



## **Homelessness Prevention Program Overview - Spring 2018**

For the first time in its 20-year history, the Pohlads Family Foundation will concentrate its giving on a single strategic focus, **housing stability**, with the **primary goal to prevent and end homelessness for families and youth in the Twin Cities seven-county metropolitan region**. The Homelessness Prevention Program described here is the first program offered through this new strategic focus. Our new focus on housing stability emerged from an extensive strategic planning process in 2017 that represents the intersection of the Pohlads family's giving interests and greatest need in the Twin Cities.

We are committed to our mission to "improve the quality of life and opportunities for those most in need in our community." We envision a Twin Cities where our nationally recognized quality of life is shared by all. We acknowledge the disparities experienced by people of color because of institutional racism, and will invest in strategies that address those gaps. Our focus is always forward looking and asset based, seeking and supporting strategies and organizations that transform our community into a better place to live. We believe our Homelessness Prevention Program is an important step towards accomplishing our mission and vision.

This overview is intended to provide guidance for potential Homelessness Prevention Program applicants. It provides insight into the community need we will confront through direct support, and the types of work we understand to be impactful. We acknowledge that we are not the experts on homelessness. Therefore, we value the expertise of people and organizations working in the field and encourage diverse perspectives as to the best ways to prevent family and youth homelessness.

### **Importance of homelessness prevention to the Pohlads Family Foundation**

Housing stability is fundamental to our mission of improving quality of life and expanding opportunities. Homelessness prevention is a key strategy as there is growing evidence on the effectiveness and efficiency of homelessness prevention efforts.

We recognize that:

- Prevention efforts avoid long-term consequences for individual families, youth, and our larger community.<sup>1</sup>
- Stable, affordable housing creates positive outcomes for families and youth. Employment, educational attainment, physical and mental health are all positively impacted by having a stable home.<sup>2</sup>
- Blacks and Native Americans disproportionately experience housing instability and homelessness.<sup>3</sup> Our support and resources will be inclusive and reflective of this reality.