• Summarize the State of Minnesota’s efforts to prevent and end homelessness

• Provide background information about homelessness among students

• Identify particular opportunities for rural districts to leverage school- and community-based resources to stabilize students

• Discussion
The Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness

- Corrections
- Education
- Employment and Economic Development
- Governor’s Office
- Health
- Higher Education
- Housing
- Human Rights
- Human Services
- Metropolitan Council
- Public Safety
- Transportation
- Veterans Affairs
The Heading Home Plan

• Vision: Housing stability for all Minnesotans

• 125 actions organized into strategies supporting four population goals and eight cross-cutting priorities.

• Each action specifies which Council agencies are accountable and a timeline.
Minnesotans Experiencing Homelessness

Heading Home Plan Launched

7% drop since 2014

20% drop since 2014


4,264 4,725 7,869 8,377 7,341 7,668 3,704 3,769

0 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 5,000 6,000 7,000 8,000 9,000

All Minnesotans  People in Families
Prevent homelessness whenever possible, and otherwise making it rare, brief, and non-recurring.
What we know about student homelessness
Definition of homelessness

• Children or youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including:
  • Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
  • Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or campgrounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
  • Living in emergency or transitional shelters
  • Living in places not meant for habitation (e.g., vehicles)

• Fixed, Regular, and Adequate
  • Fixed: Stationary, permanent, not subject to change
  • Regular: Used on a predictable, routine, consistent basis; Consider the relative permanence of the living arrangement
  • Adequate: Lawful and reasonably sufficient for meeting physical and psychological needs typically met in a home environment

Can the student go to the SAME PLACE (fixed) EVERY NIGHT (regular) to sleep in a SAFE and SUFFICIENT SPACE (adequate)?
Homeless Students are more likely to...

- Experience developmental delays
- Have health problems – including physical and mental health
- Have increased exposure to violence
- Suffer from stress, depression and trauma
- Repeat a grade
- Be chronically absent; and
- Have more disciplinary issues
Growth in Students Facing Homelessness

Students Identified as Homeless in October 1 Enrollment Census

Change Relative to Prior Year in Students Identified as Homeless
Wide Geographic Distribution

- 9,528 homeless students in:
  - 1,241 schools
  - 300 districts
  - 77 counties
- Based Oct 1, 2016 enrollment census
Racial Distribution of Minnesota Students, by Homeless Status

- **American Indian/Alaska Native**
- **Asian/Pacific Islander**
- **Black/African American**
- **Hispanic/Latino**
- **Two or More Races**
- **White**

Graph showing the percentage of students experiencing homelessness by race, with a comparison to all students.
Minnesota Students Facing Homelessness by Grade Level

- Early Childhood/Pre-K: 1.6%
- Elementary: 53.9%
- Secondary: 44.5%
Impact on Third Grade Proficiency

- All students:
  - Math: 40% Does Not Meet, 14% Partially Meets, 30% Meets, 4% Exceeds
  - Reading: 42% Does Not Meet, 15% Partially Meets, 33% Meets, 21% Exceeds

- Free and Reduced Lunch:
  - Math: 37% Does Not Meet, 7% Partially Meets, 27% Meets, 6% Exceeds
  - Reading: 33% Does Not Meet, 6% Partially Meets, 33% Meets, 4% Exceeds

- Homeless:
  - Math: 27% Does Not Meet, 7% Partially Meets, 27% Meets, 4% Exceeds
  - Reading: 15% Does Not Meet, 6% Partially Meets, 42% Meets, 4% Exceeds
Impact on Attendance Among Low-Income Students

For low-income students on free and reduced lunch

Attendance rate

Not Homeless: 97.5%
Homeless: 90.1%

Percentage not chronically absent

Not Homeless: 97.0%
Homeless: 71.6%
Homeless and Highly Mobile Rental Assistance Pilot

• Started in 2013
  • Three sites: NAZ, SPPN, Moorhead/Clay County
  • Supported 277 students in 121 families served

• 90% of families were stably housed

• School attendance stabilized

• Increased parent incomes

• In contrast, homeless comparison group became chronically absent
Changing dynamics

Homeless Students by Homelessness Recidivism
(Based on Oct 1 Enrollment Data; Recidivism may not be consecutive years)

Portion of Homeless Students Identified as Homeless for the First Time
Opportunities for intervention

Timing for Students Being Identified as Homeless
among students identified as homeless and enrolled on October 1, 2016 (N = 9,528)
School-based responses to housing instability

Key requirements, programs, resources and initiatives
• Originally passed in 1987

• Amended in 2015 by Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

• Establishes the definition of homeless used by public schools

• Addresses barriers faced by homeless students, including:
  • School enrollment
  • Regular attendance and transportation
  • Educational stability
  • School success
  • Connection to services

• Focuses on homeless students pre-K through high school
McKinney-Vento Act student entitlements

• Maintaining school attendance and stability by:
  • Identifying homeless students quickly and reliably.
  • Assisting with school enrollment.
  • Supporting (based on student’s best interests) ongoing enrollment at a school of origin or a local school.
  • Providing transportation to the school of origin or local school, including from a shelter or temporary location.
  • Maintaining enrollment at selected school throughout duration of homelessness and remainder of school year.

• Supporting school success by:
  • Ensuring that fees do not impede a homeless student’s ability to participate in academic or extracurricular activities.
  • Awarding appropriate credit for full or partial coursework satisfactorily completed.
McKinney-Vento Act local responsibilities

• Every school district must designate a McKinney-Vento homeless liaison.

• Responsibilities include:
  • Serving as the district’s key homeless education contact.
  • Coordinating district-wide McKinney-Vento implementation.
  • Ensuring that homeless students are identified and enrolled.
  • Participating in specific professional development and technical assistance activities.
  • Helping to identify policy barriers to homeless students’ enrollment, attendance and success.
  • Building awareness within the district and among its partners.
  • Linking school and community resources.
McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth program

• Supports statewide activities and provides grants to 13 school districts totaling $690,000 per year.

• Can cover a wide range of purposes of the Act, including:
  • Tutoring, supplemental services, and enriched educational services
  • Expedited evaluations
  • Professional development activities
  • Referral to health services
  • Excess transportation costs
  • Early childhood education programs
  • Assistance to engage and retain homeless students in school programs
  • Mentoring and summer programs
  • Payment of fees and enrollment costs
  • Education and training for parents
  • Delivery or coordination with agencies providing services to homeless students
  • Activities to address the particular needs of homeless students
  • Purchasing supplies
  • Adapting space for nonschool facilities
  • Other extraordinary or emergency assistance

• Minnesota’s State Coordinator: Roberto Reyes, 651-582-8302, Roberto.Reyes@state.mn.us
• U.S. Department of Education’s technical assistance center for the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program

• http://nche.ed.gov/

• Toll-free helpline: 800-308-2145 or homeless@serve.org

• Listserv: Subscribe at www.serve.org/nche/listserv.php

• Free resources (Liaison Toolkit, posters, briefs) available online
Replicating the Mason County HOST Program

• Innovative program model tailored to rural contexts and assets

• Promising outcomes: 83 percent graduation rate; 100 percent housing success rate

• Lean operation with clear roles for schools and other partners

• Interested local philanthropic partner

• Interested in learning more? Reach out to eric.grumdahl@state.mn.us by June 30, 2017.
Resources outside school walls
Continuums of Care

• Continuum of Care (CoC) regions are federally-established regional or local planning bodies responsible for:
  • coordinating efforts to end homelessness
  • establishing region-wide systems and processes
  • collaboratively requesting public resources for housing and services

• Minnesota has 10 Continuums of Care

• http://tinyurl.com/MN-CoC-contacts
Key community-based programs and initiatives

- Federal resources managed by CoCs (>56 million)
  - Continuum of Care program
  - Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program

- Other resources coordinated with CoCs
  - Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP)
  - Projects for Assistance with Transitions from Homelessness (PATH)
  - Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)

- Other critical initiatives
  - Coordinated entry systems
  - Linkage to many other homeless programs
  - Local plans to prevent and end homelessness

- Other Federal resources
  - Healthy Transition and Homeless Prevention (HTHP)
  - Runaway and Homeless Youth grants

- Other State resources
  - Bridges
  - Emergency Service Program (ESP)
  - Group Residential Housing
  - Healthy Transition and Homeless Prevention (HTHP)
  - Homeless Youth Act
  - Housing Trust Fund
  - Long-Term Homelessness Supportive Services Fund
  - Transitional Housing Program
Mainstream economic assistance, human services, and public health programs
$2 million proposed in Governor Dayton’s biennial budget in both short and long term housing assistance to:

- Prevent family homelessness
- Stabilize highly mobile families
- House families experiencing homelessness

Builds on strategies demonstrated with:

- Minnesota’s Homeless and Highly Mobile Rental Assistance Pilot
- Hennepin County’s Stable Families Initiative
- Minnesota’s efforts to end Veteran homelessness

Strategies will be locally driven and tailored for community needs

Strong philanthropic commitment poised to expand reach of state investments
The Anticipated Impact

• Stable housing for ~200 families

• School stability and attendance brings educational success

• Schools, counties and housing providers partner for local impact

• Help for adults to focus on jobs and skill building
Other strategies for supporting and improving practice

- Professional development and resource materials
- Improved use of data to drive interventions
- Leveraging “adjacent space” opportunities
• Minnesota’s Heading Home plan  
  http://tinyurl.com/Heading-Home-Plan

• MDE’s Homeless McKinney-Vento program  
  http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/dse/ESEA/home/

• US Department of Education Homelessness programs  
  http://www2.ed.gov/programs/homeless/index.html

• National Center for Homeless Education  
  http://nche.ed.gov/

• National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth  
  http://www.naehcy.org

• Hidden in Plain Sight: Homeless Students in America’s Public Schools  
Thank you!

Eric Grumdahl, Director of Special Projects
Minnesota Department of Education
Minnesota Office to Prevent and End Homelessness
651.582.8511 | eric.grumdahl@state.mn.us