Innovative Pilot Program: Familiar Families

August 2025

What's Working in Family Shelter?

- Increased length of stay limit at Family Service Center
- Project Home continues to have no length of stay limit
- Weekly Nursing staff and Mental Health professionals onsite at the Family Service Center and Project Home
- Onsite Homework Help provided by St. Paul Public Schools Project REACH staff and other volunteer groups
- Enrichment programming for children and families
- Required Budgeting & Savings Program can be difficult for families, but reaps rewards at the end of their shelter journey

Gaps in Family Shelter Services

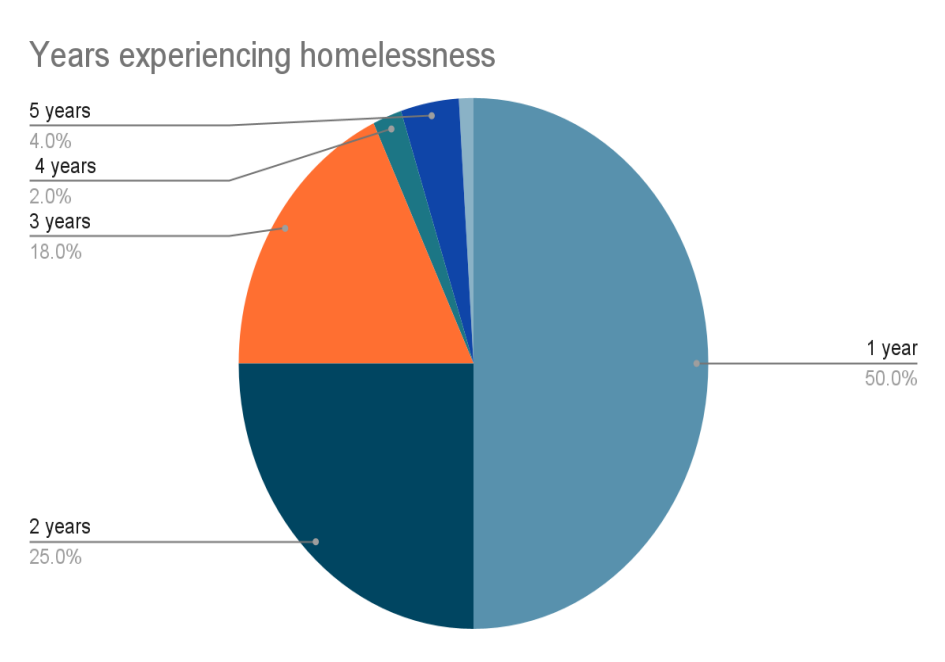
- Wait list for Family Shelter is too long, sending families who have existing trauma into further crisis and fear
- Only 165 beds of Family Shelter that are currently a part of Coordinated Access
- More mental health resources are needed for adults and children
- AA/NA meetings at shelter
- After-school programming for school-aged kids
- For families experiencing multiple challenges/barriers to stability, and long-term homeless the wait for Permanent Supportive Housing is LONG

Numbers in Saint Paul Public Schools

*The data represented below is a sample size of 100 randomly selected students out of **1,377 students identified as homeless** in SPPS as of during the 2024-2025 school year (**increase of over 350 identified students since 2023**). Due to the randomized method of picking students on the list, it is safe to suggest that at least 50 families are represented in this data sample.*

NUMBER OF YEARS HOMELESS* ** Not necessarily consecutive years*

- 50% = 1 year
- 25% = 2 years
- 18% = 3 years
- 2% = 4 years
- 4% = 5 years
- 0% = 6 years
- 1% = 7 years



And now presented to you...

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WHAT

Innovative Pilot Program designed to **support up to 5 families at a time** who have not been successful in traditional shelters because of **multiple, complex, and persistent needs**. This pilot program would provide shelter and trauma-informed wrap-around services.

WHO

Families that meet both of the following criteria would be prioritized* for this pilot:

- Families with a history of 4+ years experiencing homelessness (McKinney-Vento definition); homelessness does not have to be sequential, and
- Families that have been restricted/banned from at least one existing family shelter or a County-funded hotel program.

**The second priority group would be families that meet just one of the above criteria.*

NUMBERS

5 families ≈ 20 individuals, the majority of whom are children
20 individuals x est. average shelter stay of 4 mo. ≈ 60+ individuals/year in initial pilot

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Shelter would be provided to these families via a motel space or other space. Shelter provider must be equipped to address behaviors and circumstances that are problematic in traditional shelters, including verbal violence.

Robust wrap-around services must be provided to help them stabilize, including: culturally specific resources, educational stability, peer support from those with lived experience, and mental and chemical health resources for children and parents.

Wrap-around services should be provided for 1 year after stable housing is attained, including continuation if the family obtains Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) to ensure a seamless transition from the shelter service provider to the PSH provider.

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FUNDING

City of Saint Paul's reallocated dollars in the amount of $500k

Saint Paul and Minnesota Foundation's pledge of $250k

STATUS UPDATE

Project is with Ramsey County's Purchasing and Contracting program and is in process.

Tentative launch is July 1, 2025.

Questions