



# Saint Louis County

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **County/City of Duluth effort to serve homeless earns highest marks in state**

St. Louis County's recent application to the federal government for McKinney-Vento homeless assistance program funding has earned the highest rank of any in Minnesota, and near the top of all applications from around the country. The high rank makes it more likely projects in our area will receive funding, and is a positive reflection on the strong partnership between the county, City of Duluth and other community agencies that together focus on serving the needs of homeless people in our area.

The federal office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides funding to the City of Duluth and St. Louis County through a grant award process called the Continuum of Care (CoC). Through this grant, the community provides funds for homeless individuals and households in permanent and transitional housing, as well as supportive services, including job training, health care, mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment and child care. Grants are awarded annually on a competitive basis to local programs to meet the needs of homeless clients. The fiscal year 2013/2014 application to HUD received a score of 144 out of a total possible score of 156. This score was higher than all other 10 CoC regions in the state.

The Public Health and Human Services Department (PHHS) serves as the Collaborative Applicant for this process on behalf of the larger St. Louis County and Duluth community. Employees facilitate, plan, write and submit the final application throughout the calendar year. The governance of these funds is facilitated through a Leadership Council advisory committee, made up of members appointed by the City and the County, who direct the process along with input from

community groups. The Council identifies currently successful programs as well as gaps in service and potential new programs. All funding goes directly to the projects.

The fiscal year 2013 HUD award to our community was \$2,396,896 to support 29 local homeless projects. For fiscal year 2014, staff is projecting \$2,988,641 for new and renewal projects. Funding announcements will be made sometime in the first part of 2015.

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