



MINNESOTA
INTERAGENCY COUNCIL
ON HOMELESSNESS

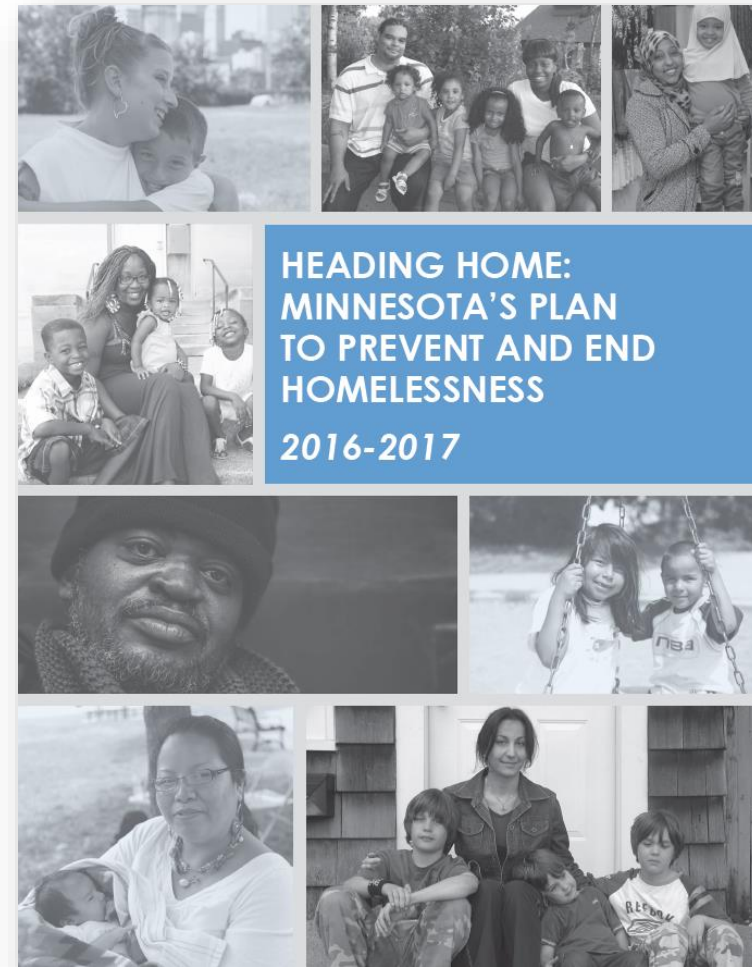
Student Homelessness in Minnesota

Eric I. Grumdahl | April 24, 2017

- 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

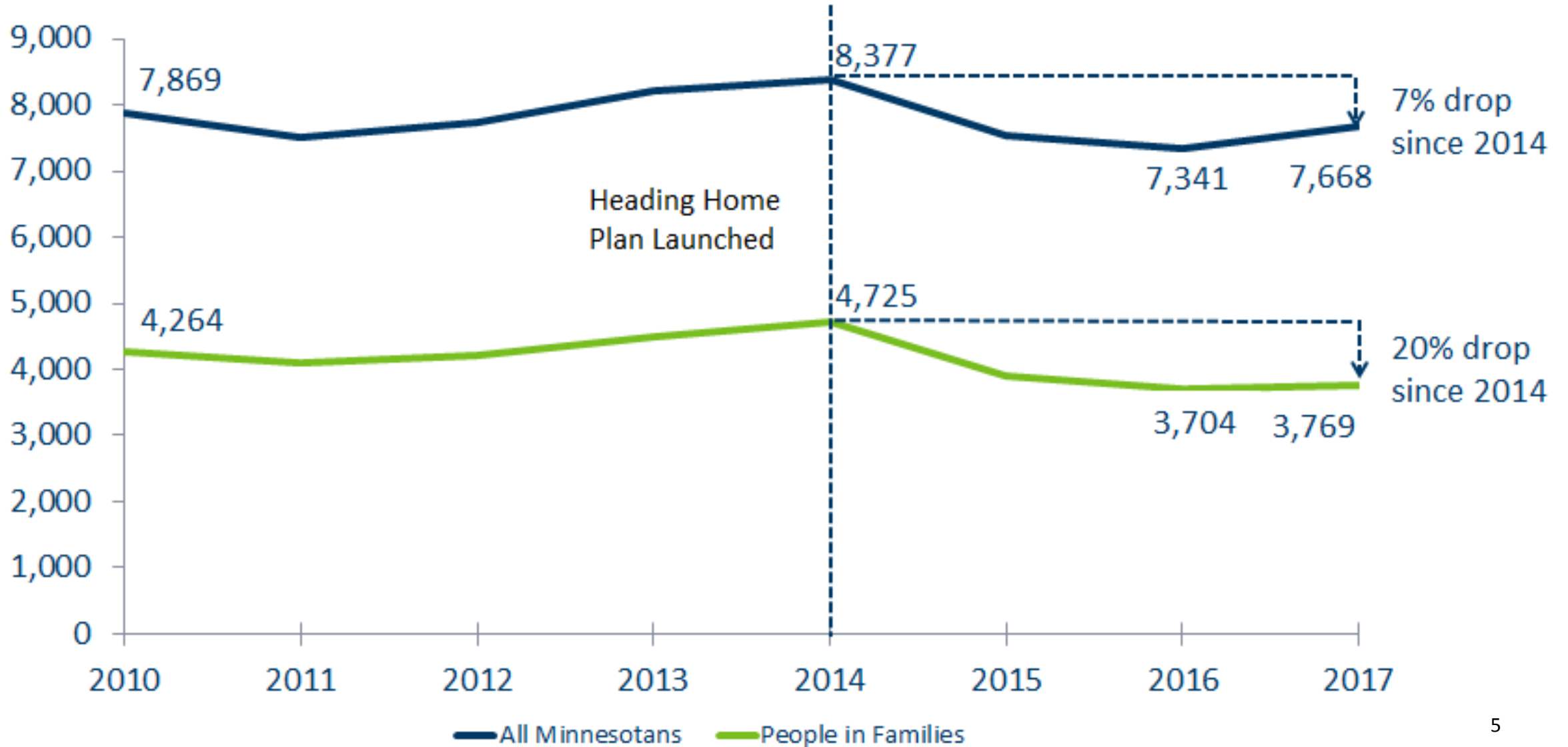


The Heading Home Plan

- **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



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

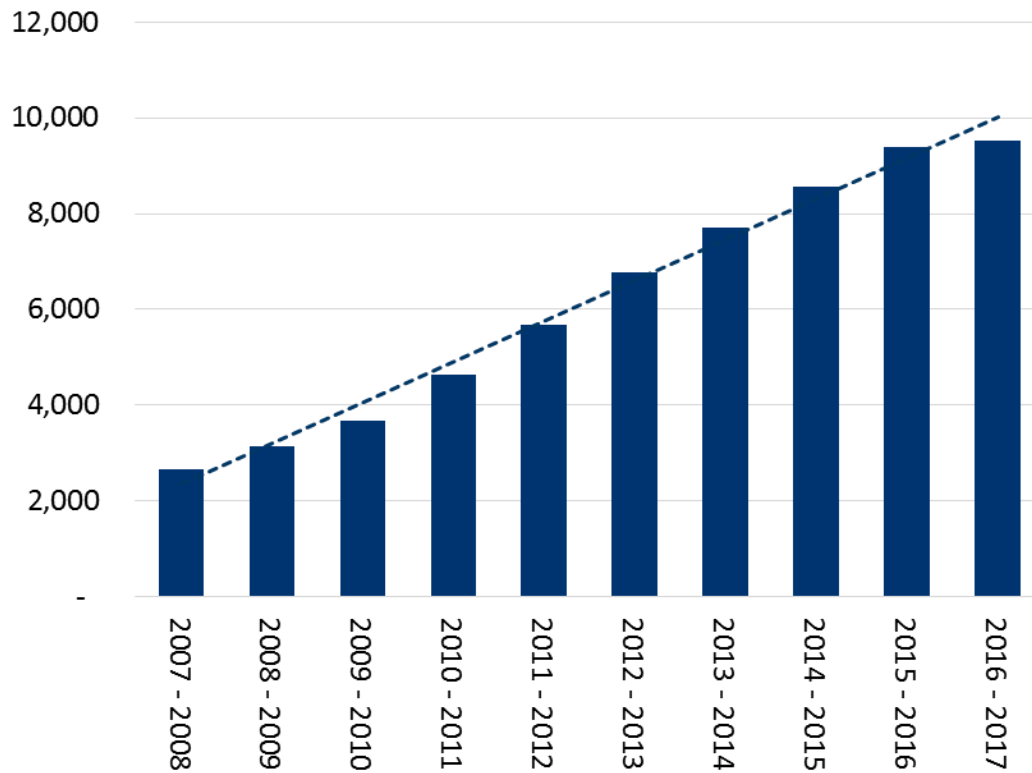
Can the student go to the SAME PLACE (fixed) EVERY NIGHT (regular) to sleep in a SAFE and SUFFICIENT SPACE (adequate)?

Homeless Students are more likely to...

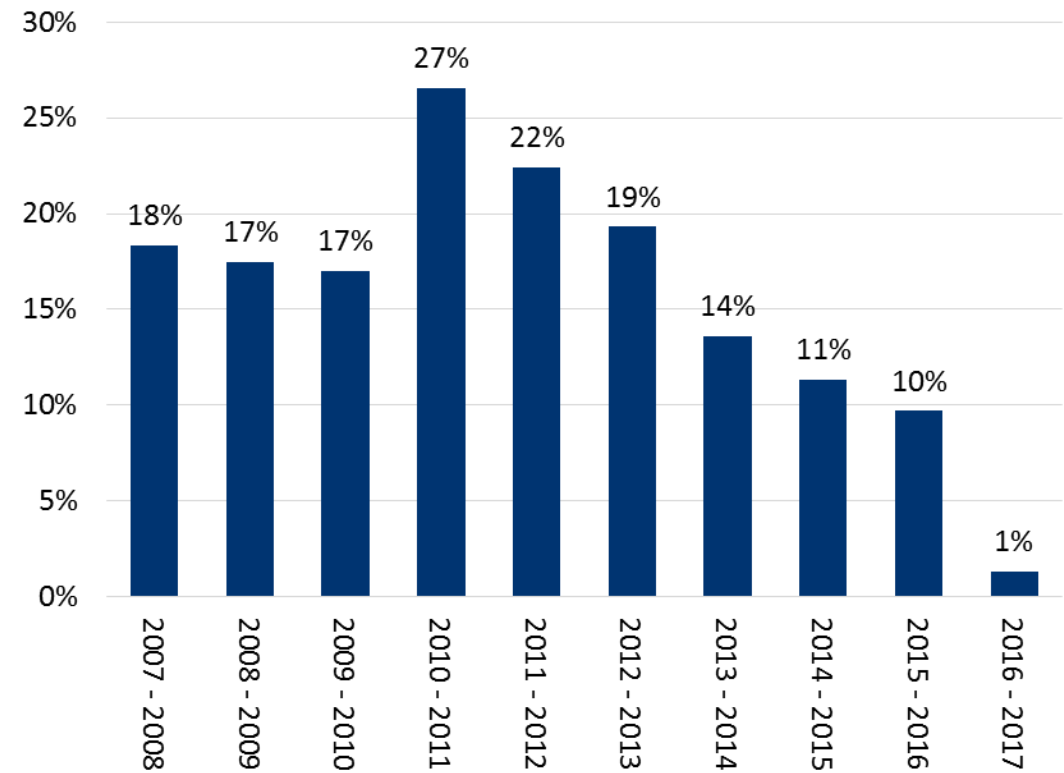
-
- Experience developmental delays
 - Have health problems – including physical and mental health
 - Have increased exposure to violence
 - Suffer from stress, depression and trauma
 - Repeat a grade
 - Be chronically absent; and
 - Have more disciplinary issues

Growth in Students Facing Homelessness

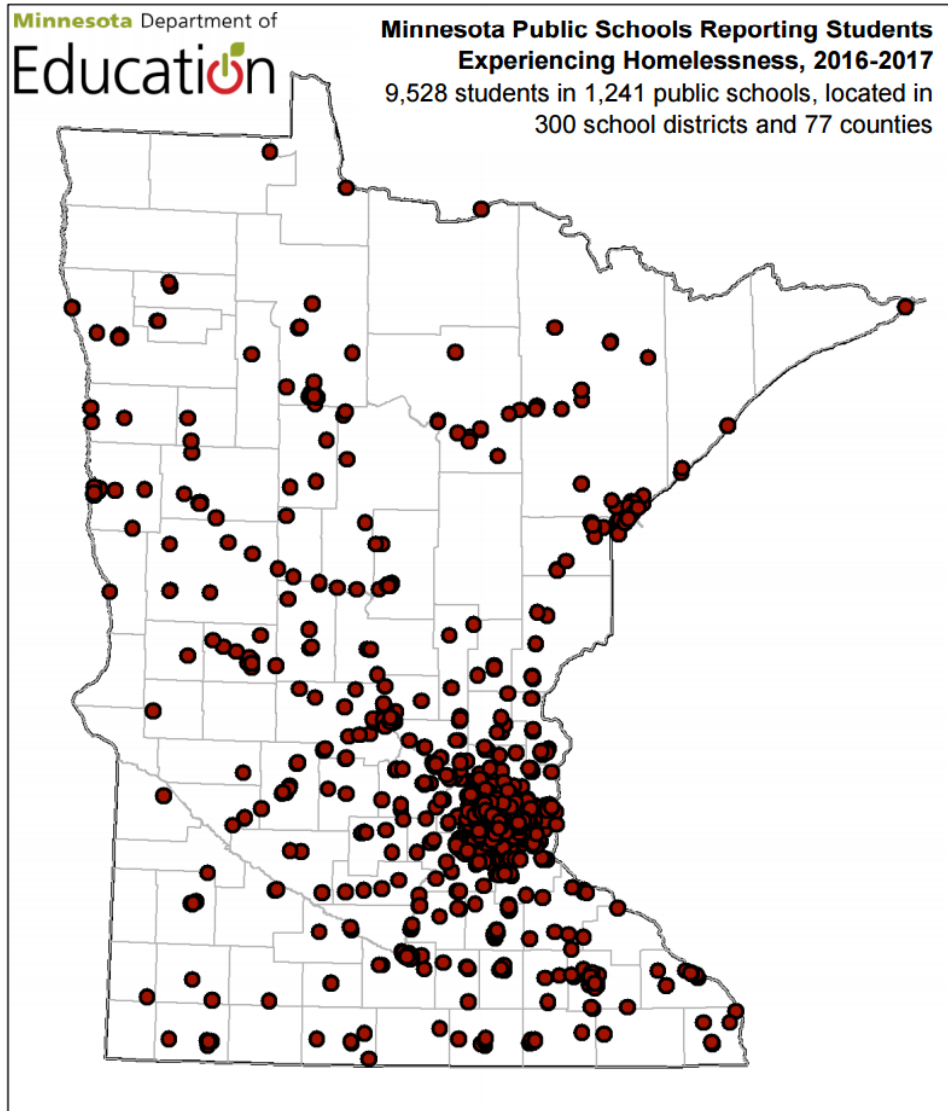
Students Identified as Homeless in October 1 Enrollment Census



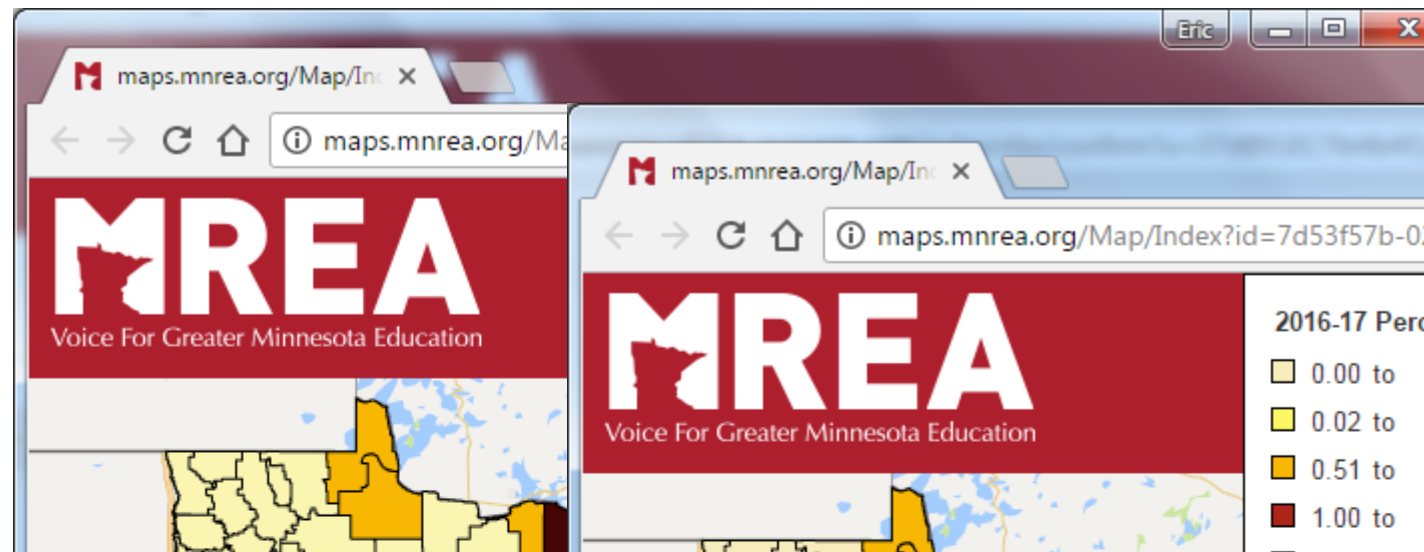
Change Relative to Prior Year in Students Identified as Homeless



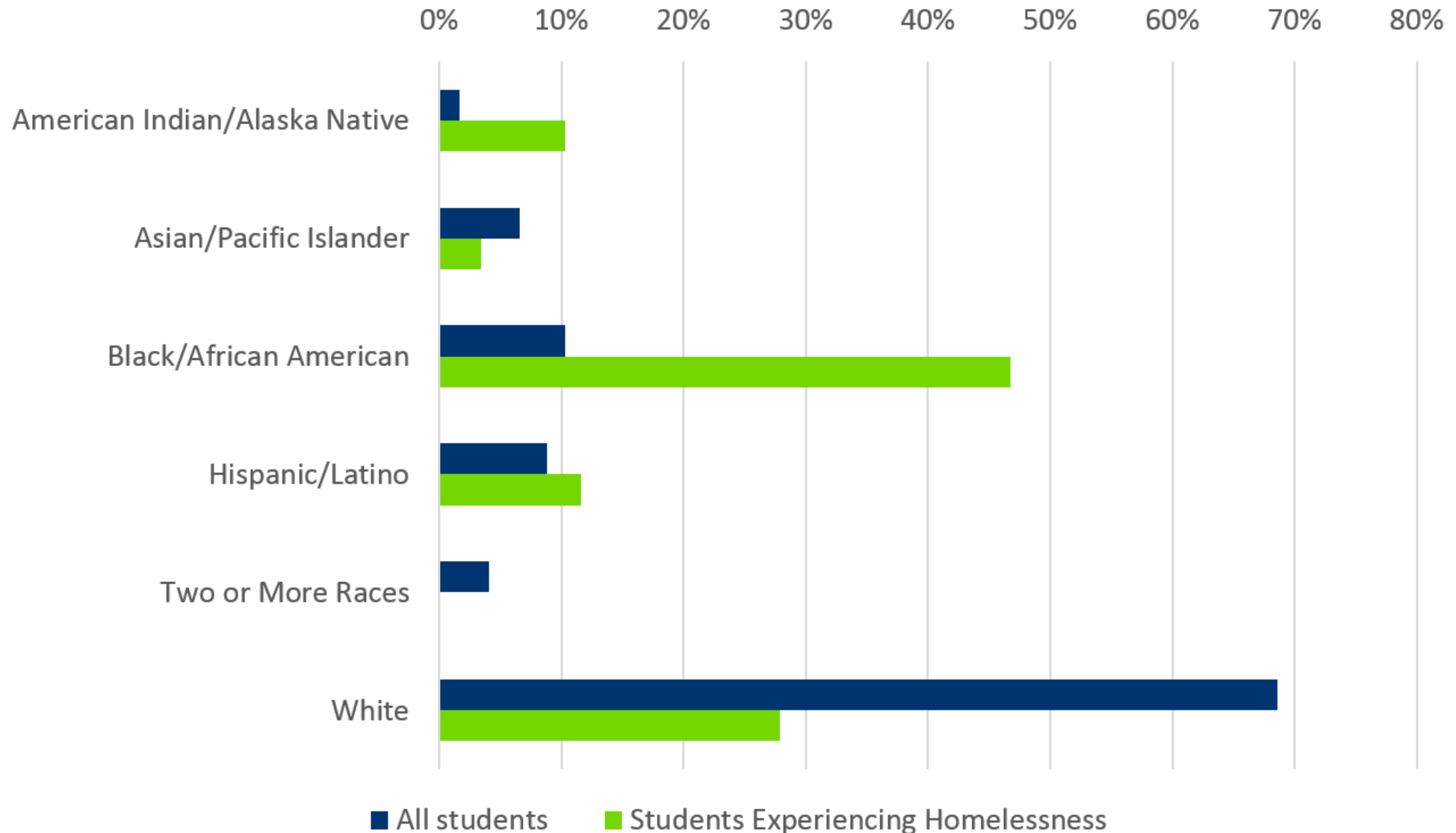
Wide Geographic Distribution



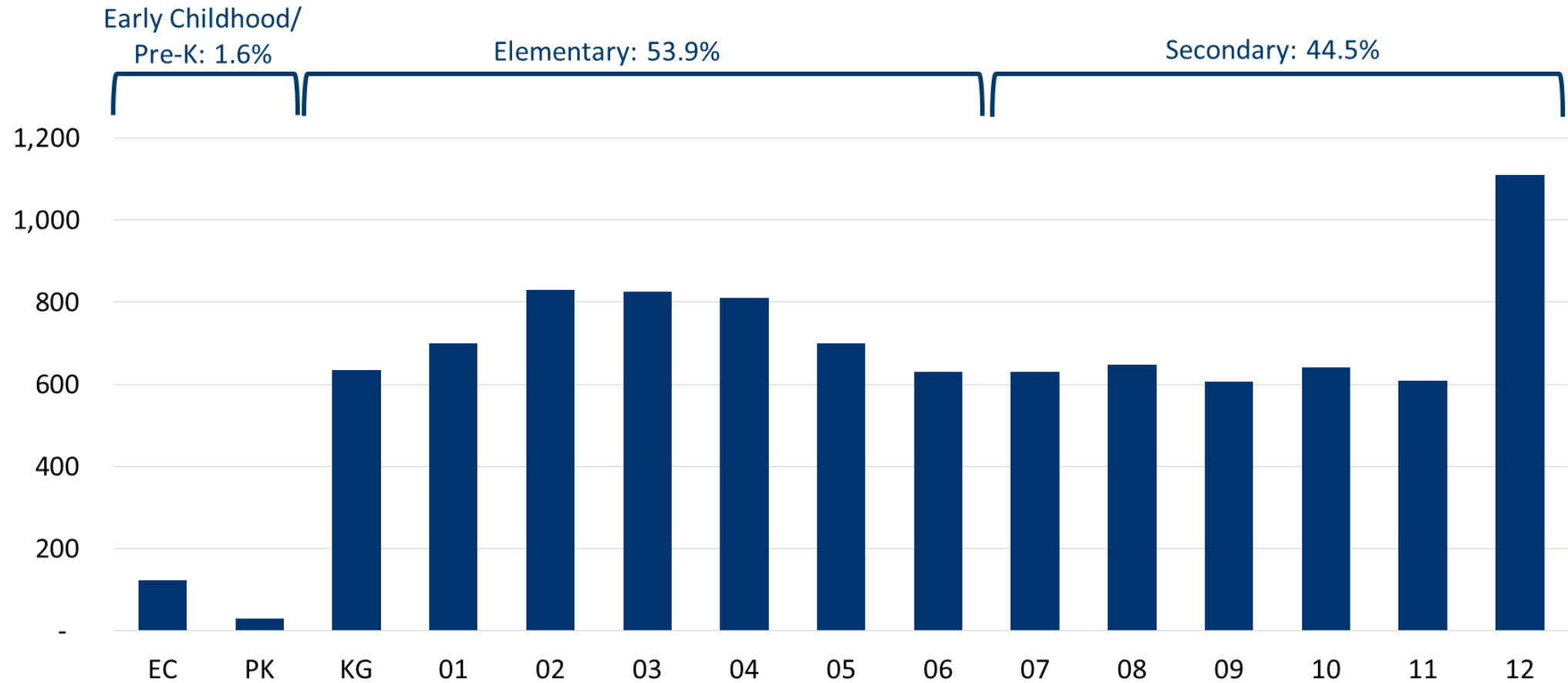
- 9,528 homeless students in:
 - 1,241 schools
 - 300 districts
 - 77 counties
- Based Oct 1, 2016 enrollment census



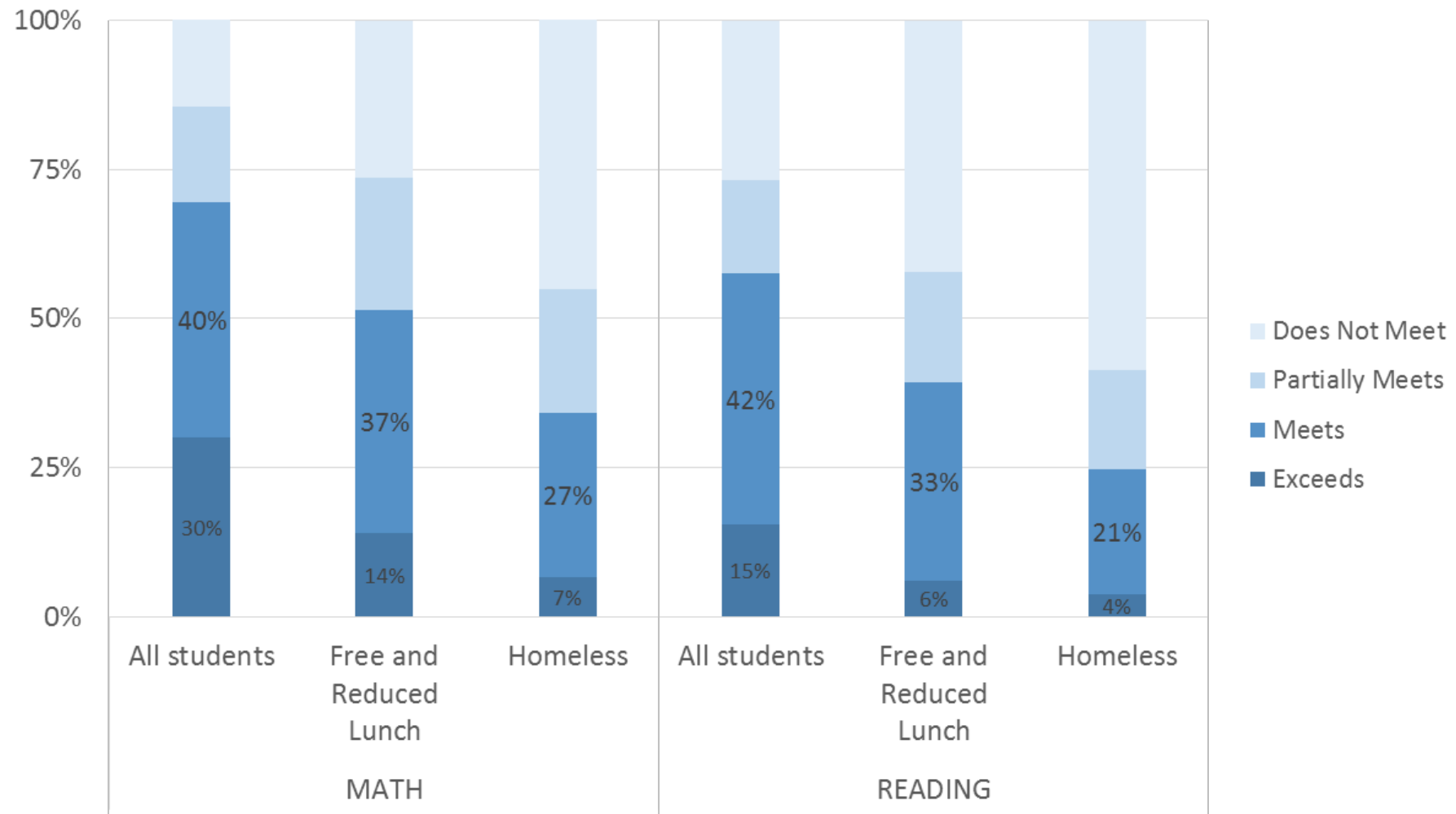
Racial Distribution of Minnesota Students, by Homeless Status



Minnesota Students Facing Homelessness by Grade Level



Impact on Third Grade Proficiency



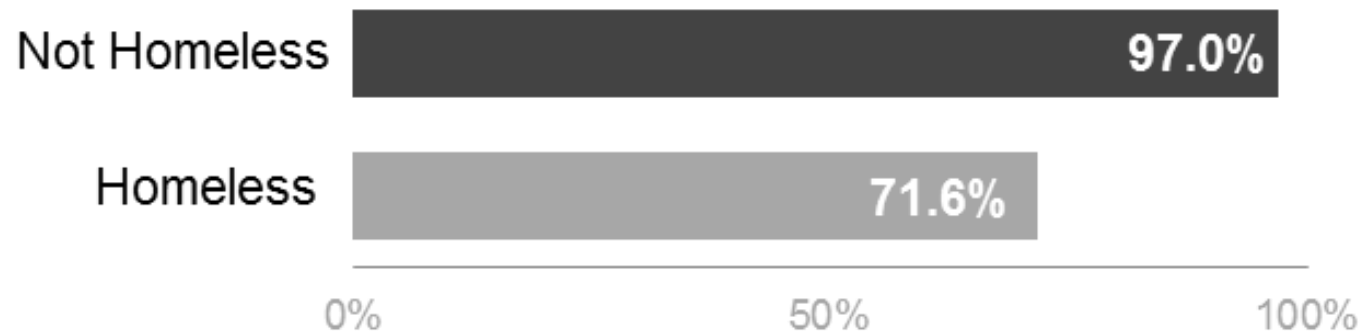
Impact on Attendance Among Low-Income Students

For low-income students on free and reduced lunch

Attendance rate



Percentage not chronically absent



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

**Evaluation of the Rental Assistance Pilot for
Homeless or Highly Mobile Families with
School-Age Children**

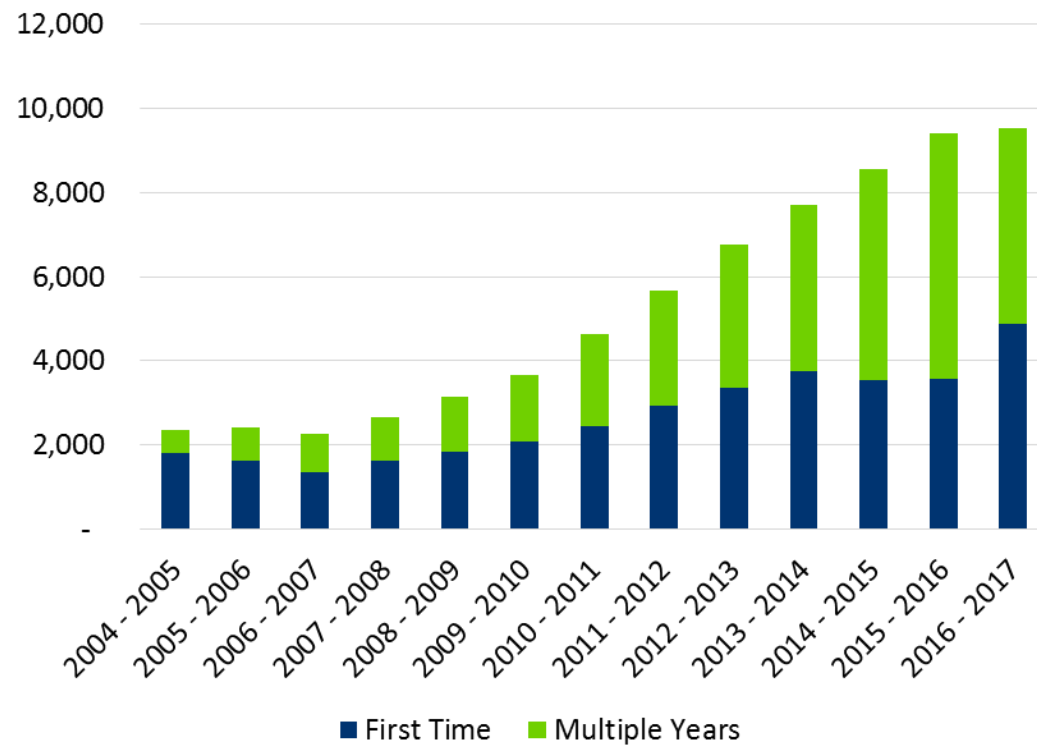
February 2017

Minnesota Department of
Education

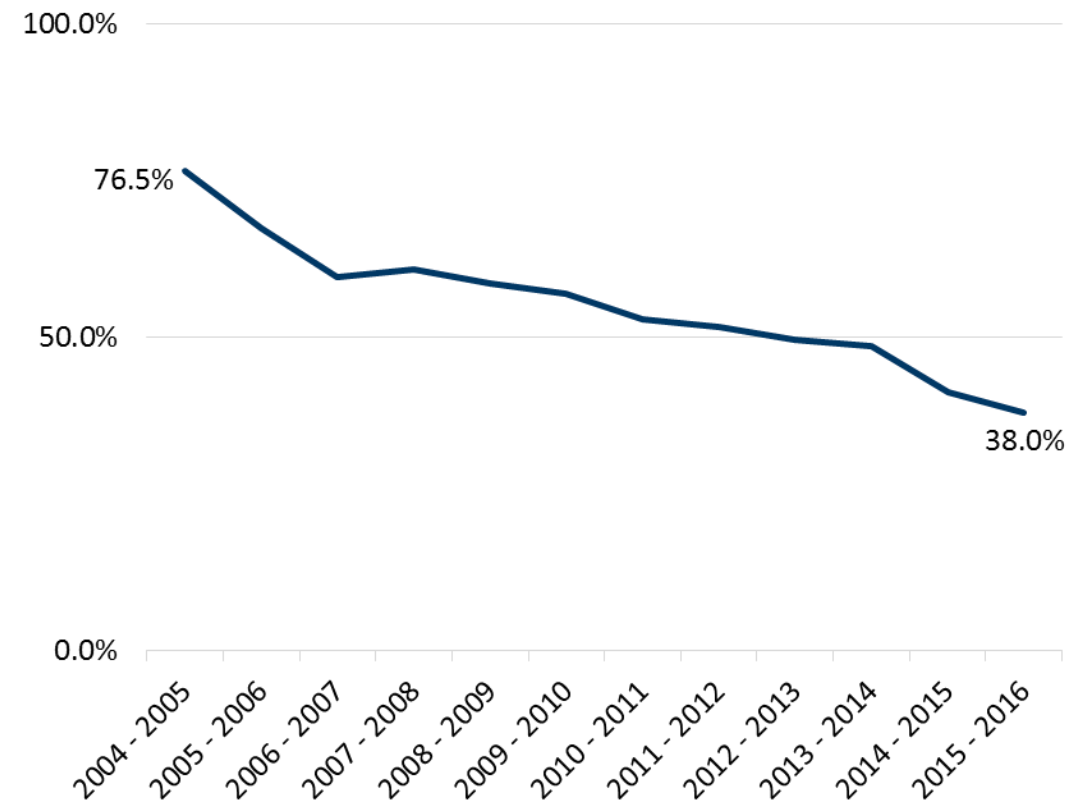
**Minnesota
Housing**
Finance Agency

Changing dynamics

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

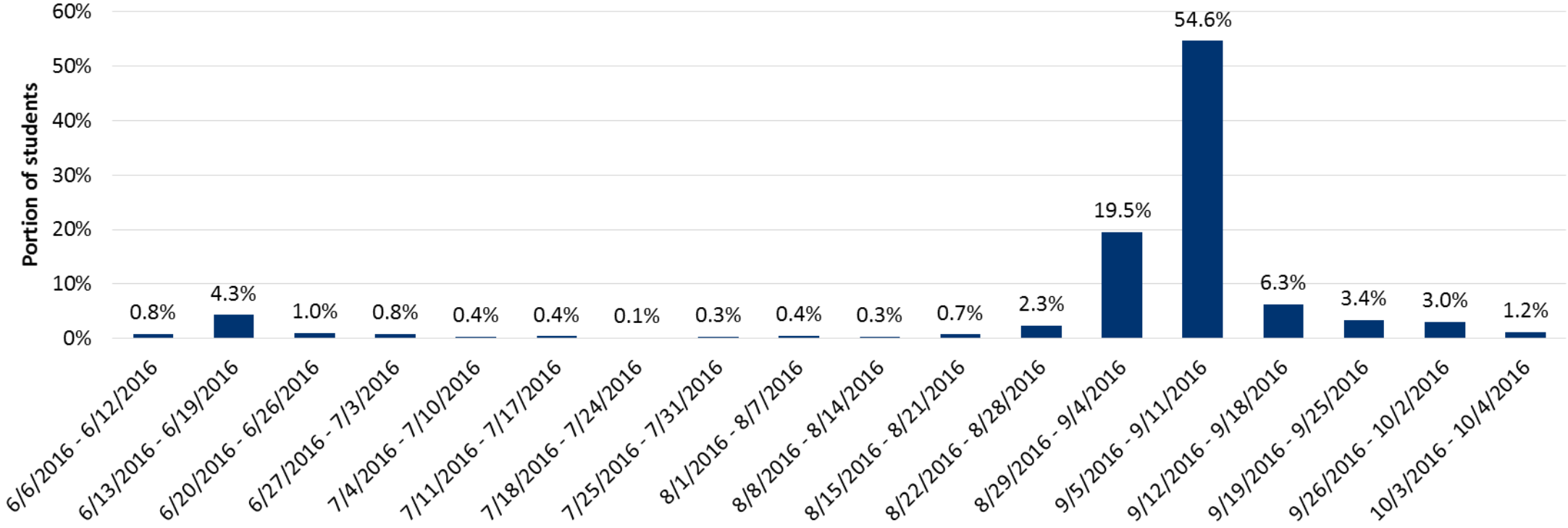


Portion of Homeless Students Identified as Homeless for the First Time



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

McKinney-Vento Act overview

- 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

National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE)

- 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



Welcome to the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE)

NCHE operates the U.S. Department of Education's technical assistance and information center for the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program.

ESSA Amendments to McKinney-Vento Now in Effect

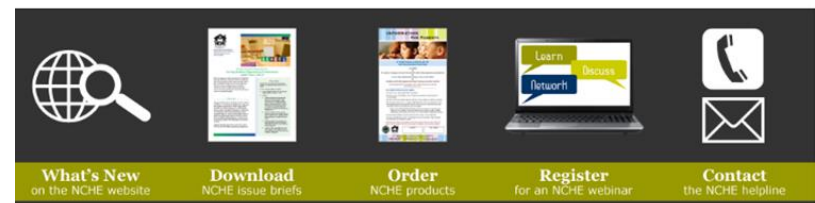
ESSA amendments to the McKinney-Vento Act went into effect on October 1, 2016. NCHE is in the process of updating its website and resources to reflect statutory changes. [Learn more.](#)



NCHE Releases Its Annual Report on Homeless Education Data | Dec 2016

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The National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) is the U.S. Department of Education's technical assistance center for the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program. NCHE is housed at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

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To view .pdf files, you must have the Adobe Reader program, available for free downloading at <http://www.adobe.com/>.

*Clicking on an external link will take you to a non-NCHE webpage or file. The external agency's privacy policy may differ from that of NCHE.

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.

Schoolhouse WASHINGTON PROMISING PRACTICES

February 2017

SPOTLIGHT: MASON COUNTY HOST

Schoolhouse Washington improves housing stability and advances educational success for students experiencing homelessness. We spotlight innovative programs in local schools and communities so they can serve as models across the state.

Mason County HOST (Housing Options for Students in Transition) helps students who seek to earn a high school diploma, GED or technical certification—but face barriers to reaching their goals because of the homeless crisis they are experiencing. The program serves unaccompanied youth who either have run away from home, been forced to leave home or been abandoned by their families.

The program connects a student, age 16 to 21, with a family that offers up its home as a safe, stable and temporary place to live until the student graduates. Homeless crisis resolved, the student is better able to concentrate on school and more likely to achieve educational success.

The HOST model is a particularly effective strategy for smaller communities that lack other temporary housing options for youth experiencing homelessness, such as shelters. (Mason County has none.)

In addition to temporary housing, the program also provides one-on-one educational support for the students, as well as services that help the HOST families. Students receive incentivized financial assistance—a \$50 monthly stipend contingent on meeting school attendance and educational performance goals. The program pays HOST families \$100 a month to temporarily house the student and, when needed, will help families find ways to increase their income, such as connecting them to employment services or other public benefits.

The program also helps students make a successful transition into independent adulthood. First and foremost, they are given help in finding stable housing for when they graduate. So far, every Mason County HOST student has exited the program into permanent housing. Students also are offered life-skills training, help with college applications and assistance in finding a job. Transitional services can last six months to a year after graduation.

Program Results & Data
For students living with Mason County HOST families

Educational Success #	
Total served	100
Graduated high school on time	104
Returned to graduate	3
Graduates who went on to college	83%

Housing Stability #

Total served	100
Permanently housed after exiting program	100%

Demographics #

White	83%
Latino	10%
Two or more races	1%
Native American	4%
African American	4%

Source: Mason County HOST

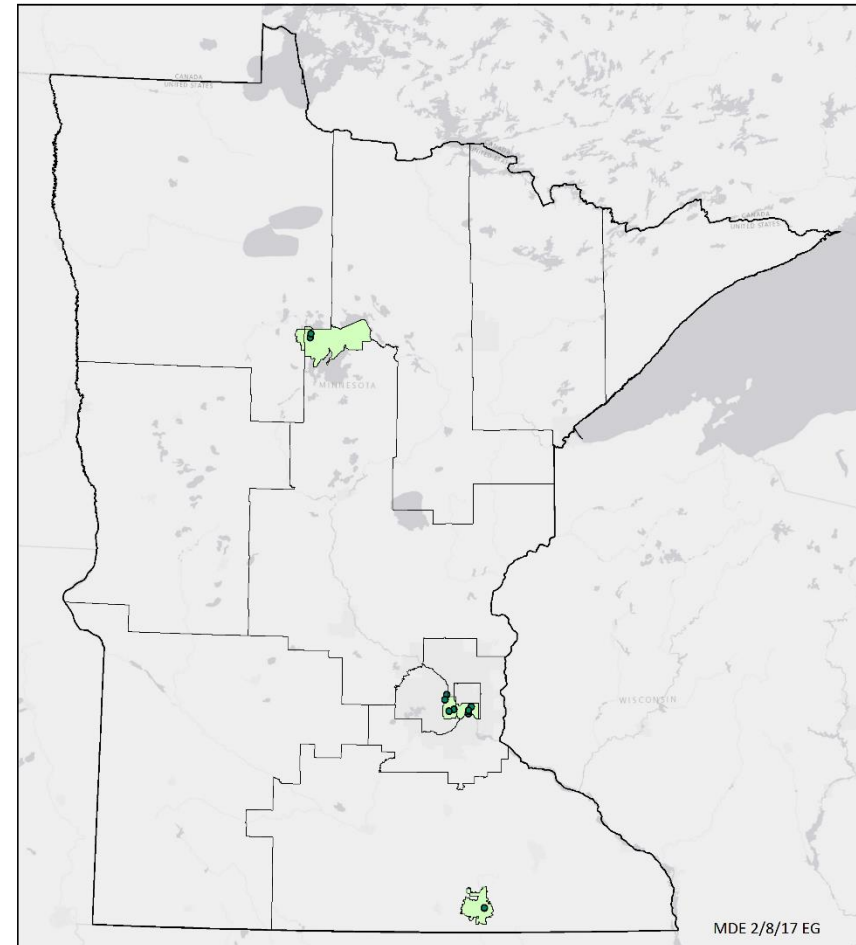
Schoolhouse Washington is a partnership of Building Changes and Columbia Legal Services
www.schoolhousewa.org | @schoolhousewa | info@schoolhousewa.org



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>

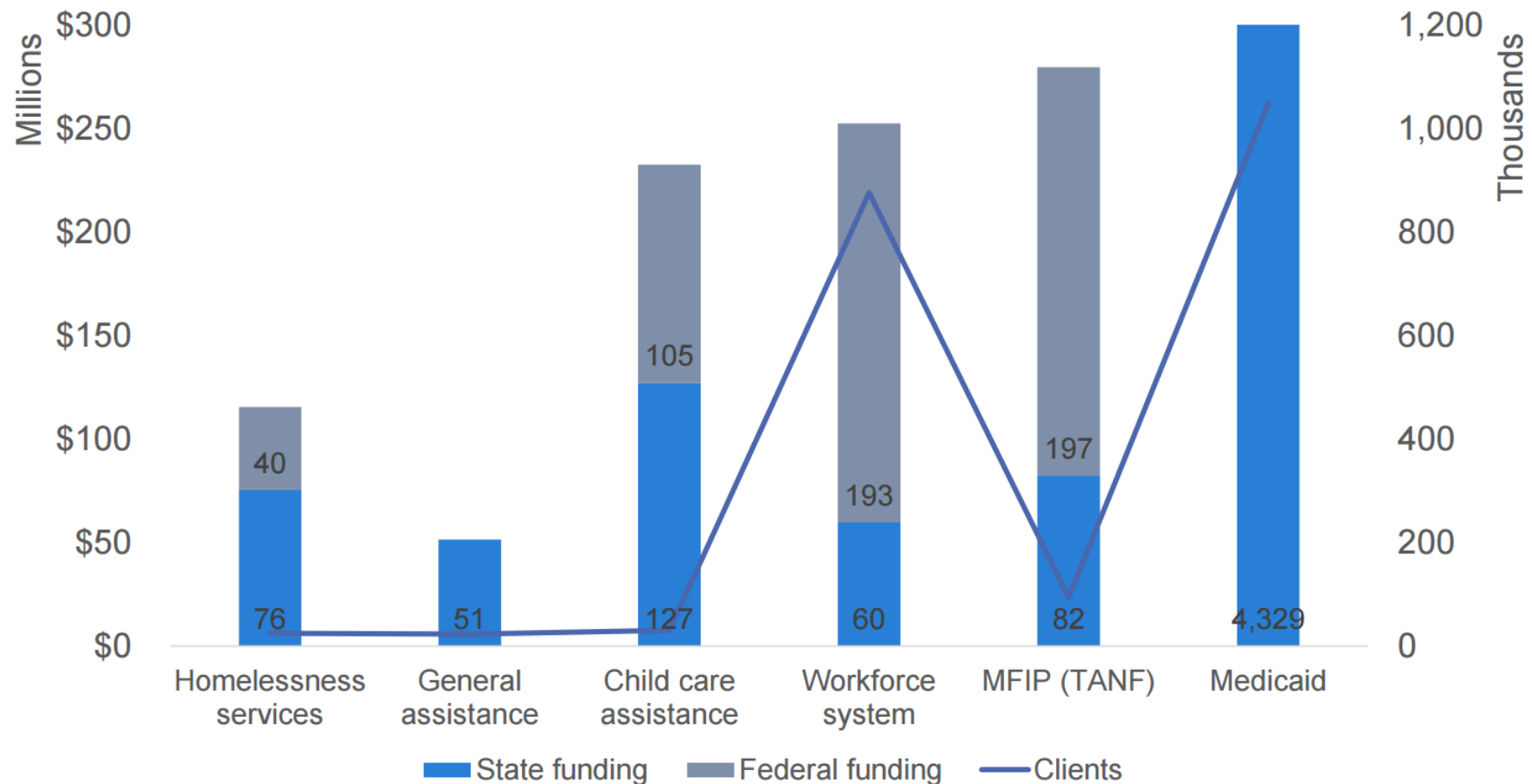


Key community-based programs and initiatives

- Federal resources managed by CoCs (>\$36 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

State and Federal investments in and clients served by selected Minnesota housing and human services programs



Homework Starts with Home

- **\$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**

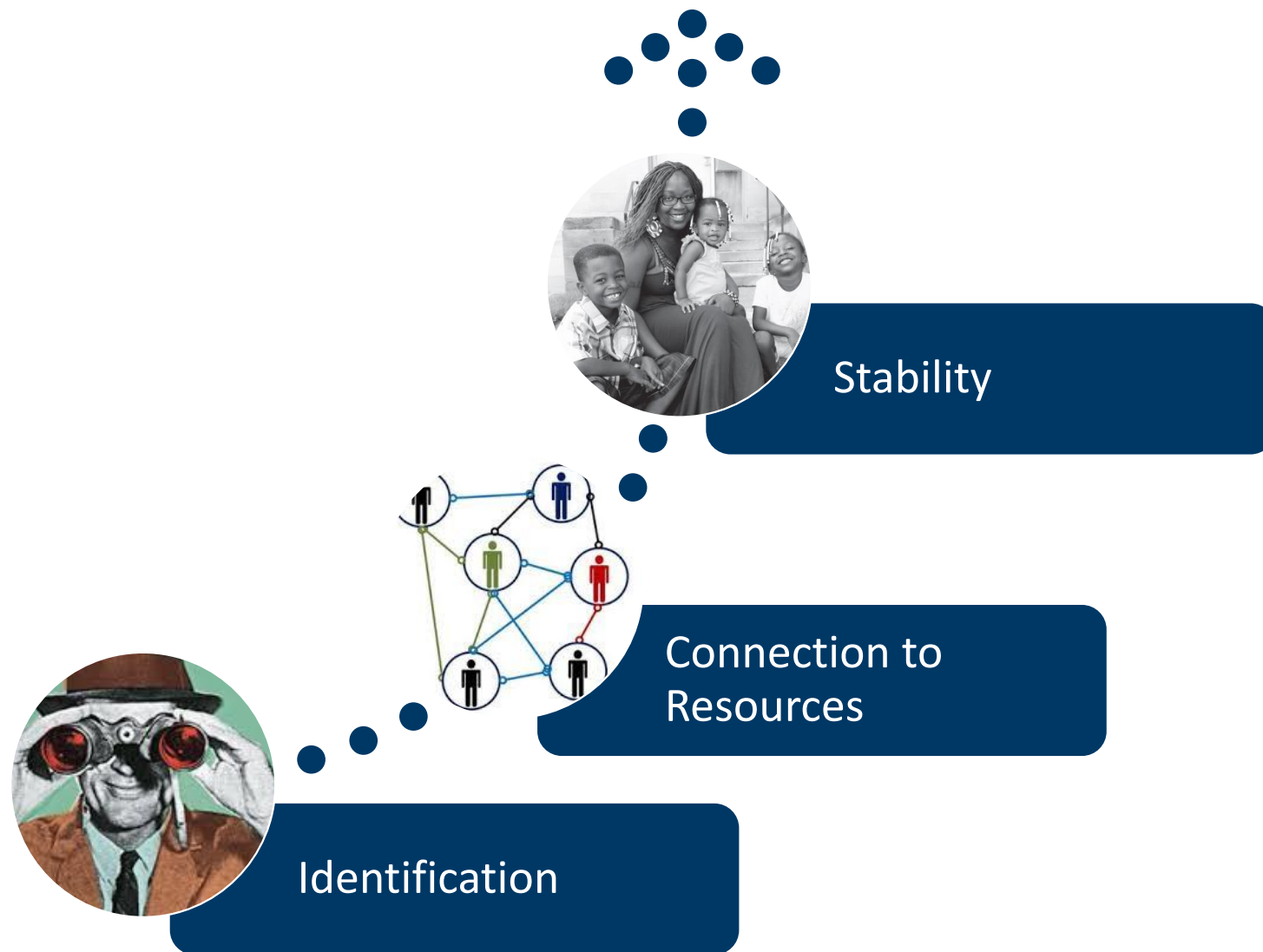


**Improved use of data to
drive interventions**



**Leveraging “adjacent
space” opportunities**

The Path to Stability



Resources

- 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
<http://www.gradnation.org/report/hidden-plain-sight>

Thank you!

Eric Grumdahl, Director of Special Projects

Minnesota Department of Education

Minnesota Office to Prevent and End Homelessness

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