

# 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

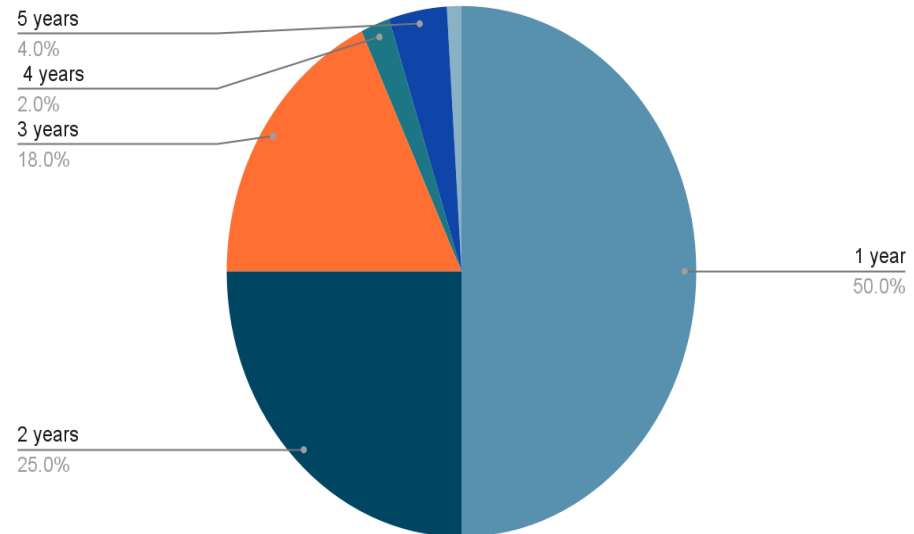
*The data represented below is a sample size of 100 randomly selected students out of 1,377 students identified as homeless in SPPS as of during the 2024-2025 school year (increase of over 350 identified students since 2023). Due to the randomized method of picking students on the list, it is safe to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

Years experiencing homelessness





And now  
presented  
to you...

# Innovative Pilot Program: Familiar Families

## 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 ???

