

ACTUALIZING EQUITY:

Housing Is A Human Right

Where we live impacts every aspect of our lives—it provides the foundation for our health, education, safety, and economic well-being. There isn't one kind of housing that fits the needs of every Minnesotan, but every member of our community has a right to equitable housing, which is more than a roof over one's head, but also affordable, safe and dignified. However, gendered violence, racism, the (in)justice system, anti-immigrant discrimination, and other forms of oppression deny housing for many communities in our region.



92.7%
OF RENTERS
DISPLACED

Showing up matters. When taken to housing court, tenants showed up in only 56% of cases. There are many reasons why a tenant may not show up; however in 92.7% of cases where the tenant did not show up but the landlord did, the tenant was displaced. When both parties show up to the hearing, 36% of cases result in a settlement. When the tenant showed up, they had a one in four chance of avoiding displacement. (HOME Line)

Chronic homelessness costs approximately \$372 million per year in Minnesota. This is enough money to cover nearly 3 years of rent for the estimated 9,312 people experiencing homelessness in Minnesota.

\$372
MILLION
PER YEAR



On January 24th, 2018, anti-domestic violence programs identified 1,092 people in MN attempting to flee violent situations who were told there were no shelters or housing resources available. Facing an impossible decision between experiencing violence or homelessness, 56% of people stayed with their abuser.

On any given night, an estimated 6,000 Minnesotan youth on their own experience homelessness. LGBTQ+ youth are 120% more likely to experience homelessness than their heterosexual and cisgender peers.

6,000
LGBTQ+ YOUTH



In Minneapolis, it is illegal for a homeless person to use an automobile, tent or other temporary structure as housing. In St. Paul, it is illegal to sit or lie down in particular public places. Criminalization and over-policing are compounded for Black, Indigenous, & People of Color experiencing homelessness. 39% of homeless adults in MN are African American (only 5% of the general population), and 8% are Native American (compared to 1%).

THE INJUSTICE OF CRIMINALIZING HOMELESSNESS

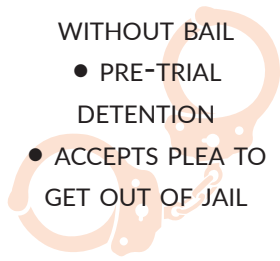
CRIMINALIZED

- CANNOT PAY FINE
- BENCH WARRANT



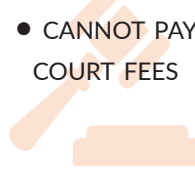
ARRESTED

- CANNOT PAY OR BE RELEASED WITHOUT BAIL
- PRE-TRIAL DETENTION
- ACCEPTS PLEA TO GET OUT OF JAIL



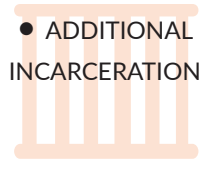
CONVICTED

- PROBATION WITHOUT AN ADDRESS MORE CHALLENGING
- CANNOT PAY COURT FEES



PENALTIES

- LOSS OF JOB, VOTING RIGHTS, & ACCESS TO BENEFITS
- ADDITIONAL INCARCERATION



Adapted from the National Law Center on Poverty and Homelessness

RESOURCES

Community Stabilization Project

CSP's mission is to build TENANT STABILITY THAT WILL LEAD TO COMMUNITY by: informing, educating, advocating for and organizing tenants to take action to preserve and increase the supply of healthy, safe and affordable housing in the City of Saint Paul.

- <http://csp501dale.wixsite.com/communitystabproject> •

Unlawful Detainer and Eviction Expungement

Eviction cases show up on your public record, regardless of the individual nuances of your situation. Depending on what occurred, it is possible to get an eviction case expunged from your record. For example, if you won your case in court, or settled with your landlord, you could get your case expunged. Law Help MN is a helpful resource more information.

- <https://www.lawhelpmn.org> •
- [Expungement Fact Sheet: https://bit.ly/2MKqpyv](https://bit.ly/2MKqpyv) •

Full Cycle Bike Shop

Full Cycle is a nonprofit bicycle shop in south Minneapolis that offers a six-month, paid internship program for homeless youth. They employ, train, and support homeless youth, teaching them bike repair and hands-on business skills including resume writing, interviewing skills, sales, and customer service. Full Cycle's Free Bike Program offers an opportunity for homeless and street-dependent youth to build their own bike in their shop, using donated parts.

- <https://fullcyclebikeshop.org/> •

StreetWorks Outreach Collaborative

StreetWorks outreach workers provide young people ages 13-24 with connections and needed resources such as housing, case management, counseling, life skills training, food, family reunification and safety planning, emergency shelter, and other basic necessities.

- <http://www.streetworksmn.org/> •

Make Homes Happen

Make Homes Happen envisions a Minneapolis where all residents can afford their home and have meaningful choices in where they live. To achieve this vision, Make Homes Happen proposes the City commit \$50 million annually, for ten years, in new, local, dedicated revenue to produce and preserve affordable rental and ownership housing.

- <https://www.facebook.com/MakeHomesHappenMPLS/> •

HOME Line

HOME Line provides free and low-cost legal, organizing, education, and advocacy services so that tenants throughout Minnesota can solve their own rental housing problems. They work to improve public and private policies relating to rental housing by involving affected tenants in the process.

- <https://homelinemn.org> •

Denise Butler

African Career, Education & Resource, Inc (ACER)
dbutler@acerinc.org

Ethrophic Burnett

Urban Homeworks
ethrophicb@urbanhomeworks.org

Ho Nguyen

Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women
hnguyen@mcbw.org

