Homelessness Prevention Program Overview - Spring 2018

For the first time in its 20-year history, the Pohlad 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 Pohlad 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.
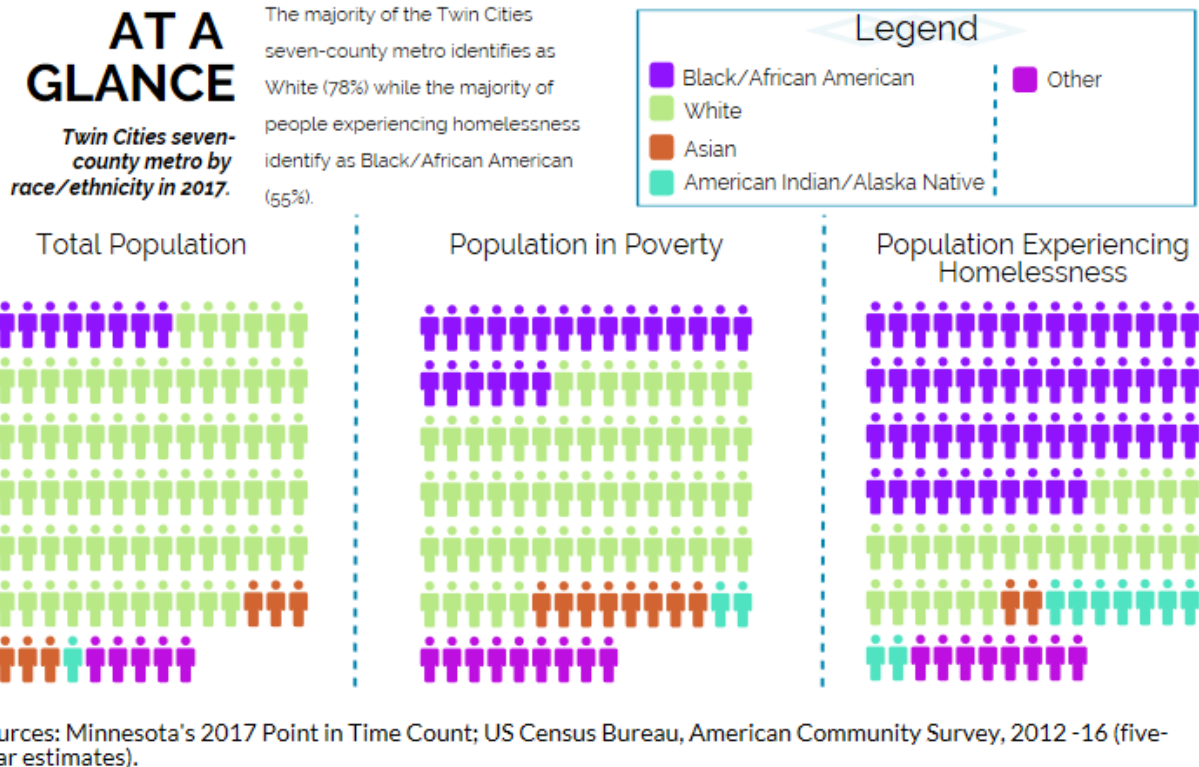
Importance of homelessness prevention to the Pohlad Family Foundation
Housing stability is fundamental to our mission of improving quality of life and expanding opportunity. Homelessness prevention is a key strategy as there is growing evidence on the effectiveness and efficiency of homelessness prevention efforts.

We recognize that:

- Prevention efforts avoid long-term consequences for individual families, youth, and our larger community. [i]

- 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. [ii]

- Blacks and Native Americans disproportionately experience housing instability and homelessness. [iii] Our support and resources will be inclusive and reflective of this reality.

AT A GLANCE

Twin Cities seven-county metro by race/ethnicity in 2017.

The majority of the Twin Cities seven-county metro identifies as White (78%) while the majority of people experiencing homelessness identify as Black/African American (55%).

Legend

- Black/African American
- White
- Asian
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Other

Total Population	Population in Poverty	Population Experiencing Homelessness

Sources: Minnesota's 2017 Point in Time Count; US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 -16 (five-year estimates).

- Preventative efforts help avoid the costs and long-term consequences of homelessness, including emergency shelter costs, public subsidies, and added educational and health expenditures.[iv]

Impact we want to have through the Homelessness Prevention Program
We strive to improve housing stability for families and youth with the greatest needs in our community. Our goal is to be part of the solution, helping to lower the number of families and youth in the Twin Cities who become homeless. As part of the solution, we will:

- Prioritize efforts that confront the dramatic disparities and over-representation of Black and Native American families and youth who experience homelessness. Poverty alone does not explain inequities manifested in homelessness, rather structural racism has led to "network impoverishment," which community-based, prevention interventions can help to stabilize.[v]
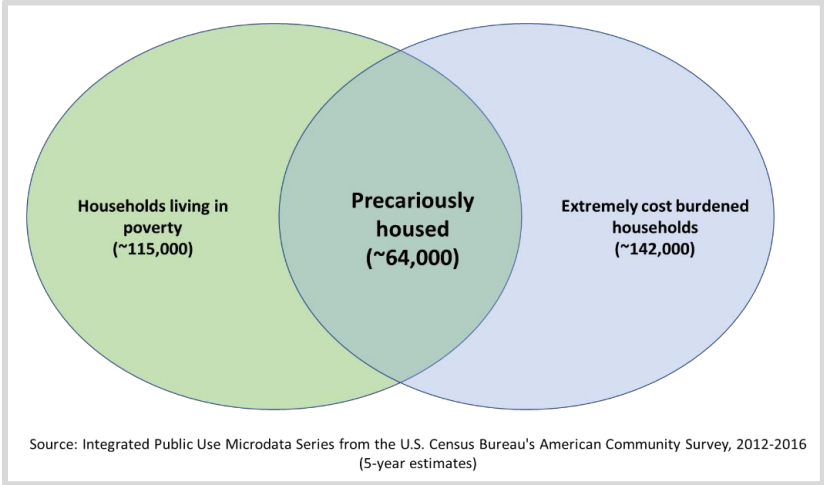
- Fund efforts whose primary focus is to prevent homelessness for families and youth who are **precariously** housed. While all low-income families and youth experience some risk to becoming homeless, we will focus on those that are extremely rent burdened and who have known risk factors to becoming homeless.[vi]

How we understand "precariously housed" in the Twin Cities:

1. Living at or below the federal poverty line
2. Paying 50% or more of their household income on rent

Households living in poverty (~115,000)

Precariously housed (~64,000)

Extremely cost burdened households (~142,000)

Source: Integrated Public Use Microdata Series from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, 2012-2016 (5-year estimates)

- Track our collective progress through community indicators used by the broader field[vii] (Point in Time counts and information increasingly available through Minnesota's Homeless Management Information System).

Role we will play in helping prevent family and youth homelessness in the Twin Cities region
Through our strategic planning process, we identified our best role in support of this work as both an **investor** and **advocate**.

We will:
- Invest $4M annually through a two-year grant program to fund services/strategies that have a **direct impact on homelessness prevention for families and youth who are precariously housed**. We anticipate providing 20-30 grants ranging from $50,000 - $500,000 annually to organizations throughout the Twin Cities seven-county metropolitan region.
- Partner with grantees to identify other ways the Pohlad Family Foundation can add value as an advocate and convener.

Two-year grant program ranging from $50,000 - $500,000 annually

- Support *both* established as well as promising practices. To uncover better solutions, we are interested in innovation and fresh ideas, but understand that there are established proven strategies that require additional resources to scale impact.

Qualities for a competitive proposal
We recognize that we are not the experts in how to prevent homelessness. We believe that adding more voices brings more ideas, leading to stronger impact. We continue to learn from local and national experts about direct services and strategies working to prevent homelessness. The following is by no means exhaustive and we are open to innovative approaches from community on how best to improve housing stability for families and youth precariously housed. The following are some of the qualities we have learned are important to effective homelessness prevention:

- **Targeting and Outreach** to provide direct assistance and support to those most vulnerable, including the use of place-based strategies and screening tools to understand level of risk.[viii]

Program Focus

At imminent risk of homelessness

Precariously housed w/multiple known risk factors

Precariously housed → living in poverty and extremely rent burdened

Adapted for our purposes based on visual provided by Barbara Poppe and Associates, 2018 National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference.
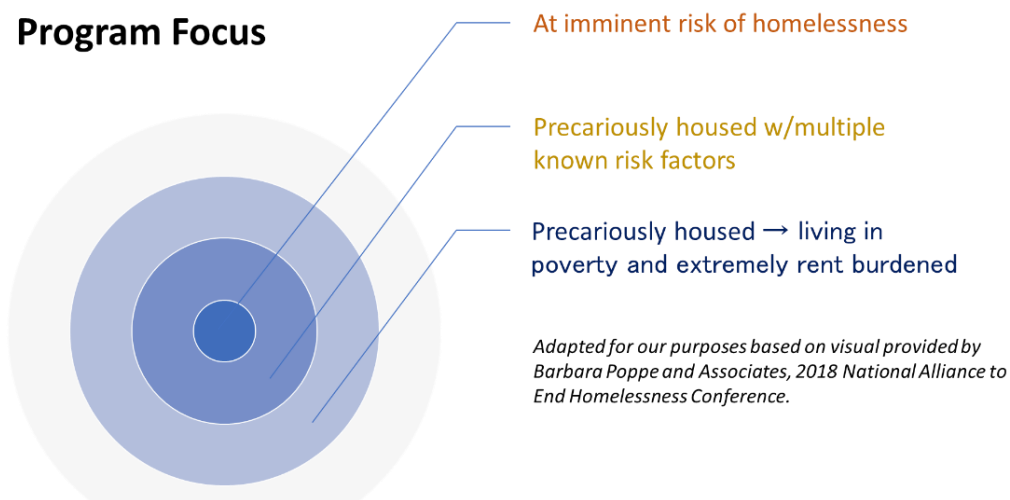
- **Comprehensive Approach** that helps people resolve immediate needs while planning for longer-term housing stability.[ix]
    - Immediate stabilization through direct financial assistance, family and landlord mediation, legal services, and connecting to community resources.
    - Longer-term stability through services that promote money management, income and earnings, housing conditions, and tenant rights training.

- **Highly collaborative** efforts that work to reach vulnerable families and youth while leveraging others' expertise.[x] Examples include co-location of services in schools, housing court, county social services, public housing, corrections, foster care services, and place-based approaches that focus on high-poverty neighborhoods.

- **Culturally relevant** programs that are initiated and lead by communities who are disparately impacted by housing instability. Examples include: involving community in designing strategies that reflect the needs of those impacted; having staff, senior leadership, and board members who reflect the participants served; and being able to break out participant outcome data demographically.[xi]

Areas of Interest
We have learned of strategies and programs that are improving results for families and youth who are precariously housed. We will only entertain proposals that have a **direct impact on preventing homelessness for the most vulnerable youth and families.**

We are interested in innovative approaches as well as established, proven practices. Below are some of the strategies and programs we are interested in funding through the Homelessness Prevention Program. Please note this is not an exhaustive list and that we remain open to new ideas.

- Eviction prevention
- Place-based efforts that focus on neighborhoods that are disproportionately impacted by housing instability (e.g. North Minneapolis)
- School-based strategies
- Alternative housing arrangements (e.g. Host Homes)
- Transition from institutions (e.g. foster care, criminal justice)
- Culturally specific programs
- Multi-Generational strategies
- Trauma informed programs
- Domestic violence
- Pregnant and parenting young adults
- Youth and families experiencing domestic violence
- Direct financial assistance to families and youth

Our strategies and grants will continue to be informed by information, insight and the work of others engaged in the Action Plan.

Results and Grant Reporting
We will work with grantees on the best methods to capture and report program-level impact, seeking to understand what information is currently collected. At a minimum, we will capture: number of households served, homeless episodes avoided, and housing stability at 6 and 12 months**.** We are exploring the potential of using Minnesota's Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS) for our reporting purposes. We are determining the advantages of this versus the challenge it may pose for grantees and will seek input from groups who are invited to submit a full proposal.

Efforts we will <u>not</u> fund through the Homelessness Prevention Program
We recognize the importance of supportive services for people at risk of homelessness such as mental health services and activities that address the persistent opportunity gap. The Homelessness Prevention Program is designed to support core services that directly impact housing stability for people precariously housed. We will focus on strategies that address affordable housing, systems change and public awareness through other grant opportunities in the future.

> Eligible programs will demonstrate a direct impact on homelessness prevention for families and youth who are precariously housed

The following will <u>not</u> be considered for this grant program:
- Advocacy efforts that are focused on building awareness, systems change or public policy.
- Re-housing services for families and youth who are currently homeless.
- Development of additional affordable housing units.
- Programs that are targeted to single or adult couples without children.
- Programs outside of the Twin Cities' seven-county metro area.
- Services that are not directly improving and measuring housing stability with families and youth. Core services provided will need to have a **direct impact on homelessness prevention for those precariously housed.** We will not fund efforts that have a primary focus on another issue, but happen to serve families and youth who are at-risk of homelessness (e.g. – health services, employment and academic supports, etc).

> Strategies that address affordable housing, systems change and public awareness will be grant opportunities in the future.

Key research guiding our focus on preventing homelessness

[i] Shinn, M., Greer, A. et al (2013). *Efficient Targeting of Homelessness Prevention Services for Families.* Available at https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/abs/10.2105/AJPH.2013.301468

[ii] Enterprise Community Partners (2014). *Impact of Affordable Housing on Families and Communities: A Review on the Evidence Base.* https://www.enterprisecommunity.org/download?fid=3335&nid=4547

[iii] Wilder Research (2015). *Homelessness in Minnesota*. Available at http://mnhomeless.org/minnesota-homeless-study/reports-and-fact-sheets/2015/2015-homelessness-in-minnesota-11-16.pdf.

Norton, G. & Jaramillo, A. (2017). State of the State's Housing, Minnesota Housing Partnership. Available at https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6RPwPgu6BjTT2VEVDk5TjIzWTQ/view

[iv] Evans, W., Sullivan, J., & Wallskog, M. (2016). The Impact of Homelessness Prevention Programs on Homelessness. Available at http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Impact-of-homelessness-prevention.pdf

[v] Olivet, J., Dones, M, et al (2018). *Supporting Partnerships for Anti-Racist Communities - Phase One Study Findings.* Available at http://center4si.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/SPARC-Phase-1-Findings-March-20181.pdf

[vi] Connell, C., LaChapelle, H., et al (2012). *The Risk of Becoming Homeless in Hennepin County.* Available at https://www.hennepin.us/-/media/hennepinus/your-government/projects-initiatives/end-homelessness/risk-becoming-homeless-hennepin-county-2012.pdf?la=en.

Shinn, M., Weitzman, B., et al (1998). *Predictors of Homelessness Among Families in New York City: From Shelter Request to Housing Stability.* Available at https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1508577/pdf/amjph00023-0057.pdf

[vii] U.S. Housing and Urban Development (2015). *System Performance Measures: An Introductory Guide.* Available at https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/System-Performance-Measures-Introductory-Guide.pdf

[viii] Shinn, M., Greer, A. et al (2013). *Efficient Targeting of Homelessness Prevention Services for Families.* Available at https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/abs/10.2105/AJPH.2013.301468. Poppe, B. (2018).

[ix] *Eviction and Homelessness Prevention, Best and Promising Practices – 2017, National Scan and Emerging Vision.* Presentation at the National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference, Los Angeles, CA.

[x] Zuiderveen, S. (2018). *Homebase Homelessness Prevention, NYC Human Resources Administration.* Presentation at the National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference, Los Angeles, CA.

[xi] Olivet, J., Dones, M, et al (2018). *Supporting Partnerships for Anti-Racist Communities - Phase One Study Findings.* Available at http://center4si.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/SPARC-Phase-1-Findings-March-20181.pdf.

Heading Home Together, Minnesota's 2018-2020 Action Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness (2018). Available at https://www.mnhousingtaskforce.com/sites/mnhousingtaskforce.com/files/media/Heading%20Home%20Together%202018-2020_2.6.18.pdf

Aghayev, R., Feng, J., & Wiens, R. (2017). *Preserving Home: Improving Eviction Prevention in Hennepin County.* Available at https://www.hennepin.us/-/media/hennepinus/your-government/projects-initiatives/end-homelessness/preserving-home-2017.pdf?la=en

Desmond, M. (2016). *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City.*

Minneapolis Innovation Team (2016). Evictions in Minneapolis. Available at http://innovateminneapolis.com/documents/Evictions%20in%20Minneapolis%20Report.pdf

National Alliance to End Homelessness (2016). *The State of Homelessness in America.* Available at https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/homelessness-statistics/state-of-homelessness-report/

Voices of Youth Count (2018). *Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America.* Available at http://voicesofyouthcount.org/brief/national-estimates-of-youth-homelessness/