

# **End of the Public Health Emergency (PHE)**

## **Saint Paul City Council – Public Health Policy Update**

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May 17, 2023

## Objectives

- To review the COVID-19 timeline, impact, response, and where we are now.
- To review the impacts to local, state and federal response due to the end of the emergency.
- To provide context for demobilizing the Department's response to COVID-19.

## Public Health Emergency for COVID-19: Timeline

Secretary of the Department Health and Human Services declared the Public Health Emergency (PHE) in late January 2020

1st case identified in Ramsey County on March 5, 2020

Department initiated ICS on March 5, 2020

George Floyd was murdered during a police arrest on May 25, 2020 with protests and civil unrest beginning on May 26th and continuing for many months

Delta surge extended Public Health ICS in late summer/fall 2021

Omicron (most recent variant) identified in fall 2022, and Public Health continued response

President Biden signed legislation on April 10, 2023 to end the National Emergency for COVID-19 with the Federal Public Health Emergency ending on **May 11, 2023**

## Impact of COVID-19 in Ramsey County: 2020 to present

- Cases: 161,069
- Deaths: 1,576
- Covid had a significant impact on residents from racially and ethnically diverse communities in Ramsey County.
  - Black/African Americans represent 14% of all cases (12.4% of census)
  - Asian Americans represent 14% of all cases (13.6% of census)
  - Hispanic Americans represent 8% of all cases (7.3% of census)
  - American Indians represent 1% of all cases (.7% of census)

## Impact of the Public Health COVID-19 Response: 2020 to present

- Nearly every public health employee was deployed at some point during the response. During vaccine rollout, approximately 151 staff were deployed and provided more than 31,000 field hours.
- 78,008 doses were given at 680 clinics. An additional 8,084 doses were given by contracted partners, including our Trusted Messenger partners.
- 123 Partnerships were leveraged to provide vaccine, including community partners like churches, mosques, and recreation centers. The relationship between our Incident Management Team (IMT) group and RECERT lifted up additional sites for testing and vaccines.



# Final COVID-19 Situation Update: Where we are now

Ramsey County COVID-19 Case Dashboard

The current CDC COVID-19 Community Level is **LOW**. Community Levels are based on the proportion of hospital capacity devoted to caring for COVID-19 patients, the number of new patients with COVID-19 admitted to the hospital in the past week, and the number of new COVID-19 cases in the county in the past week.

This COVID-19 dashboard is created and published by [Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health](#), using data received from the Minnesota Department of Health and the CDC. Due to reporting delays, data for the last week are preliminary. Data is for cases that were tested and returned positive from a healthcare provider or community testing site. At-home test results are not counted by MDH. As of December 6, 2022, all data are updated weekly.

[Ramsey County COVID-19 Case Dashboard | Data | Ramsey County](#)

## End of the Public Health Emergency: Surveillance

- Death and case reporting will continue, along with wastewater monitoring.
  - Hospital reporting will end April 2024
  - Long term care reporting, likely December 2024
- Local and state dashboards will be maintained.
  - Public Health will end weekly written briefings for the County Board unless case rate increases to “high” community transmission

## End of the Public Health Emergency: Testing, Vaccine, Treatment

- **Testing will be less available.**
  - MDH will preserve some access to antigen testing for specific community populations, Department will continue to distribute upon request. Corrections will continue to test symptomatic/at-risk populations. Feds will sustain Increasing Community Access to Testing (ICATT) program, in coordination with chain pharmacies.
- **Vaccine will be offered on a seasonal basis, similar to flu.**
  - Clinic will continue to provide Covid-19 vaccine to uninsured and underinsured residents. Mobile clinics will be offered on a seasonal basis to all residents, with insurance captured for potential reimbursement.
- **Telehealth treatment will remain available.**



## End of the PHE: Department Operations on behalf of the County

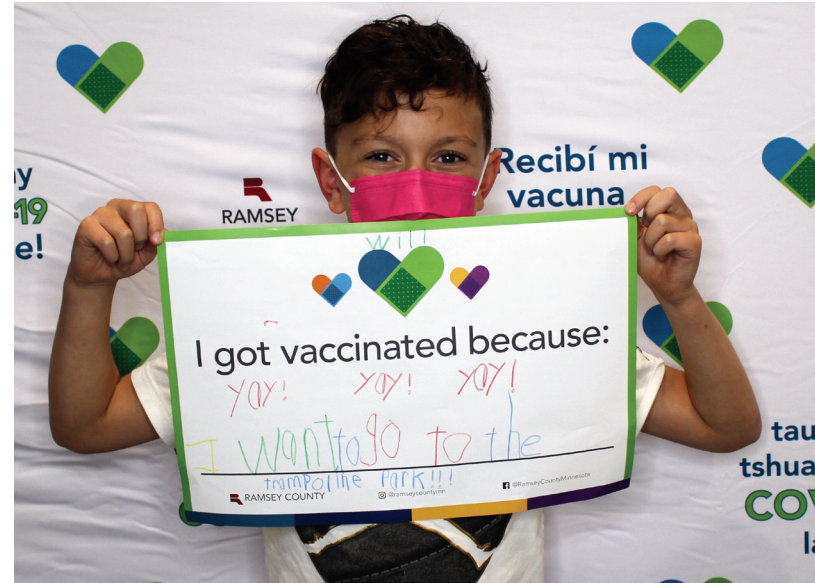
- Departments will no longer be required to report cases to Public Health Incident Command; masks and tests will be available to employees while in warehouse inventory is available.
- HR administers claims for Workers Compensation coverage.
- Guidance around isolation will be reduced to 7 days for healthcare and congregate settings (5 days for all other employees). In general, stay home when you are sick.

## End of the PHE: Department Operations on behalf of the County

- Public Health will continue to recommend masking for healthcare and congregate sites: 555, 402, 1919, Detox, Correctional Health
- Vaccination will be recommended by Public Health (Departments may implement specific policies around tracking vaccine status or requiring in specific settings).
- We await additional information from our federal partners regarding vaccine requirements for CMS facilities.
- Public Health will embed the response to COVID-19 into our ongoing emergency preparedness and response responsibilities.



# Thank you!!!



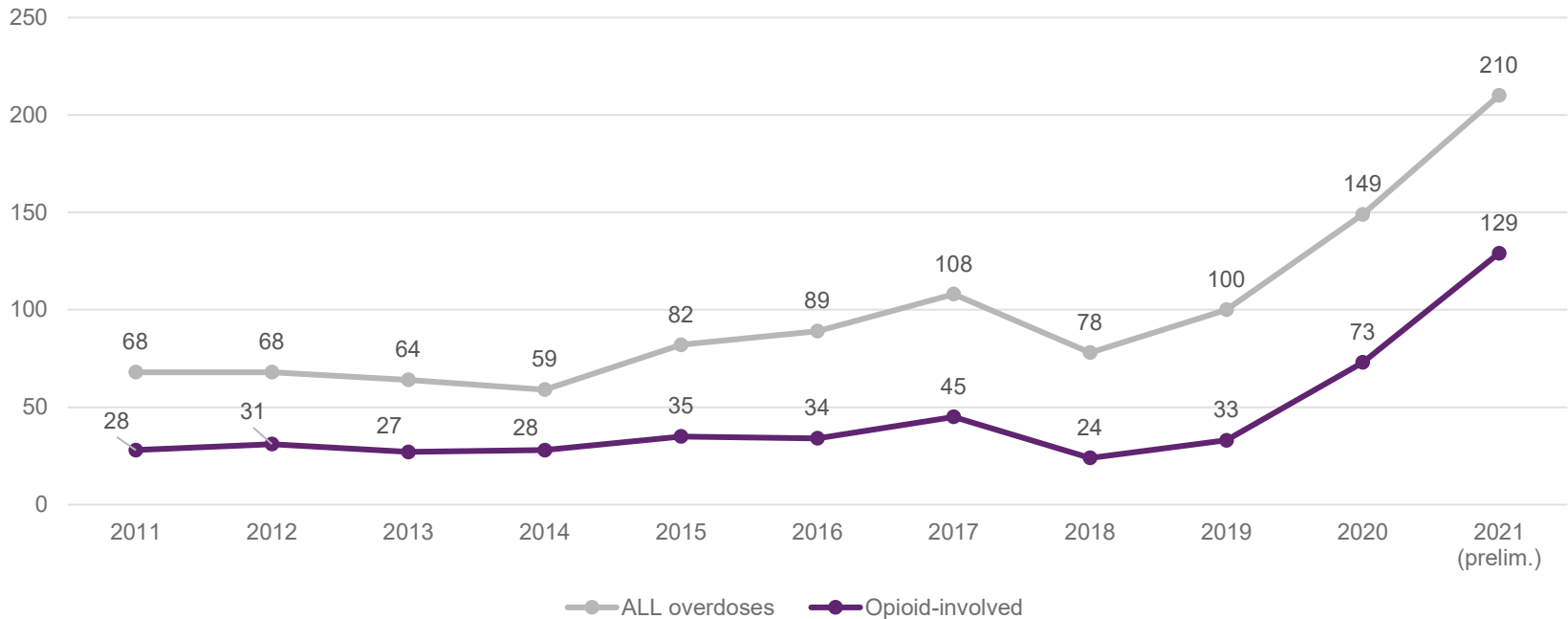
**Questions?**

# Opioid Response Initiative Update

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# Ramsey County Overdose Fatalities Over Time, All Drugs and Opioid-involved

Number of overdose deaths among residents by year, All overdoses and opioid-related, Ramsey County

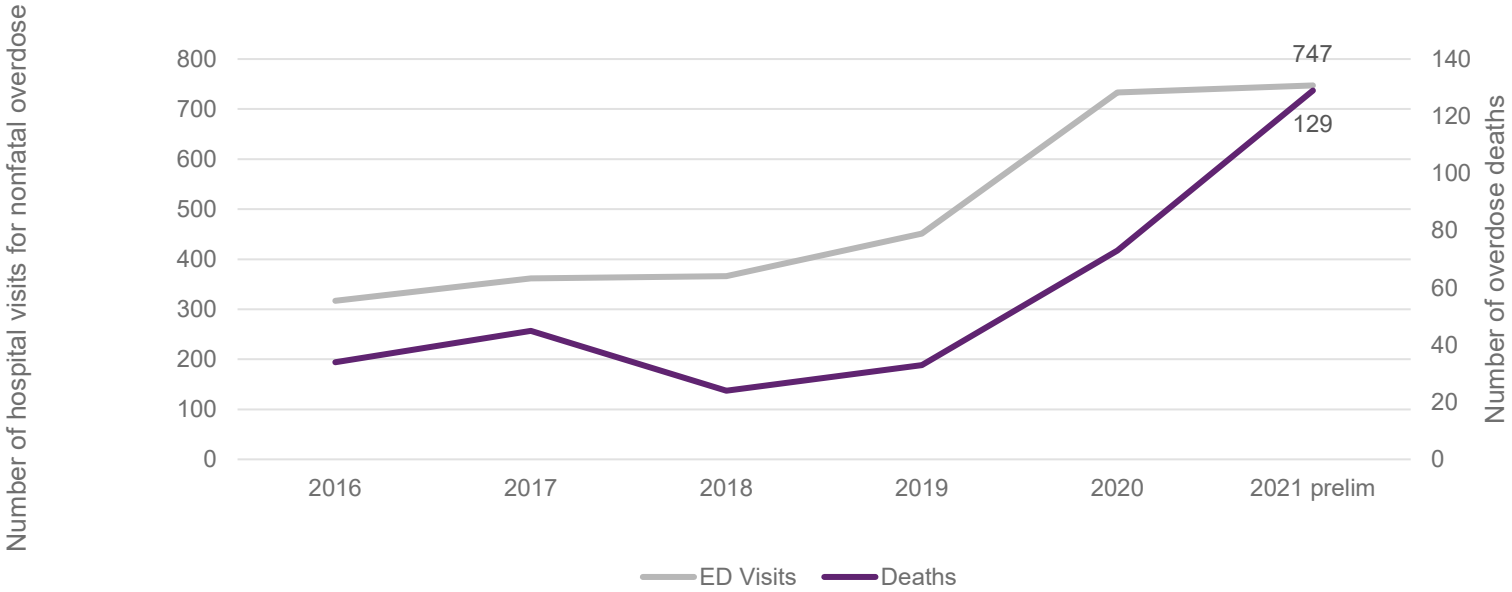


Source: Minnesota Department of Health,  
Analysis by SPRCPH/sm



# Ramsey County Opioid-involved Drug Overdose, Fatal and Nonfatal

Fatal and nonfatal opioid-related drug overdose among residents, Ramsey County, 2016-2021



Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Analysis by SPRCPH/sm

## Ramsey County Opioid Settlement Funds to Date

Distributors McKesson, Cardinal Health, and AmerisourceBergen, and opioid manufacturer Johnson & Johnson. **Over \$300 million** to Minnesota:

<u>City or County</u>	<u>Total Payment <b>over 18 years</b></u>
Maplewood city	\$416,296.33
North St. Paul city	\$127,844.68
RAMSEY COUNTY	\$15,780,976.86 ( <i>\$3,086,450.26 received to date</i> )
Roseville city	\$382,284.85
St. Paul city	\$8,319,970.77

This agreement designates local public health departments in Minnesota as chief strategists for these funds.



## Additional Settlements pending

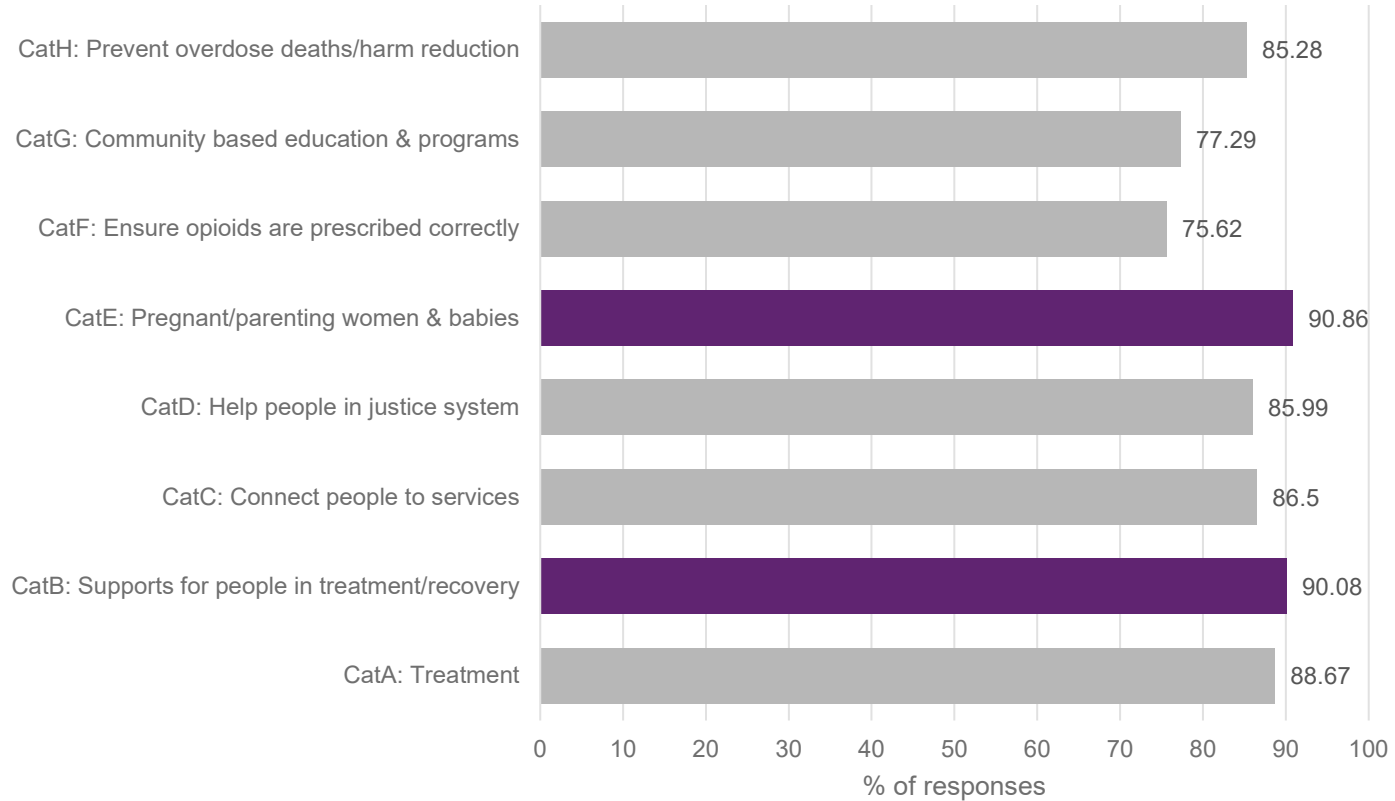
Distributor	Settlement Amount	Status
Teva Pharmaceuticals	\$4.25 billion nationally over 13 years PLUS 1.2 billion for Narcan® over 10 years.	Settlement terms reached. States' subdivision sign-on in process.
AbbVie's Allergen	\$2.37 billion nationally.	Settlement terms reached. States' subdivision sign-on in process.
Mallinckrodt	\$1.73 billion nationally.	The final terms of settlement have just been finalized.
Endo	\$450 million nationally over 10 years.	Settlement terms reached. Endo will pay states upon emergence from bankruptcy.
Sackler family's Purdue Pharma (which is to be renamed Knoa Pharma)	Minnesota's share exceeds \$50M over 9 years.	Currently on appeal in federal court. MN Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council (OERAC) will facilitate distribution.
Insys	Total value of bankruptcy estate yet to be determined.	MN Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council (OERAC) will facilitate distribution.
CVS	\$4.9 billion nationally.	Settlement terms reached. States' subdivision sign-on in process.
Walgreens	\$5 billion nationally.	Settlement terms reached. States' subdivision sign-on in process.
Walmart	\$3.1 billion nationally.	Settlement terms reached. States' subdivision sign-on in process.

## Opioid Remediation Uses – Categories

<p><b>Treatment</b></p> <p>Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder &amp; any co-occurring Substance Use Disorder or Mental Health conditions through evidence-based or evidence-informed programs or strategies.</p>	<p><i>Category A. TREATMENT OF OPIOID USE DISORDER (OUD)</i></p>
	<p><i>Category B. SUPPORT PEOPLE IN TREATMENT &amp; RECOVERY</i></p>
	<p><i>Category C. CONNECT PEOPLE WHO NEED HELP TO THE HELP THEY NEED (CONNECTIONS TO CARE)</i></p>
	<p><i>Category D. ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE-INVOLVED PERSONS</i></p>
	<p><i>Category E. ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF PREGNANT OR PARENTING WOMEN &amp; THEIR FAMILIES, INCLUDING BABIES WITH NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME</i></p>
<p><b>Prevention</b></p> <p>Efforts that support opioid misuse from occurring; and efforts that reduce harm through evidence-based or evidence-informed programs or strategies.</p>	<p><i>Category F. PREVENT OVER-PRESCRIBING &amp; ENSURE APPROPRIATE PRESCRIBING AND DISPENSING OF OPIOIDS</i></p>
	<p><i>Category G. PREVENT MISUSE OF OPIOIDS</i></p>
	<p><i>Category H. PREVENT OVERDOSE DEATHS &amp; OTHER HARMS (HARM REDUCTION)</i></p>
<p><b>Other Strategies</b></p>	<p><i>First responders, leadership, planning &amp; coordination, training, research, and post-mortem (i.e., toxicology, etc.).</i></p>

# Community Feedback Survey on Opioid Remediation Resource Priorities

Percentage of responses by remediation category  
*"Extremely or Very Important"*



## Community Feedback Survey Themes from open-ended questions

1. Make overdose prevention and SUD treatment services affordable.
2. Increase the availability of overdose prevention services/education in many settings (i.e., emergency rooms, primary care clinics, detox, public housing, libraries).
3. Forge partnerships in the community with a variety of stakeholders (faith-based mentioned often).
4. Ensure services are culturally relevant.
5. Easier access to MOUD and Narcan.
6. Advocate for any needed policy changes (both institutional and legislative).
7. Help (services, education, support) pregnant people and newborns.
8. Services need to be “upstream” (primary prevention) before people even begin to use/misuse substances.
9. Ensure basic needs are met when people are in treatment and recovery.
10. Increase SUD and MH workforce.
11. Educate residents about prescription pain meds (benefits and risks) and opioid alternatives for pain.

## Activities to Date

SPRCPH Community Feedback Survey on Opioid Resources – A Preliminary Summary

Ramsey County Launched the Open Data portal

[Opioid Crisis in Ramsey County](#)

SPRCPH Hosted its 1<sup>st</sup> annual meeting with City Jurisdictions on November 30, 2022

SPRCPH Hosted its 1<sup>st</sup> Opioid Response Initiative Partner meeting on March 22, 2023

SPRCPH Submitted the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Opioid Settlement Funds Report to DHS on March 31, 2023

SPRCPH Narcan Training for Ramsey County Staff

Amended Minnesota Opioids State-Subdivision Memorandum of Agreement, April 10, 2023



ENHANCING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

# Environmental Service Center

St Paul City Council Update  
May 17, 2023



# Enhancing Environmental Health Services

- System-wide redesign of services provided to residents.
- Motivated by resident feedback, which identified opportunities for improvement in accessibility, efficiency and scope of services.



# County-owned Environmental Service Center

- Collection of recyclables, food scraps and household hazardous waste.
- Permanent location for Fix-It Clinics.
- Free product reuse room.
- Space for community education programs.



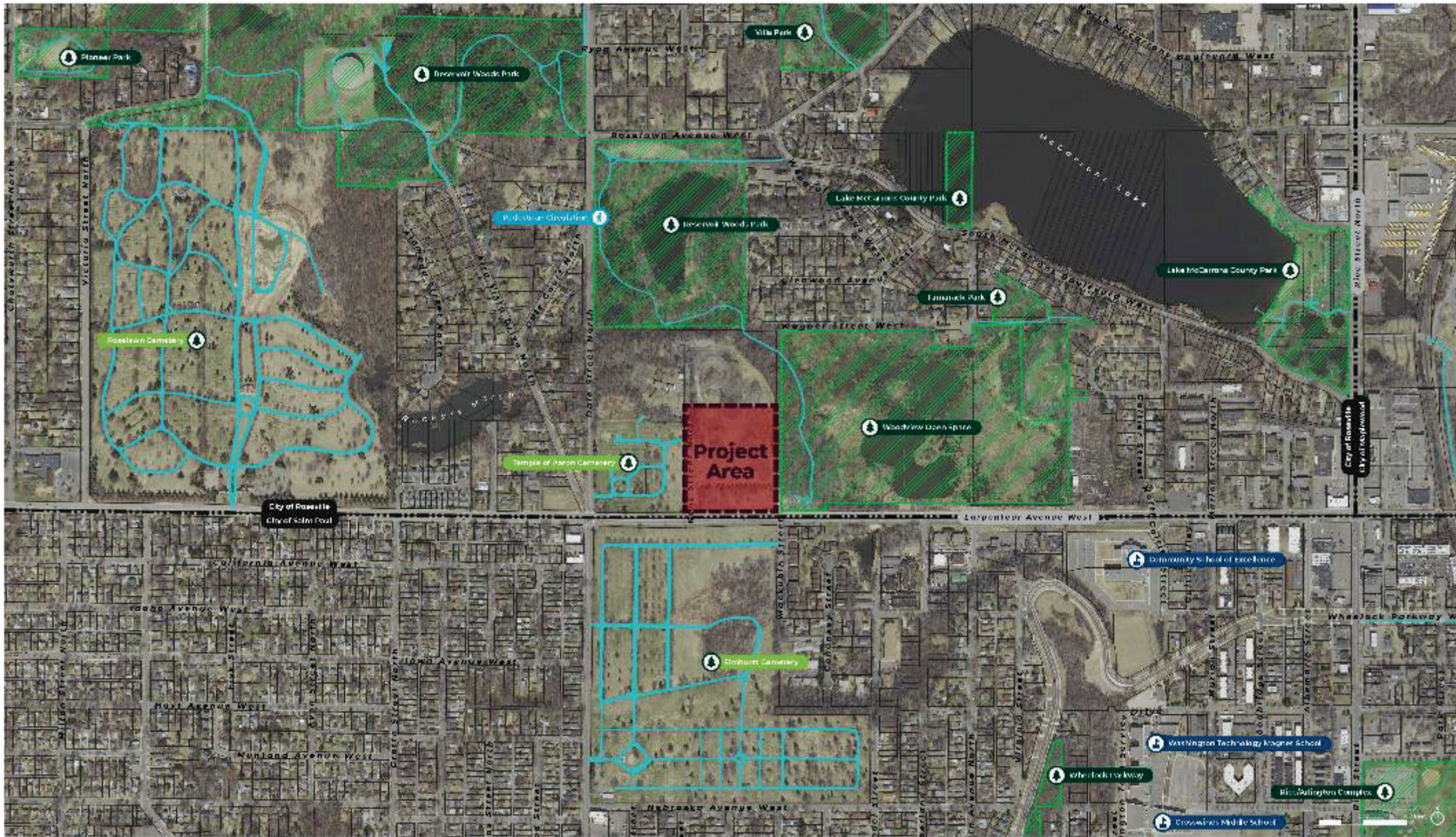


# Funding Source

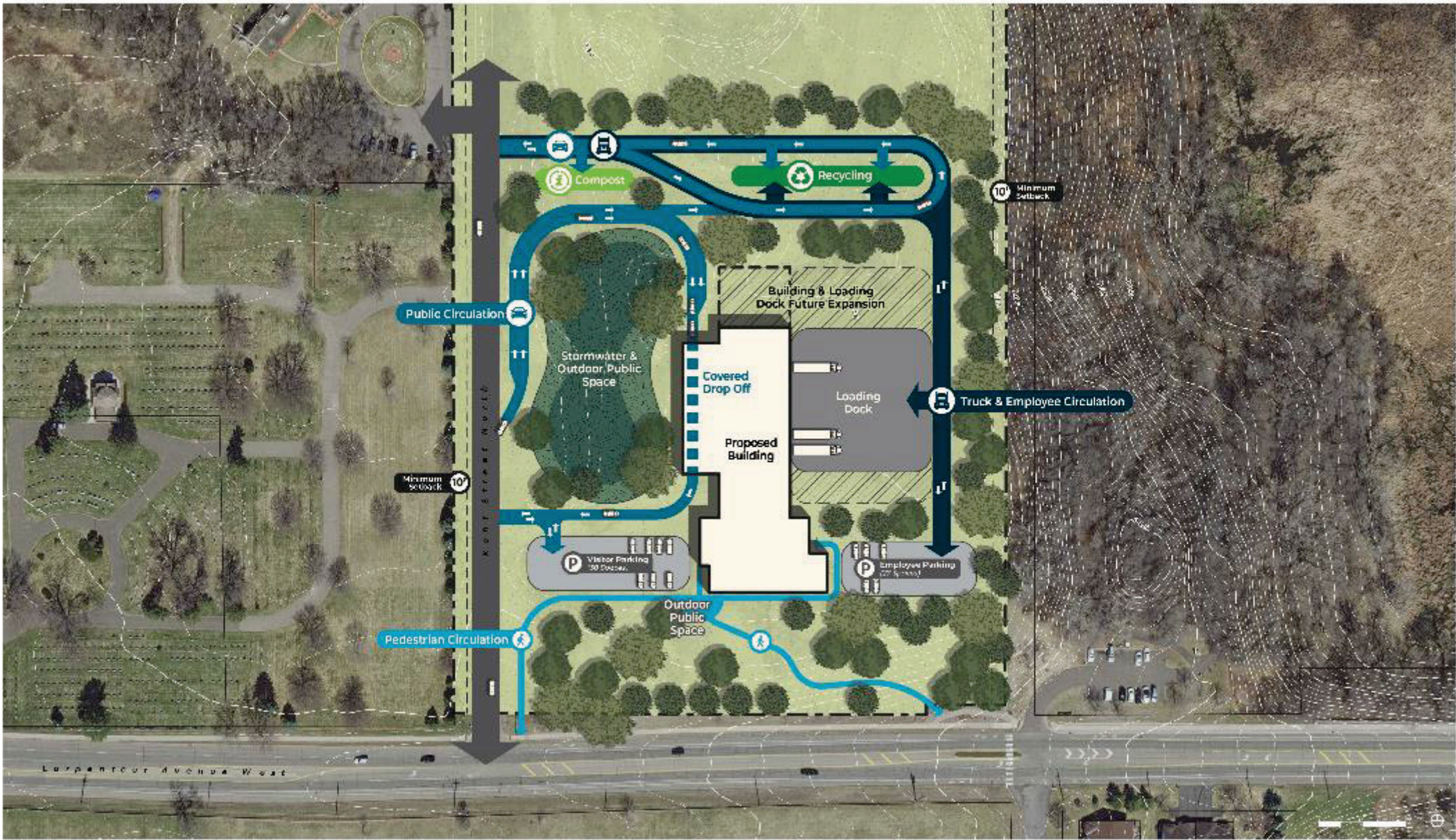
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- The Solid Waste Fund, generated from the Ramsey County Environmental Charge
- There will be **no increase** to the County Environmental Charge as a result of constructing this facility













Existing facility, Washington County  
Environmental Center, MN



Conceptual rendering of facility in  
Pope Douglas, MN

# Community Input

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Through surveys and listening sessions conducted we heard:

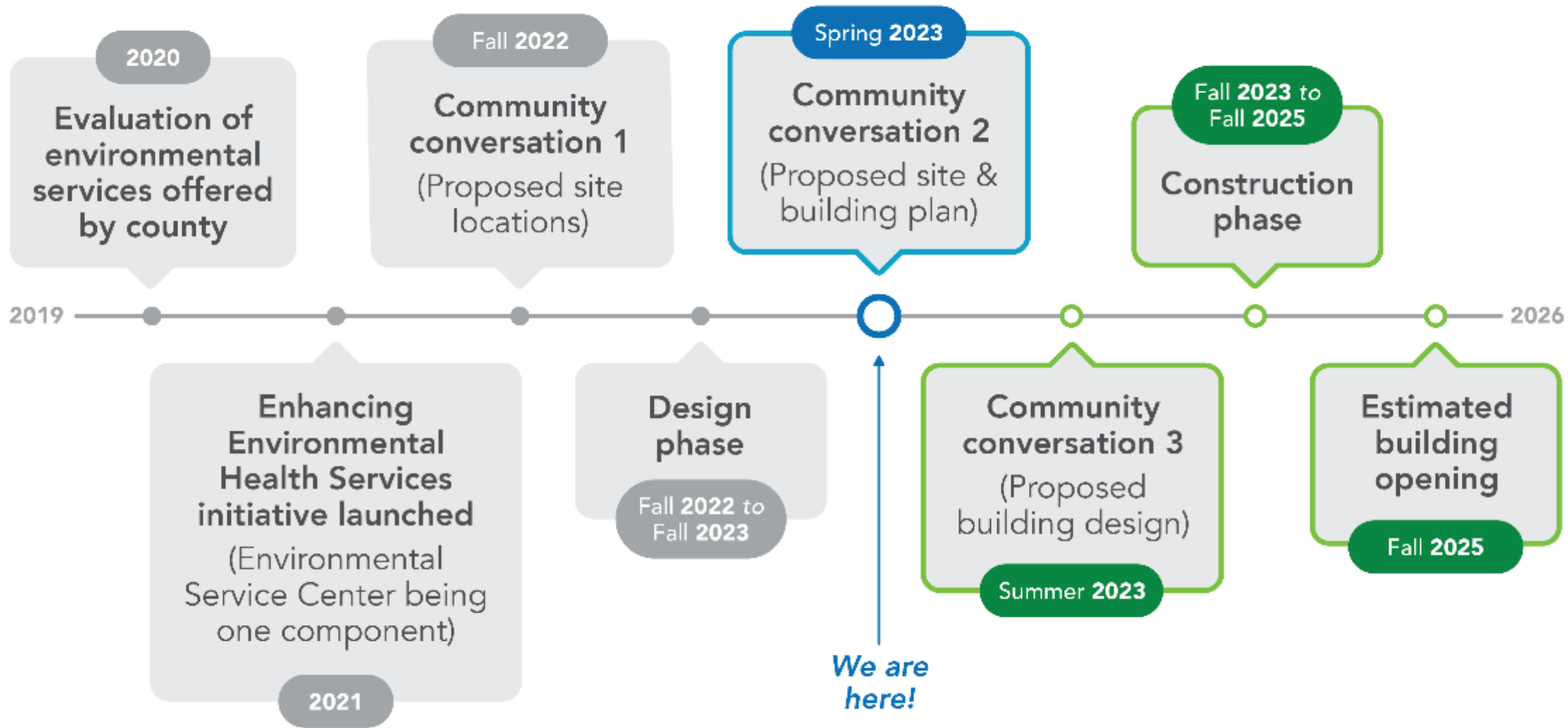
- 94% of residents are looking forward to using the new Environmental Service Center.
- Residents are excited about:
  - One-stop shop for recycling and disposal services
  - Community space
  - Convenient, accessible location
- Residents are concerned about:
  - Impact to surrounding area – traffic, safety, and noise
  - Ensuring accessibility

# Addressing Community Concerns

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- Impact to surrounding area:
  - New plantings will provide buffer between site and nearby neighbors and park
  - Hill between site and park space will help with buffering as well
  - Conducting traffic assessment to help ensure minimal traffic disruption to surrounding area
- Ensuring accessibility:
  - Site is centrally-located in county
  - Site is located along public transit lines and public walkways



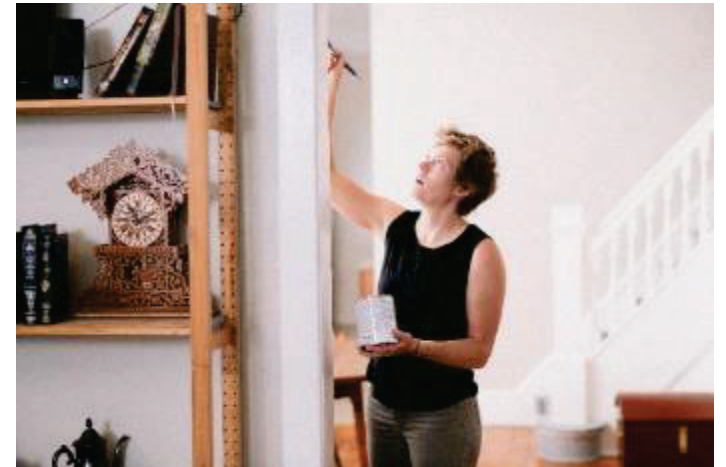


*Timeline is subject to change.*

# Next Steps

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- Resident survey: [www.ramseycounty.us/ESC](http://www.ramseycounty.us/ESC)
- Design development this spring
- Preliminary facility designs to share in early summer







# *Questions?*

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[www.ramseycounty.us/ESC](http://www.ramseycounty.us/ESC)  
[AskEH@ramseycounty.us](mailto:AskEH@ramseycounty.us)

# HouseCalls Program

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Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health  
Mid-Year Update to the Saint Paul City Council  
May 17, 2023

## Agenda

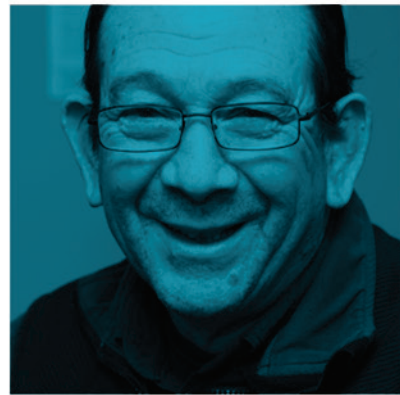
- HouseCalls Overview, Goals and Services
  - Clients Served
  - Financial Resources
  - Current Challenges
-

## HouseCalls Overview

- HouseCalls supports families and individuals facing housing emergencies by helping to stabilize situations so they can safely stay in their homes.
  - The program focuses on preventing homelessness and condemnations due to rent owed, utility payments owed or unsanitary/unsafe conditions in their home.
  - HouseCalls combines the breadth of a public agency with the flexibility of a nonprofit; long-standing partnership of thirty years between Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health and Minnesota Community Care was born out of knowledge that preventing homelessness has direct impacts on maintaining the health of families and the community.
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# HouseCalls

## Helping Families Safely Stay in Their Homes



## Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health

- Staff and Program located at the Public Health Center, Don Juenemann Building, 555 Cedar St.
- Co-located with Public Health Clinical Services, Vital Records, Administration







## SITES AND SERVICES

WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING A RANGE OF SERVICES INCLUDING:

- Medical Care
- Dental Care
- Mental/Behavioral Health, Social Services, and Case Management
- Pediatrics
- Perinatal Care / Midwifery
- Women's Health
- Youth/Adolescent Health
- Renewal Services
- Pharmacy
- Nutrition Services
- Chiropractic
- Optometry
- Health Education / Risk Reduction
- Outreach, Linkage-to-Care
- Insurance Navigation

## MINNESOTA COMMUNITY CARE CLINICAL LOCATIONS

**CLINICAL SITES**

<p><b>LA CLINICA</b> 153 Cesar Chavez Street St. Paul, MN 55107</p> <p><b>EAST SIDE</b> 995 East 7th Street St. Paul, MN 55106</p>	<p><b>@ MCDONOUGH HOMES</b> 1544 Timberlake Road St. Paul, MN 55117</p> <p><b>FARMINGTON</b> 19685 Pilot Knob Rd Farmington, MN 55024</p>
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**DENTAL SITES**

<p><b>MCDONNELL DENTAL CLINIC</b> 478 South Robert Street St. Paul, MN 55107</p> <p><b>EAST SIDE DENTAL</b> 995 East 7th Street St. Paul, MN 55106</p>	<p><b>BRIGHT SMILES @ LA CLINICA</b> 153 Cesar Chavez Street St. Paul, MN 55107</p>
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**SPECIALTY CLINICS**

<p><b>DOWNTOWN CLINIC</b> 434 Dorothy Day Place St. Paul, MN 55102</p> <p><b>UNION GOSPEL @ UNION GOSPEL MISSION</b> 435 University Ave. E St. Paul, MN 55130</p>	<p><b>@ FAMILY SERVICES CENTER</b> 2001 Van Dyke St. Maplewood, MN 55109</p>
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**SCHOOL-BASED CLINICS**

<p><b>HEALTHSTART @ PEARCE</b> 1027 University Avenue Saint Paul, MN 55104</p> <p><b>HEALTHSTART @ CENTRAL</b> 275 North Lexington Pkwy Saint Paul, MN 55104</p> <p><b>HEALTHSTART @ COMO PARK</b> 740 West Rose Avenue Saint Paul, MN 55117</p> <p><b>HEALTHSTART @ CREATIVE ARTS</b> 65 E Kellogg Boulevard St Paul, MN 55101</p> <p><b>HEALTHSTART @ GORDON PARKS</b> 1212 University Ave West St Paul, MN 55104</p>	<p><b>HEALTHSTART @ HARDING</b> 1540 East 6th Street Saint Paul, MN 55106</p> <p><b>HEALTHSTART @ HIGHLAND PARK</b> 1015 Snelling Avenue South Saint Paul, MN 55116</p> <p><b>HEALTHSTART @ HUMBOLDT</b> 20 East Baker Street Saint Paul, MN 55107</p> <p><b>HEALTHSTART @ JOHNSON</b> 1349 Arcade Street Saint Paul, MN 55106</p> <p><b>HEALTHSTART @ WASHINGTON</b> 1495 Rice Street Saint Paul, MN 55117</p>
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**Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health  
Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Priorities**  
*Community Priorities for Action*

- **Racial and Health Equity**
  - Healthy Eating, Active Living, and Tobacco-Free Living
  - **Access to Health Care Services**
  - **Mental Health and Well-being**
  - Violence Prevention
  - Climate Change
  - **Homelessness**
  - Opioid Prevention and Response
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## History, Staff and Funding

- Program origins back to 1990
  - Partnership with Minnesota Community Care began in 1992
  - Five Staff: three Public Health staff, including the onsite Supervisor and two Minnesota Community Care staff plus a program coordinator
  - Funding:
    - Ramsey County Property Tax Levy
    - Ramsey County Environmental Health
    - Minnesota Community Care – Family Homelessness and Prevention & Assistance Program (FHPAP), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
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## Program Goals

- Stabilize housing for individuals and families
  - Provide outreach and access to community primary health care for Ramsey County residents experiencing unstable and inadequate housing
  - Serve as a part of a network of community-based resources to prevent homelessness
  - Increase school attendance
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## HouseCalls Core Services

- Sanitation assistance
  - Rental and utility assistance
  - Assistance responding to code enforcement orders with housing violations, condemnations & evictions
  - Support families in crisis
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## Some of Our Partners

- Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health, Environmental Health Division
  - Saint Paul Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI)
  - Ramsey County departments and municipalities
  - City Council Legislative Hearing Office
  - Saint Paul Foundation and other local foundations
  - Community agencies
  - Ramsey County Housing Stability Department
  - Families
  - Faith Communities
  - Cultural Organizations
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## Situational Examples

- **TYPICAL CASE:** DSI reaches out to state that they were just at a household and the resident was transported to the hospital. The home is severely cluttered/ hoarded and they will not be able to return home until the unit meets safety standards.
  - **COMMUNITY RENT CASE:** A young mother calls to state that she has a landlord filing against her in court and is being evicted if she does not pay \$4,200 rent to the landlord within the next 10 days.
  - **COMPLEX CASE:** Case management client served in HouseCalls from 2013 to present experiencing challenges related to a crisis with Public Housing. Originally assisted with obtaining his public housing voucher. For many years he has relied on social work staff to answer financial questions and provide advocacy as needed.
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## Clients Served

January 1, 2020 – Current:

- Households Assisted: FHPAP - 723, ESG - 103, Saint Paul Foundation - 257
  - 84% of HouseCalls clients live in the City of Saint Paul
  - Clients include:
    - Single adults, families with dependent children, and youth
    - Majority (over 60%) identifying as Black/African American households who are lower income and disproportionately impacted by housing instability
    - Stably housed (vs. chronically homeless) until a crisis happens – such as medical bills, unemployment, car trouble, etc.
  - Eligibility based on funding criteria
  - Households deemed ineligible by other programs, such as Emergency Assistance or Rent Help Minnesota. HouseCalls is often a one-time bridge.
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## Financial Resources Provided

- In 2022, 257 households were supported with assistance for rent and sanitation.
- Annual Funding to residents for RENT assistance in 2022:
  - FHPAP - \$134,230 (served 113 households)
  - ESG - \$29,371 (served 26 households)
  - Saint Paul Foundation-\$72,284 (served 100 households)
  - ARPA- \$16,000 (served 18 households)
- Assistance covers the entire funding need they are experiencing (either alone or through bundling of funds with other organizations) so they are able to return to that stable position.
- Additional limited resources for cleaning and disposal assistance.
- With an increase in funding resources, in 2024-2025 anticipate supporting approximately 750 households over a two-year period of time.

## Current Challenges

- Large outstanding rent and utility bills
  - Changing conditions and requirements of funding
  - Delays for in-home health care services
  - Financial literacy
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## HouseCalls Staff

- Lauren Lightner Ross, LICSW: Public Health, HouseCalls Supervisor
  - Nicole Paradise, MSW: Public Health, Social Worker III
  - Glenda Dates: Public Health, Health Education Program Assistant
  - Joanna Sanyi: Community Health Worker/Educator
  - Natasha Vandecruise: Minnesota Community Care Social Worker
  - Renee Leinbach: Program Director, Minnesota Community Care
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**Thank You**

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