



# Wilder Foundation Family Supportive Housing Services: ROOF Project

## *A Summary of Evaluation Findings from Fiscal Year 2015-16*

*A total of 9,312 homeless adults, youth, and children were counted during the 2015 Minnesota Homeless Study. Over one-third of that group were children with their parents (35%).<sup>1</sup>*

Wilder Foundation Family Supportive Housing Services (FSHS) works with homeless individuals and families to assist them in finding and maintaining housing, establishing a stable source of income, and connecting to needed health services. If there are school-age children in the household, staff also work on improving students' school engagement. In fiscal year 2016, FSHS staff provided services through the following programs:

- Jackson Street Village
- Northgate Woods
- Project Quest
- St. Alban's Place
- ROOF Project
- ROOF – Housing Trust Fund
- Minnesota Place Apartments
- St. Philip's Gardens
- Western U Plaza

The following summary highlights evaluation findings from **ROOF Project, excluding the Housing Trust Fund**, between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016.

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<sup>1</sup> News release: Wilder study finds 9,312 people in Minnesota are homeless; down 9 percent from 2012. Wilder Research, March 14, 2016.

*The ROOF Project is a collaboration of agencies that provides scattered-site transitional housing to homeless families in Ramsey County. Families are placed in housing throughout the east metro area and receive a variety of support services tailored to the needs of each family. The goals of the ROOF Project are to obtain permanent housing for homeless families, develop employment skills, and improve school attendance and achievement.<sup>2</sup>*

## Client characteristics

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016, FSHS served **249 unduplicated individuals**, including **85 households**; 88 clients entered the ROOF Project and 101 exited (Figure 1).

### 1. Unduplicated individuals and households served

	Number of individuals	Number of households
First day of reporting period (July 1, 2015)	161	59
New intakes during reporting period	88	26
Exited/left program during reporting period	101	36
Cases open at the end of the year (June 30, 2016)	148	49
<b>Total served during reporting period</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>85</b>

The following bullets outline several demographic characteristics for those served by the ROOF Project.

- **Gender:** The majority of adult clients served were women (91%) and the majority of households were headed by single mothers (92%).
- **Age:** The ROOF Project served every age group; however, the largest group served was youth 17 years and younger (62%) (Figure 2).

### 2. Age of clients served (N=249)

	N	%
Under 1 year old	20	8%
1 to 5 years old	774	30%
6 to 12 years old	463	17%
13 to 17 years old	137	7%
18 to 21 years old	86	2%
22 to 25 years old	351	12%
26 to 50 years old	597	23%
51 years and older	1	<1%

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.wilder.org/Programs-Services/Housing-Services/Pages/Supportive-Housing.aspx>

- **Race and ethnicity:** The majority of clients were people of color (88%), with about two-thirds identifying as African American or black (69%). In addition, two percent identified as Hispanic.
- **Disability:** One-fifth (20%) of heads of household had at least one disability of long duration. Of those clients, the most common disability reported was mental illness (67%), followed by a physical disability (29%), chronic health condition (4%), alcohol abuse (4%), and developmental disability (4%); clients could report more than one disability.
- **Domestic violence:** At program entry, over half (57%) of adults had experienced domestic violence within the past year.
- **History of homelessness, by household:** Prior to their involvement in the ROOF Project, almost all clients (98%) were living in an emergency shelter. One percent was living in a hotel or motel and 1 percent was living in a car. At program entry, 20 percent of families were considered to be experiencing long-term homelessness.<sup>3</sup>

## Client outcomes

Wilder staff also collect outcome information for clients served. The section below highlights selected outcomes for clients served between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016.

### Stable housing

- The majority (89%) of households served during this reporting period had stable housing for at least 6 months after program entry, and 66 percent had stable housing for more than one year.
- Of the 36 households that exited the ROOF Project during the reporting period, over three-quarters (78%) had stable housing for more than 12 months.
- The most common destination for exited households was rental housing, either with or without a subsidy (61%) (Figure 3).

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<sup>3</sup> Minnesota definition of long-term homelessness: Individuals, unaccompanied youth, or families with children who lack a permanent place to live continuously for a year or more or at least four times in the past three years. Any period of institutionalization or incarceration is excluded when determining the length of time a household has been homeless.

### 3. Destination for households that exited the ROOF Project

<b>N=36</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Rental housing without subsidy	16	44%
Rental housing with subsidy	6	17%
Friends or family, permanently	5	14%
Destination not known	4	11%
Friends or family, temporarily	2	6%
Hotel without voucher	1	3%
Emergency shelter	1	3%
Permanent supportive housing	1	3%

### Employment and income

- Of the 36 households that exited during the reporting period, 67 percent had a monthly income of \$600 or less at program entry (Figure 4).
- Over the course of their involvement in the ROOF Project, the median income of exited clients increased (\$511 to \$1,187) (Figure 4).

### 4. Monthly income for clients who exited during the reporting period

<b>N=36</b>	<b>Income at program entry</b>		<b>Income at program exit</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
No income	1	3%	1	3%
\$1 – 200	0	0%	0	0%
\$201 – 400	4	11%	2	6%
\$401 – 600	19	53%	10	28%
\$601 – 800	3	8%	1	3%
\$801- 1,000	2	6%	1	3%
\$1,001 – 1,200	2	6%	4	11%
\$1,201 – 1,400	2	6%	4	11%
\$1,401 – 1,600	1	3%	2	6%
\$1,601 or more	1	3%	11	31%
Average monthly income	\$716		\$1,260	
Median monthly income	\$511		\$1,187	

- Of the 36 households that exited during the reporting period, monthly income increased for nearly half (47%); the median increase for these households was +\$1,126 per month. Income stayed the same for 36 percent of households and decreased for 17 percent; the median decrease was -\$190.
- The proportion of households with earned income increased between intake and the most recent assessment for both exited (36% to 64%) and all households (36% to 53%) (Figure 5).
- Sources for income assistance remained fairly consistent between program entry and a client’s most recent assessment. In most cases, there was an increase of one or two clients receiving assistance in each area, with the exception of Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) and food stamps. There was a decrease in the proportion of clients receiving these services (Figure 5).

## 5. Income sources between program entry and exit

	# of <u>exited</u> households receiving income source (N=36)		# of <u>all</u> households receiving income source (N=85)	
	Program entry	Program exit	Program entry	Most recent assessment
<b>Earned income</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>53%</b>
<b>Cash assistance</b>				
MFIP (a.k.a. TANF)	69%	50%	73%	61%
Child support	19%	22%	16%	18%
SSI	6%	14%	6%	9%
SSDI	3%	3%	4%	4%
Unemployment insurance	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other	0%	0%	1%	1%
<b>Non-cash assistance</b>				
Food stamps/SNAP	92%	78%	96%	87%
WIC	14%	14%	12%	14%
TANF child care services	17%	22%	11%	14%

## Survey of participants

In addition to characteristics and outcome data collected from Minnesota’s Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), FSHS program staff also distribute a self-administered questionnaire to all clients 18 years and older, either at exit or annually (if a client has not exited a program). The survey includes questions about services received, program staff, and overall satisfaction. A total of 32 FSHS clients completed a “Survey of participants” between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. Researchers cannot calculate an exact response rate since we do not know how many clients have been in each program for at least one year. Also, because of the low number of surveys completed at individual programs, Wilder cannot report results at a site-specific level; however, findings from the completed surveys are included in the “All Programs” summary.

# Issues to consider

Results of the analysis show that the ROOF Project housed 249 individual, unduplicated clients (85 families). The majority of those served were women, and clients have diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Many clients have complex and co-occurring issues, such as poor physical and mental health, a history of domestic violence, and a history of long-term homelessness.

There were some improvements in the outcomes of clients. Of the 36 households that exited during the reporting period, 78 percent had stable housing for more than 12 months, and nearly half (47%) had experienced an increase in income. The proportion of clients with earned income increased between intake and the most recent assessment for both exited clients (36% to 64%) and clients served overall (36% to 53%), and the median income of exited clients increased (\$511 to \$1,187) over the course of their involvement in the ROOF Project.

In moving forward, one of the main issues to consider is the long-term impact of the Rapid Rehousing model on families, and whether clients remain in stable housing after program exit. Wilder Research is currently working with FSHS staff to compare the outcomes of clients pre- and post-Rapid Rehousing; those data should be available later this year. Another issue, as mentioned in last year's report, is having more consistent data collection, particularly for the participant survey. Wilder Foundation staff have been working to conduct regular data collection with clients, and it appears that the number of completed surveys is increasing.

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#### **For more information**

This summary presents highlights from the Wilder Foundation's Family Supportive Housing Services evaluation.

For more information about this summary, please contact Stephanie Nelson-Dusek at Wilder Research, 651-280-2675.

March 2017