



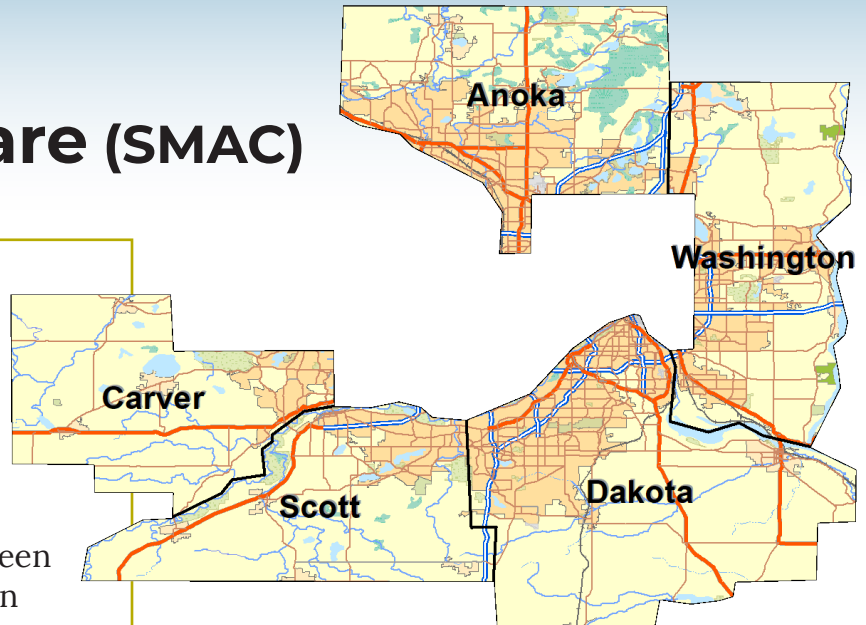
**Minnesota  
Suburban  
Metro  
Area  
Continuum  
of Care**

**2017  
Community  
Performance  
Profile**



# The Suburban Metro Area Continuum of Care (SMAC)

**SMAC** surrounds Minneapolis and Saint Paul. It consists of Anoka, Washington, Dakota, Scott and Carver counties. A Continuum of Care (CoC) is a group, funded by the The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), formed to operate programs within and between the counties, encouraging cooperation and efficiency to better serve people experiencing homelessness.



When people become homeless it is usually a short term experience. They need a little help then move on quickly. For others, the situation is beyond their capacity to address unassisted. Additional longer term services may be needed.

HUD and the United States Inter-agency Council on Homelessness (USICH) said (aside from eliminating homelessness) our goal is that homelessness is **rare, brief, and one-time**. To assess progress toward that goal HUD provides **System Performance Measures (SPM)**.

The **System Performance Measures** are a census of persons experiencing homelessness.

They include a de-duplicated count from HMIS and an annual Point in Time (PIT) to describe **rarity** (Measure 3). The average length of time people remain homeless describes **brevity** (Measure 1). The idea that homelessness is **one-time** is described by exits to a permanent destinations (Measure 7) and recidivism (Measure 2) along with a count of people who are new to homelessness (Measure 5) and growth in income (Measure 4).

Measure 6, addressing what HUD calls Category 3 homelessness, does not apply in SMAC.



The data for this profile came from the **Homeless Management Information System** (HMIS), a locally-administered and customizable community information system. SMAC works in partnership with the Institute for Community Alliances, Minnesota's designated HMIS Lead Agency.

HMIS is used to record data for persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Policymakers, researchers, service agencies and other community stakeholders use HMIS to craft efforts to end homelessness.

### **The Coordinated Entry (CE) System**

The homeless response system begins with coordinated entry. Coordinated entry is a process for doing more with available resources. CE employs individual assessments to assure that people are matched with the resources that will do the most good to help them find lasting stability quickly.

CE It is not a waiting list, but evaluates the strengths and needs of people experiencing a housing crisis.

Coordinated entry helps agencies make informed and objective decisions to reduce burdens on people who can self-resolve and better assist people with higher needs.

### **Coordinated Entry leads to housing stability for a young family**

“Ava” was 25, pregnant and parenting when she was referred to the HomeAgain program through the SMAC Coordinated Entry process. She had been “couch-hopping” since fleeing an abusive relationship.

Ava was soon connected to Solid Ground's Transition Specialist and the Employment & Education Coordinator for help with housing and finding a new job. A felony conviction and Ava's limited part-time income made the housing search very difficult.

Still, a suitable apartment was eventually found. The team assisting Ava was not surprised when the lease application was denied. Ava was quickly advised to appeal the decision, and the unit was taken off the market until the appeal could be resolved.

Ultimately, Solid Ground's Landlord Risk Mitigation Fund and good working relationship with the landlord contributed to approval of Ava's application, helping move this young family from homelessness to housing stability.



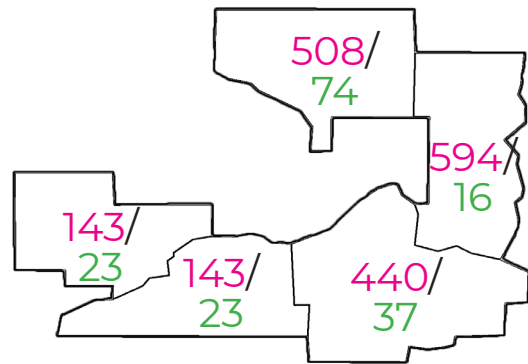
# Homeless Services and Project Types

# RARE

## People served in the CoC System Measure 3

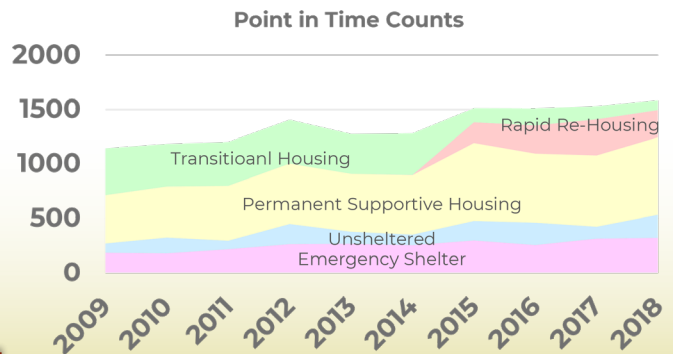
Emergency Shelter (ES)	A project that offers temporary shelter. Requirements and limitations may vary by program.
Transitional Housing (TH)	A project that provides temporary lodging and facilitates moving people into permanent housing in no longer than 24 months.
Rapid Re-housing (RRH)	A project that provides services and limited-term rental assistance to help people move into permanent stable housing.
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	A project that offers permanent housing and supportive services to assist persons with a disability to live independently.
Street Outreach (SO)	A project that offers services to reach out to unsheltered people and connect them with facility-based projects and provide urgent, non-facility-based care.

### Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing full year count by county



1,595 people were served by emergency or transitional projects between October 2016 and October 2017. That is down 13% from the previous year. In emergency shelter (ES) alone there were 1,481 people, down 12%. In transitional housing (TH) there were 135 people, down 13.5%.

The annual **point in time** count (PIT) takes place on a single night in January. It includes projects that normally don't participate in HMIS and a comprehensive "street-count" of unsheltered people.

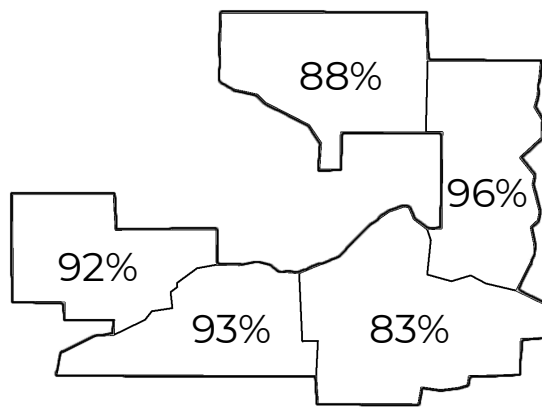


# RARE

## First Time Homeless System Measure 5

Across the CoC, 89% of de-duplicated emergency and transitional housing clients were first-time homeless. 90% of de-duplicated permanent supportive housing, emergency and transitional housing clients were first-time homeless.

### Emergency and Transitional clients first-time homeless Within each county...



A two-year look-back determines if someone has been seen by providers in the CoC in the past. Reducing the number of people who become homeless for the first time is desirable. It may seem that the goal should be a low portion of first-time homelessness.

Perhaps counter-intuitively, the goal of this measure is a high rate of first-time homeless. For example, if all homeless episodes are first-time then the goal of homelessness being a one-time occurrence has been achieved.

# BRIEF

## Length of Time (LOT) Spent Homeless System Measure 1

Measures of time spent homeless are calculated across the community. If a person moves between shelters their time homeless combines all the shelter stays they experience.

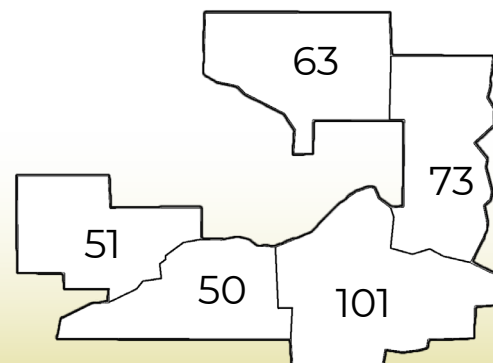
The average length of time spent homeless roughly doubles the median, suggesting some people in shelter have unusually long stays, particularly among those in TH.

Project Type	Average days	Median days
ES	77	43
ES and TH	113	53

People also self-report how long they were homeless prior to their entry into a project. For a more comprehensive measure of time homeless, that time is added to the time they spent in the project.

Project Type	Average days	Median days
ES and PH	255	100
EH, TH and PSH	284	120

### Average days in Emergency Shelter within each county



# ONE-TIME

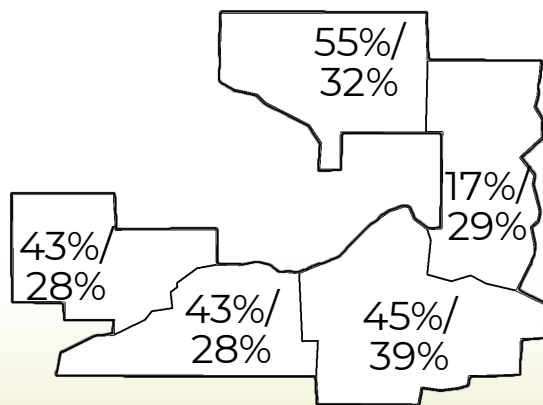
## Employment and Income Growth System Measure 4

Not every project in the continuum is CoC funded. Many get funding through other grant streams or private donations. Those projects are excluded from this measure.

People who experience homelessness face a structural gap in the housing market. Improvement in income can help narrow that gap and increase stability. Poverty is a spectrum with homelessness at the bottom. Moving up that spectrum allows greater permanence. It increases the probability that homelessness is a one time occurrence.

This measure looks at people who leave service (leavers) separately from those who stay in service (stayers). In the CoC, 44.7% of leavers and 34.9% of stayers saw an increase in their total income.

### Improvements in Total Income leavers/ stayers within each county...



### Agencies Cooperate for Client and System Success

Family Promise Anoka and Anoka County Project Family Success referred a family to Salvation Army. They were homeless many times previously. While living at Family Promise shelter the county administered coordinated entry and case management.

The head of the family and her son were connected with mainstream resources. They found housing with ACCAP and paid their deposit but couldn't cover the balance owed to move in. As they ended their time at Family Promise, Salvation Army was able to help. They paid the balance to get them over that hurdle. Now the family is stably housed.



Sue Rosendahl from The Salvation Army and Nicole Preston from Anoka County Partnership for Family Success (left to right).



# ONE-TIME ONE-TIME

## Placement in Permanent Housing System Measure 7

Permanent housing placement is a central measurement of success. Only people who exit to permanent destinations are eligible to be included in measure 2.

What counts as a successful placement varies by program type. Exiting to emergency shelter from street outreach is a success but from permanent supportive housing it is not.

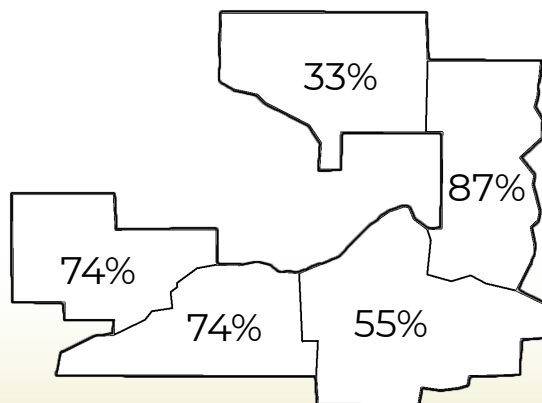
Project Type at Exit	Percent with a successful destination
Street Outreach	74%
Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, or Rapid Re-housing	61%
Permanent Housing	92%

## Returns to Homelessness System Measure 2

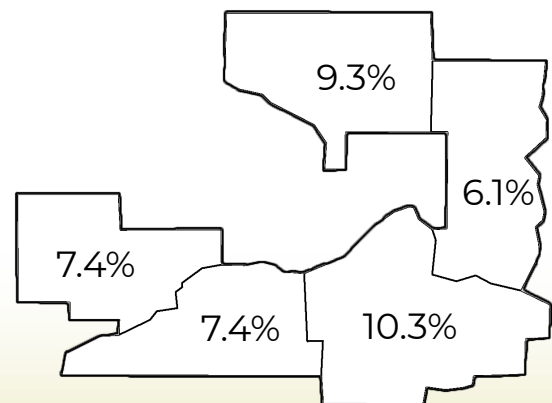
The ultimate measure of success. “Does this person avoid future homelessness?” This measure reviews a two-year timespan following permanent exit. Exits to temporary destinations are not included in this measure. Returns to homelessness among exits to a permanent destination are reported at 6 months, 6 to 12 months, 12 to 24 months, and cumulatively at 2-years.

Project Type at Exit	0-6 Months	6-12 Months	12 to 24 Months	2 Years
Street Outreach	2.0%	4.1%	4.1%	10.2%
Emergency Shelter	6.8%	1.9%	4.1%	12.8%
Transitional Housing	1.3%	0.0%	5.3%	6.6%
Permanent Housing	0.8%	0.6%	2.0%	3.4%
Total	4.6%	1.5%	3.5%	9.7%

Exits to permanent destinations from ES, TH or RRH within each county...



Returns to Homelessness from all programs in 2 years.



# Suburban Metro Area Continuum of Care

## Ending Homelessness in Minnesota's Suburbs

We can help you connect  
to services.

visit

<http://smacmn.org/help/>

phone

763-458-9790

email

[abby@mesh-mn.org](mailto:abby@mesh-mn.org)

