



Minneapolis / Hennepin County Office to End Homelessness

Research, Planning and Development Department
A-2308 Government Center
300 S. 6th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55487-0238

The Currie Avenue Housing Partnership

On any given *NIGHT*

Between 600 and 700 people experiencing homelessness, many of whom have mental and physical disabilities, sleep on mats on the floor at Hennepin County's two publicly-funded shelters on Currie Avenue in downtown Minneapolis. These individuals are some of the most vulnerable members of our community and place an unnecessary burden on taxpayers through repeated use of expensive public institutions. As a result of disabilities which prevent them from working, they qualify for the Group Residential Housing (GRH) program, which provides state-funded housing and support services to people with disabilities who are experiencing homelessness. Yet, due to limited staff working at the downtown shelters, these people are unable to access this important resource and remain stuck in the cycles of homelessness and shelter use. The Currie Avenue Housing Partnership (CAP) is an innovative response to this challenge.

To date, the downtown business community and the Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness raised over \$350,000 in start-up funding to hire 10 Housing Case Managers to connect people with disabilities staying at Currie Avenue shelters with housing and supports. The program officially began in May 2010 and has successfully housed 150 people. Now that these individuals have been housed, the state's GRH program will assume the ongoing costs of the initiative, allowing the case managers to continue housing people with disabilities indefinitely.

To Date:

- Over \$400,000 has been raised and 10 Housing Case Managers were hired. They began working in early May 2010.
- 150 long-term homeless individuals have obtained permanent housing or are in the final stages of obtaining housing, and many new referrals are sent to the program each day.
- The average length of homelessness for program participants is 5 years.
- The average number of disabilities is roughly 2 per person.
- All participants had incomes less than 30% of area median income and relied on General Assistance at \$203 per month.

Program Expansion to Outreach Model:

- The Office to End Homelessness has met a goal of raising an additional \$150,000 to expand the CAP program to support existing street outreach efforts, and provide housing and supports to people with disabilities who are living and sleeping outside.
- This expansion of the CAP model to support outreach efforts will end homelessness for 45 people living on the streets in the first 9 months of operation and will improve livability in Minneapolis, particularly the downtown area.

**For more information or to find out how to contribute, contact
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612-490-8378.**