is without a permanent place to live that is fit for human habitation.” Doubling-up is considered homeless if that arrangement has persisted more than 1 year.

The State of Minnesota defines an individual, unaccompanied youth or family as **long-term homeless** if they are without a home for a year or more OR have had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years. Any period of institutionalization or incarceration (including transitional housing, prison/jail, treatment, hospitals, foster care, or refugee camps) shall be excluded when determining the length of time the household has been homeless).

Homeless youth means a person 21 years of age or younger who is unaccompanied by a parent or guardian and is without shelter where appropriate care and supervision are available, whose parent or legal guardian is unable or unwilling to provide shelter and care, or who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The following are not fixed, regular, or adequate nighttime residences:

- a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations;
- an institution or a publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations;
- transitional housing;
- a temporary placement with a peer, friend, or family member that has not offered permanent residence, a residential lease, or temporary lodging for more than 30 days; or
- a public or private place not designed for, nor ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. Homeless youth does not include persons incarcerated or otherwise detained under federal or state law.

Youth at risk of homelessness means a person 21 years of age or younger whose status or circumstances indicate a significant danger of experiencing homelessness in the near future. Status or circumstances that indicate a significant danger may include:

- youth exiting out-of-home placements;

- youth who previously were homeless;
- youth whose parents or primary caregivers are or were previously homeless;
- youth who are exposed to abuse and neglect in their homes;
- youth who experience conflict with parents due to chemical or alcohol dependency, mental health disabilities, or other disabilities; and
- runaways.

Runaway means an unmarried child under the age of 18 years who is absent from the home of a parent or guardian or other lawful placement without the consent of the parent, guardian, or lawful custodian.

Definition Links:

www.hud.gov

www.wilder.org

www.deed.state.mn.us/youth

Supportive housing is permanent affordable rental housing with linkages to services necessary for persons to maintain housing stability, live in the community, and lead successful lives.

Supportive housing includes a landlord-tenant relationship and services offered in conjunction with housing.

- *Single-site* housing is located in one building or in one area. Single-site supportive housing can be as small as a duplex or as large as an apartment building.
- *Scattered-site* housing may be single-family homes, townhomes, duplexes or apartments throughout the community.

Studies of supportive housing nationwide and in Minnesota show a better use of housing and service resources that result in improved outcomes for persons without substantially increasing costs

Minnesota's Business Plan to end Homelessness, 2004

Housing First is a housing-service model based on the premise that issues such as mental illness and chemical dependency cannot be addressed without a stable place to live. Without housing, services and supports cannot be effective.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Blueprint for Change: ending Chronic Homelessness
for Persons with Serious Mental Illness and/or Co-Occurring
Substance Use Disorders, 2003

Veteran defined. The word "veteran" as used in Minnesota Statutes, except in sections 136F.28, 196.21, and 243.251, means a citizen of the United States or a resident alien who has been separated under honorable conditions from any branch of the armed forces of the United States after having served on active duty for 181 consecutive days or by reason of disability incurred while serving on active duty, or who has met the minimum active duty requirement as defined by Code of Federal Regulations, title 38, section 3.12a, or who has active military service certified under section 401, Public Law Number 95-202. The active military service must be certified by the United States Secretary of Defense as active military service and a discharge under honorable conditions must be issued by the Secretary.

Appendix C: Contacts and Resource Links

- ATTIC Correctional Services. www.correctionalservices.org
- Bridges Program – Serious and Persistent Mental Illness – 507-328-6644
- Choices Displaced Homemaker Program, 507-280-5510
- Cronin Home, 507-282-1204, on the internet, do a search for Cronin Homes, Rochester MN
- Dorothy Day Hospitality House, 507-282-5172
- Homeless Services Team, 507-287-1392 <http://www.zumbromhc.org> click on services, click on homeless services
- Interfaith Hospitality Network, 507-281-3122 <http://www.ihn-greater-rochester.org>
- LINK Program at the Rochester Area Family Y, 507-287-2260 ext 350 <http://www.rochfamy.org> click on Programs, click on Teen Programs, click on LINK/Transitional Housing
- Minnesota Housing Finance Agency <http://www.mnhousing.gov> click on homeless and housing assistance, click on Heading Home Minnesota Business Plan To End Long Term Homelessness.
- Northgate Community Housing, 507-287-2099, <http://www.zumbromhc.org> click on services, click on Housing Options Program
- Olmsted County Community Services Department, <http://www.co.olmsted.mn.us/> click on county departments, click on Community Services,
 - Adult and Family Services Division, 507-328-6400; click on Adult and Family Services
 - Family Support & Assistance Division, 507-328-6500; click on Family Support & Assistance Division
 - Olmsted Community Action Program, 507-328-6333; click on Family Support & Assistance Division, click on Community Action Services
 - Olmsted Community Corrections, 507 328-7200: click on Community Corrections
- Olmsted County Housing and Redevelopment Authority, 507-328-7150, <http://www.co.olmsted.mn.us>, click on county departments, click on Rochester/Olmsted Planning Dept., click on Olmsted County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (OCHRA)
- Olmsted County Veteran's Office, 507-328-6355, <http://www.co.olmsted.mn.us/> click on county departments, click on Community Services, click on Veteran's Services
- Rochester/Southeast Minnesota Continuum of Care, <http://www.threeriverscap.org/> click on Programs, click on Continuum of Care.
- Thomas House, 507-287-2025, <http://www.zumbromhc.org/> click on services, click on Housing Options Program
- The Francis, 507-328-6316
- The Salvation Army, 507-288-3663, <http://www.usc.salvationarmy.org> scroll down to find a location by zip code, enter zip code 55904.
- Women's Shelter 507-285-1010, <http://www.womens-shelter.org>
- Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center, 507-289-2089 <http://www.zumbromhc.org>
- Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center Housing Options programs, 507-287-2025, <http://www.zumbromhc.org> click on services, click on Housing Options Program