



Our Mission

Avenues partners with youth experiencing homelessness to achieve their dreams.

For 25 years, Avenues has supported youth ages 16-24 in Hennepin County. Whether a young person needs someplace to stay for just one night, or two years, Avenues empowers youth to find their path out of homelessness. We do that by providing a stable home, building trusting relationships, and navigating the youth's education, career, health and wellness and housing goals. On a single night, Avenues supports 50-60 youth.

Avenues Programs

Avenues operates six programs:

- Two shelters. One in Brooklyn Park and one in North Minneapolis. Youth stay an average of four months.
- Three host home programs. Avenues trains volunteers to host a youth experiencing homelessness. Depending on the program, youth stay a few days up to two years.
- Young families program for parenting youth experiencing homelessness. Youth parents, with one or two children, are housed in apartments for up to a year.

Youth in all our programs are provided with case management, education and career support, and health and wellness support.

Talking Points

- Every night in Minnesota, 6,000 youth and children experience homelessness. Youth experience homelessness because:
 - Lack of affordable housing and poverty. All of the youth Avenues supports are impoverished.
 - Racism, homophobia, transphobia and systems of oppression. 90% of the youth Avenues supports are black, indigenous or youth of color. LGBTQ identified youth are 120% more likely to experience homelessness.
 - Trauma. Over half of youth experiencing homeless have experienced an adverse childhood experience, such as neglect, abuse or living with substance abuser. Within 48 hours of becoming homelessness, youth are approached by someone who wishes to exploit them.
- In addition to housing, Avenues provide intensive case management, education and career support, access to an on-site mental health team, independent living training, and all basic needs.
- Avenues shelters are open 24-7, 365 days a year. They are staffed at all hours of the day.
- Avenues is known nationally for its programs, particularly its host home programs. The nonprofit often consults with organizations around the county in replicating its programs.
- Avenues is one of the few providers with LGBTQ specific and youth-led family specific programming. It offers these programs for the disproportionate number of LGBTQ identified youth and homeless youth-led families

