

We are a leader at solving poverty

Older Adults Experiencing Homelessness

PRESENTED BY: CATHOLIC CHARITIES HOMELESS
ELDERS PROGRAM

MADE POSSIBLE BY: DHS LIVE WELL AT HOME
GRANT



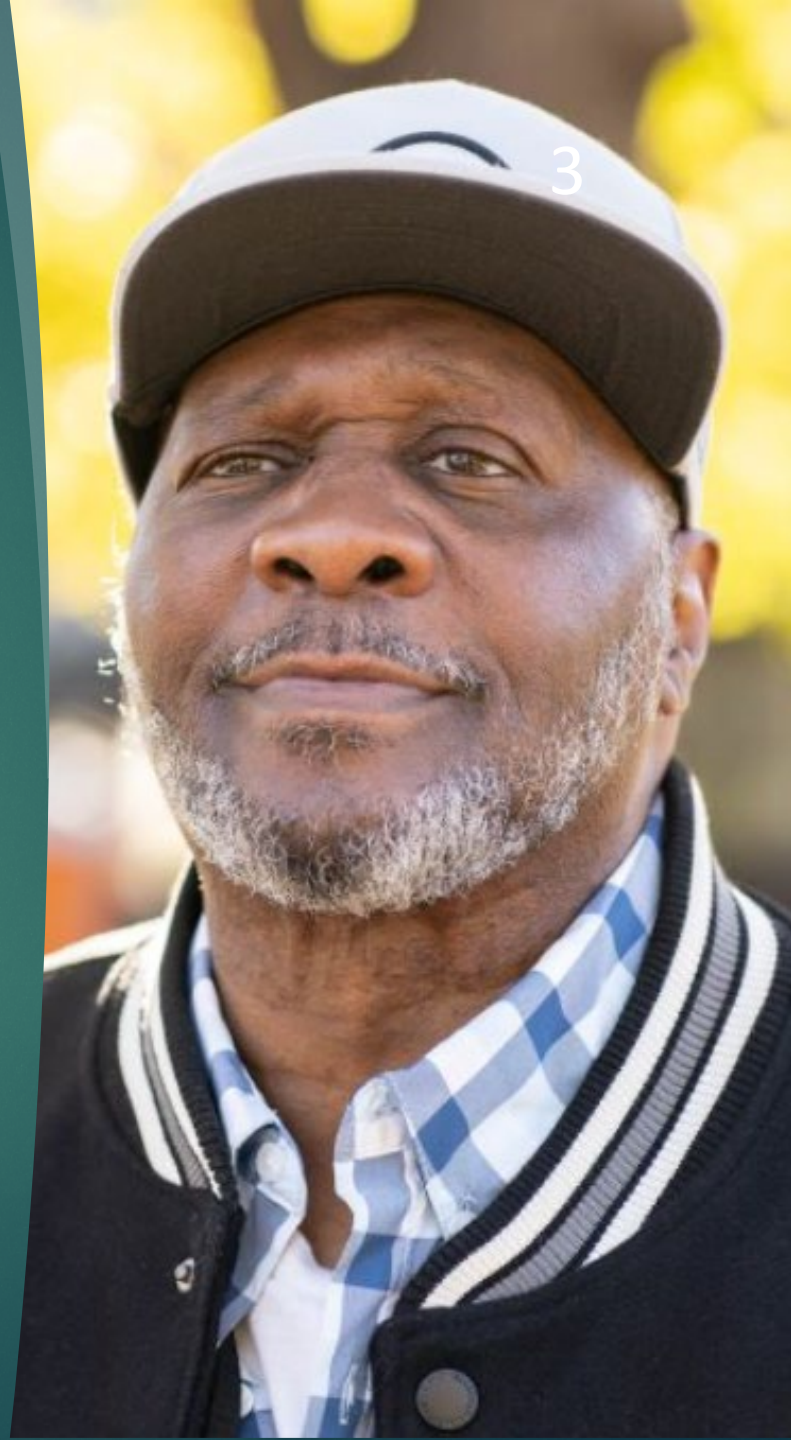
Objective

To educate on the issue and better equip providers in the community to work with older adults experiencing homelessness.

Older Adult Homelessness

- A growing issue, both locally and nationally
- Wilder Study: fastest growing homeless population
- Added vulnerability

6/10/2025



Older Adult Homelessness

*Wilder
Research 2023
statewide
study including
1204 homeless
elders age 55+:*

1. 1. More older adults are experiencing homelessness in MN than ever before. This is the only group that experienced an increase.
2. 2. Older adults experiencing homelessness have startlingly high rates of serious physical and mental health concerns.
 1. 76% report physical health issue
 2. 57% report mental health issue
 3. 21% report chemical health issue

Older Adult Homelessness

*Wilder
Research 2023
statewide
study including
1204 homeless
elders age 55+:*

3. Most older adults rely solely on public benefits. This is not enough to cover housing costs.
4. Nearly half of older adults first became homeless at the age of 50 or older.

Causes of homelessness we often see:

- Building sold, leases not renewed
- Leaving a SNF AMA
- Loss of spouse
- Reasons for non-renewals/evictions:
 - Guest issues
 - Smoking in unit
 - Medical crisis causing either job loss or inability to pay rent
 - Memory loss causing rent payment issues
 - Hoarding
 - Chemical dependency/ mental illness/memory loss

Elders and Homelessness

- There is no guaranteed housing for seniors, and the safety net has many holes
- Older adults often need more time and assistance from staff, housing takes time

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Unique Challenges, Vulnerabilities

- ▶ Health issues difficult to manage
- ▶ Decreased senses
- ▶ Difficulty navigating systems
- ▶ Technology barriers
- ▶ Target for assault
- ▶ Limited income options


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Increasing Vulnerabilities, Challenges

- ▶ More older adults showing up in our shelters that need a much higher level of care
- ▶ Chronic health conditions, mobility limits, memory loss, physically weak
- ▶ Chemical use can exacerbate these issues
- ▶ How do we serve those who need more support (Assisted Living, Group Homes, SNF) but don't want those options?





Catholic Charities Homeless Elders Program

- ▶ Case Management
- ▶ Advocacy
- ▶ Training

- ▶ Funding: varies,
currently

State appropriation,
LWAH,

Stevens Square
Foundation

What are we doing to help?

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Assistance provided:

- ▶ Assessment and goal planning
- ▶ One-on-one support: walking along with person through processes
- ▶ Housing applications/follow-up
- ▶ Advocacy
- ▶ Bridging referrals
- ▶ Assistance connecting with:
 - ▶ MA
 - ▶ Health plans
 - ▶ Waivers
 - ▶ SNAP
 - ▶ Natural supports

Potential Supports:

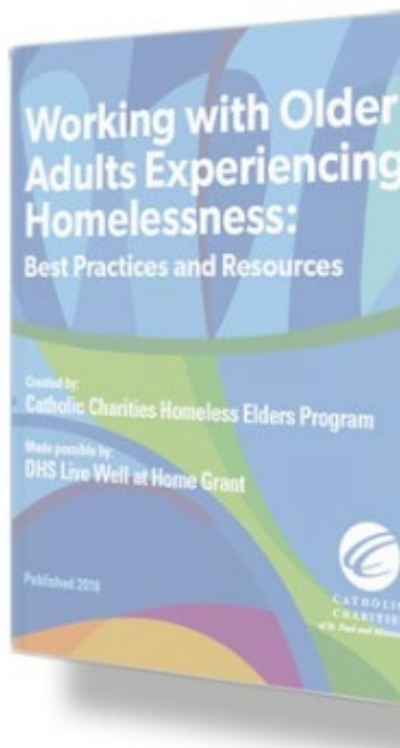
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- ▶ Care Coordinators
- ▶ Waivers
- ▶ HSS
- ▶ ARMHS
- ▶ TCM
- ▶ ACT
- ▶ Other Community Resources

Best Practices Manual

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- ▶ Physical, Mental & Chemical Health and Limitations
- ▶ Health Insurance & Service Waivers
- ▶ Housing and Shelter
- ▶ Social Security Benefits & Rep Payees
- ▶ Veterans Benefits and Resources
- ▶ Legal Resources
- ▶ End of Life Care

The Housing Search: Things to Consider and Discuss:

- What is the client looking for?
- What is realistic?
- What supports will they need in place once housed (what went wrong in the past?)?
- What supports are they eligible for?
- Are there necessary resources/transportation in area?
- Accessibility- elevator needed?



Types of Housing and Programs:

- ▶ Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)*
- ▶ Rapid Re-Housing*
- ▶ Transitional Housing*
- ▶ Independent Living
- ▶ Supportive Housing
- ▶ Senior Housing
- ▶ Assisted Living
- ▶ Skilled Nursing Facility
- ▶ Group Homes/ Adult Foster Care
- ▶ Sober Housing



Where to Look for Housing?

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Source	Types of Housing
Housinglink housinglink.org	Market rate, subsidized wait lists, Sec.42
Care Options Network careoptionsnetwork.org	Assisted Living, Skilled Nursing, Independent senior housing
Hennepin Housing Key https://www.hennepin.us/services/apply/housing-key	Housing Support options
MN Association of Sober Homes Mnsobehomes.org	Sober housing (verifiable sober)
MafoMN Mafomn.com	Group homes, AFCs
MCCP Mnopenings.org	Group homes, AFCs

Waivers

- Elderly Waiver (EW)
- Community Access for Disability Inclusion (CADI)
- Brain Injury (BI)
- Developmental Disability (DD)
 - Waivers provide services to help people stay independent, OR for Assisted Living
- Other Programs
 - Alternative Care (AC)- For those who do not qualify for MA and need nursing home level of care
 - Essential Community Supports (ECS)- for those who do not qualify for MA, and need lower level of care

Waivers: Services Covered

- Example Client
 - 67 year old man
 - Currently staying in shelter
 - Needs help getting up from bunk bed
 - Suffers from incontinence
 - Forgets to take his medications
 - Dx: Diabetes, chronic pain
- Potential Services: Skilled Nurse visits to set up meds, mobility device (MA), incontinence products (MA), PCA (MA), may qualify for Assisted Living (+homemaking, meals, medication management, reminders, etc)

Waivers: How to Access

- Must be on MA to be open to waiver
- If they are over 65 and have been assigned a Care Coordinator, call and ask for an assessment to determine if they qualify to be opened to Elderly Waiver
- If they have not been assigned a care coordinator, call the assigned county and request a MNChoices Assessment (CADI)



Other Questions/ Discussion?

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► Thank you for joining us!

<https://www.cctwincities.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Working-with-Older-Adults-Experiencing-Homelessness-Best-Practices-and-Resources.pdf>

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