



## **Stable Homes Stable Schools Expansion Pilot Fact Sheet**

Stable Homes Stable Schools is a program taking on the homelessness crisis among Minneapolis families through an innovative partnership between MPHA, the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS), and the YMCA of the North. The SHSS program addresses homelessness among Minneapolis Public Schools students' families through various levels of support: emergency short-term assistance, multi-year rental assistance, and case management. For more than 1,900 families, SHSS has been a lifeline.

Knowing safe and stable housing is the most significant out-of-school factor for predicting student success, leaders from various organizations teamed up to create a wholistic approach to addressing student homelessness. The SHSS program works to improve families' housing stability, students' school attendance, and students' educational outcomes through rental assistance and supportive services. **More than 1,900 families have been supported by SHSS since its launch in 2019, with more than 5,600 children benefitting from the program.**

Since 2019, SHSS has offered two tiers of support. The first tier is emergency support that may include a one-time or up to 24 months of financial assistance and lite case management to prevent homelessness, which could include back pay of rent, fixing a car needed to get to work, or other forms of assistance to keep families in their current housing. The second tier is multi-year rental assistance helping families escape or avoid homelessness and placing them into stable, long-term affordable housing with comprehensive wrap-around services.

To be a participant, MPS social workers initiate a referral. School social workers identify eligible families across the district who might qualify and get them connected to the program. Qualifications include: lacking "a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence"; have at least one minor child enrolled in one of the participating Minneapolis Public Schools; have household income of 50 percent or below the Area Median Income (AMI); commit to certain program conditions (such as regular school attendance and parental involvement with school activities); and, meet certain conditions regarding criminal history.

Recently, Minneapolis City Council leaders approached MPHA about the possibility of investing one-time city funds to expand the reach and effectiveness of SHSS. Councilmembers were interested in expanding SHSS efforts to help address housing instability for existing and newly arrived immigrant MPS families. Understanding these parameters, the SHSS administering partners identified two core areas of need: **Early Childhood Prevention and a Middle School Expansion**. Funding proposals for each pilot expansion are below. Importantly, we propose these expansions as 'pilots' to allow us to sunset the efforts if ongoing support is not identified.



### **Early Childhood Prevention (“Prevention as Prevention”)**

Reaching families with infant to pre-school-aged children who are unstably housed serves to prevent any initial homelessness episodes. By preventing homelessness of 0 – 5 year-olds, we can prevent the deficits that children impacted by homelessness bring into their primary school journeys. Services include financial assistance and lite case management.

#### Justifications:

- Early childhood brain development sets the foundation for future learning, behavior, and health.
- Homelessness can negatively impact brain development and lead to lower education outcomes.
- Including Head Start could also have implications for other potential partnerships or improvements in supporting early childhood work. (Example, some states have an internal process for tracking referrals through their districts.)

#### Cost:

- 1 FTE or equivalent to aid in expansion administration = **\$95,000**
- Financial Assistance
  - MPS early childhood only = **\$50,000**
  - Head Start (Minneapolis only) = **\$150,000**

#### Capacity:

- Referral capacity:
  - ‘MPS early childhood’ would be easy to expand into without additional staffing resources
  - Head Start has capacity with their Advocates, would need to learn the process, could partner with MPS SHSS team
- MPHA could integrate this into their existing structure without significant resources

Potential Reach of “Prevention as Prevention” Expansion:  
**80-100 families (representing 190-250 children)**



## **Middle School**

Expanding the reach of SHSS's Housing Stability services to other Minneapolis Public Schools can further extend the benefits of child, family, and school stabilization. Services include financial assistance and lite case management.

### Justifications:

- Middle School is a natural next step for expansion.
- Middle School is a time in a student's educational trajectory that determines continued engagement leading to high school graduation or disengagement.
- If starting at Andersen, 50% of the student body is Hispanic; incorporates aspiration to meet needs of newcomers.

### Cost:

- Pilot at one site (Andersen) = **\$75,000**
  - Next highest Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) rate middle schools:
    - Northeast: **\$35,000**, Justice Page: **\$35,000**, Olsen: **\$30,000**
  - All MPS middle schools = **\$250,000**
- 0.5 FTE or equivalent to aid in expansion administration if one middle school = **\$50,000**
  - 2 FTE if all middle schools = **\$195,000**

### Capacity:

- Referral capacity:
  - MPS could loop in 1 middle school with existing staff
  - If all Middle Schools, would need to get creative with how to make that work
    - For example: add a staff person who focuses solely on our middle schools w/high FRL #'s and distribute the rest of the middle schools amongst the team ie: Andersen, Justice Page, Northeast, Olson
- MPHA could integrate into existing structure if just one school. Would require the indicated FTE if all middle schools.

Potential Reach of Middle School Expansion:  
**100-125 families (representing 250-315 children)**



## **Conclusion**

The projections provided in this document are based on modeling from last year. Assuming 3.5% of households in poverty will need prevention assistance at an average cost of \$2,032. Changes to eligibility, funding caps, and outreach could dramatically impact projections. Including Head Start as a new partner would bring additional unknowns regarding the pace of referrals.

### Top-Line Expansion Operating Costs:

- Operating expenses (i.e., translation services, office supplies, staff training, etc.) = **\$15,000**
- Administrative Fee = **10%** of grant award in equal monthly payments.

**It is estimated that funding both proposed pilot expansions would cost at total of \$830,500.** This accounts for \$755,000 program expenses and \$75,500 in administrative fees.

By funding both proposed pilot expansions, **MPHA estimates an additional 180-225 families (representing 440-565 children) could be served by Stable Homes Stable Schools.**

As previously stated, MPHA and the SHSS administering partners propose these expansions as pilots to allow us to sunset the efforts if ongoing support is not identified (current discussions with City Council leaders have centered around one-time funding).

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