

COVID-19 IMPACTS PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



In March 2020, COVID-19 resulted in the closure of local organizations that serve people experiencing homelessness in Olmsted County. In response, the City of Rochester, Olmsted County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), and non-profit organizations partner to provide compassionate and welcoming service including shelter, clean water, sanitation facilities, meals, social services, telehealth, and more. This multi-sectoral community collaborative provides 24-hour/7-day service through Warming & Day Centers.

FACTS

- 59 guests on average visit the Day Center daily (The Landing MN 12/31/2020)
- 155 single adults & 40 youth identified as experiencing homelessness during 3 day count (HRA 1/19/2021)
- 91 individuals identify as unsheltered (streets, camps, buildings, vehicles, etc) (HRA 1/19/2021)
- COVID-19 positivity rate for people experiencing homelessness reached 26.8% (HRA 12/16/2020)

OUTCOMES

- 31.9% decrease in average police incidents with people experiencing homelessness Mar. 2020-Nov. 2020 (42.1 per month) compared to Apr. 2019-Feb. 2020 (61.8 per month) (Rochester Police Department 11/30/2020)
- 143 individuals secured either transitional or permanent housing (HRA 1/21/2021)

DAY CENTER VOICES

“We want our own places, but are really grateful to have a place to eat, sleep, and be out of the elements.”

“Somewhere to safely store your belongings.”

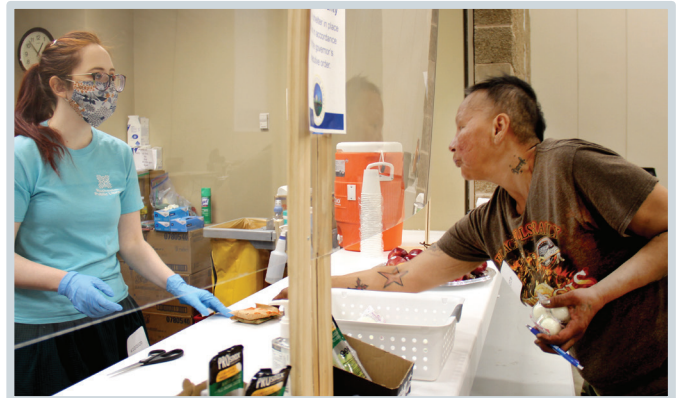
“Somewhere to go where you aren’t judged.”

“Should have thought about people down on their luck a long time ago.”

“Day Center has really helped make things more comfortable.”

“A safe place to be.”

“Place where people can go and not be harassed.”



City of Rochester supports

targeted funding for temporary homeless sheltering, warming houses and other support, including increased mental health and chemical dependency treatment programs to reduce future growth in homelessness and to protect our residents struggling with these issues. This includes support for the Emergency Services Grant Program (ESP).

