



**Anoka County**  
**HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION**  
Respectful, Innovative, Fiscally Responsible

## Family Homeless Prevention & Assistance Program and Homework Starts with Home: Update on two Anoka County programs currently addressing housing instability and homelessness in Anoka County

MICAH Legislative Breakfast  
2.9.24

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# FHPAP: 2023 & 2024

In 2023: MN Housing has awarded Anoka County an FHPAP Allotment, FHPAP “Fast Track” Funds, and has been awarded funds for the 24-25 FHPAP Biennium

- MN Housing awarded \$750,000 FHPAP Fast Track funds for June, 2023-September 2023; 85.57% of funds were utilized
- Anoka County was awarded \$2.5 million in FHPAP in 2023 for the 24-25 Biennium, of which \$1,287,500 was Fast Track funding
  - 328 total households served -170 via Fast Track FHPAP funds
  - 241 households served through Prevention FHPAP
    - 72% persons of color
  - 108 through Rapid Rehousing (exiting homelessness)
    - 54% persons of color
  - The average assistance was \$3,134.00 per household
- Anoka County has requested permission to apply for up to 1.75 million in FHPAP funds for new MN Housing FHPAP RFP, June 2023- September 30, 2025

Anoka County began tracking “applicants” in July of 2023-9/30/23

Number of households who applied for assistance	Number of households served with assistance	Number of households who did not receive a payment within 30 days	Percent of households who did not receive a Fast Track payment within 30 days
952	368	0	0

# FHPAP: 2023 & 2024

## Ongoing Challenges:

- Potential applicants exceed households we can serve. The number of requests for assistance was 496 between October 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.
- Subgrantee staff are often overwhelmed by requests for assistance, increased amounts of households served, complex reporting requirements and increased volume of administrative work.
- Oversight, administration, subgrantee support , application submission, reporting and accounting work at Grantee level has increased substantially due to multiple FHPAP funding increases and new awards. Unanticipated and staggered funding awards, duplicative budgets, workplans, make planning very difficult.
- Prevention needs and resolving homeless needs - how do we balance these two priorities?
- Rate of evictions remain high and households are presenting with larger balances
  - Landlords require large deposits and rent remains high
- Anoka County has more households doubled-up households than other Metro Counties, lack of affordable housing, evictions and rental barriers play a role

### Metro Comparison

Living Situation Description	Code	ANOKA	CARVER	DAKOTA	HENN	RAMSEY	SCOTT	WASH
Own Housing: Lease, Mortgage or Roommate	01	64.5%	59.2%	65.8%	58.3%	59.5%	70.2%	60.2%
Family/Friends Due to Economic Hardship	02	21.5%	10.5%	14.3%	14.4%	11.2%	12.8%	13.9%

# Homework Starts with Home Overview



The Homework Starts with Home (HSWH) is a state grant program which pairs funding from The [Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program \(FHPAP\)](#) and the [Housing Trust Fund \(HTF\)](#) rental assistance program in order to assist students and families attain housing stability and resolve homelessness. HSWH Provides:

- Supportive services to find and keep housing
- Financial help for rent deposit, rent assistance, utilities, housing application assistance



# HSWH: Award & Updates

In 2023: MN Housing has awarded Anoka County a Homework Starts with Home Award for \$1,100,000 for the 2023-2027 Quadrennium

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The award is comprised from two separate funding streams: FHPAP and Housing Trust Fund (HTF:)

- \$588,320 of FHPAP funds has been awarded directly to Anoka County to contract for HSWH for:

Rapid Rehousing Supportive Services and Direct Rent/Deposit Assistance

- Housing Trust fund participant supportive services

- \$511,680 Housing Trust fund dollars has been directly awarded to Metro HRA to administer the following for Anoka HSWH:



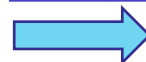
- \$426,200 in Housing Trust Fund rental assistance
- \$52,500 Housing Trust Fund Deposit Assistance
- \$32,980 administrative costs

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MN Housing awarded \$5,500,000 to Homework starts with Home applicants in June, 2023. 17 Applicants submitted applications totaling \$17,561,640.00. Anoka County was awarded our full ask of \$1.1 million and was one of 4 applicants awarded funds.

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2.9.24 update: HSWH will begin serving households very soon. The HSWH Housing Workgroup has been formed and school staff are preparing initial referrals. The Salvation Army and YMCA have hired case management staff for the HSWH program recently as well.



The Salvation Army: \$399,000 for Supportive Services and Direct Assistance, with \$288,000 dedicated for Direct Assistance for Rapid Rehousing Rent and Deposits



YMCA of the North: \$166,628 for Supportive Services for HTF Participants

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The program will serve: 35 Households with Housing Trust Fund Subsidy and 36 Households with FHPAP/RRH supportive services and direct assistance. Metro HRA will provide an additional 10 Housing Choice Vouchers for program participants yearly.



# Priority Schools & A-H HOPE Office







# Thank you!

Questions or Comments?

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