



## *Homeless Youth Act: The Case for Support*

In Minnesota, an estimated 5,800 minors (10-17) and 7,500 young adults between the ages of 18–24 will experience homelessness over the course of one year. That’s 13,300 Minnesota youth without homes—and the real number is likely higher, because youth experiencing homelessness are the most invisible and the most vulnerable.\* Invest \$50 million in the Homeless Youth Act to end youth homelessness.

Homeless youth are at greater risk for sexual exploitation, violence and abuse, and:

- More than 60% have significant mental health needs;
- Over 84% experienced adverse childhood trauma;
- Almost 50% have been victims of violence at least once
- 60% have witnessed abuse of a family member

### **Minnesota Paradox**

White Minnesotans have a high quality of life in almost every index, yet outcomes for our BIPOC citizens are the worst in the nation. State-wide, 73% of youth experiencing homelessness are citizens of color. This is unacceptable. It’s time to fund the Homeless Youth Act, so we can step up where other systems have failed our youth.

### **Intervention is Key**

More than half of Minnesotan adults experiencing homelessness reported first becoming homeless by age 24, and 36% first became homeless at or before age 18. Minnesota can do better for our young people, and targeted investments in the Homeless Youth Act is a key part of the solution:

- The Homeless Youth Act continuum serves youth through street outreach, drop-in centers, shelter, transitional and supportive housing.
- State investments have supported expansion in access for youth statewide – knowing that youth are best served when close to home.
- Homeless Youth Act funds have leveraged additional philanthropic, federal, and county investments in serving youth throughout Minnesota.
- Innovation in employment, housing, and community partnerships have contributed to significant learning and gains in services for youth.

Minnesota’s youth experiencing homelessness need more of what works, and, investing in homeless youth works.