

EVALUATING STABLE HOMES, STABLE SCHOOLS

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES PROJECT

About the Partner

The mission of the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA) is to promote and deliver quality, well-managed homes to a diverse low income population and, with partners, contribute to the well-being of the individuals, families and community we serve.



Project description

In Minneapolis Public Schools, 8.2% of students experienced homelessness in the 2017 school year. Safe and stable housing is the most significant out-of-school factor for predicting student success. The Stable Homes, Stable Schools (SHSS) pilot program is a collaborative initiative by the City of Minneapolis, Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS), Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA), and Hennepin County Health and Human Services to provide (a maximum of) three years of rental assistance to families experiencing housing instability or homelessness.

The program's goals are to improve families' housing stability, students' school attendance, and students' educational outcomes (achievement and discipline/behavior). The rental assistance will be provided to a maximum of 320 families (21 families each from 15 participating schools) containing approximately 650 students over the three years of program. Over the longer term, SHSS will be evaluated by the Homework Starts with Home Grand Challenges team led by Dr. Ann Masten and Dr. Maria Hanratty, but in the shorter term SHSS needs to report to the Minneapolis City Council on the initial impact of the program on housing stability, student attendance and enrollment stability.

The YMCA is the contracted service provider for families in SHSS and they are launching a survey on parent engagement. The purpose of this project is to compile and analyze these survey results and provide information to be used in quarterly program reports.

This project is important because it is very high profile in the community and politically. Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey is committed to investing significant city resources in this project, because of his commitment to working on homelessness, and we need to be positioned to evaluate how effective the program is as we see continued funding from the city and other partners.

Key issues, questions, and ideas to explore

1. How well are the SHSS interventions stabilizing families in their housing?
2. How well are the SHSS interventions stabilizing families in their schools?
3. To what extent are parents engaged with their children's education, and does that change at all after the SHSS intervention?

How will students' work be used to build community resiliency?

- To demonstrate the effectiveness of the SHSS program by working with the SHSS working group (staff from all partner organizations) to prepare quarterly reports for the SHSS Steering Committee (composed of the Mayor, the Superintendent, MPHA Executive Director, and several City Council members and Hennepin County Commissioners) and for the Minneapolis City Council Housing Policy and Development committee.

Potential community partners or stakeholders

- City of Minneapolis (funds rental assistance program, leads outreach to landlords)
- Minneapolis Public Schools (refers families to programs, provides data for school-related metrics)
- YMCA (provides services to families, administers parent survey)
- Hennepin County Office to End Homelessness (supports programs and ensures integration into homelessness system)

Existing Plans & Reports

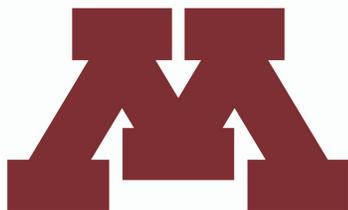
- SHSS Logic Model
- SHSS Evaluation Timeline
- Second Quarter Steering Committee Report (June 2019)

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