



# Wilder Foundation Family Supportive Housing Services: Services with Others

## *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 **Services with Others programs** 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.

# Program description

The following numbers represent the combined data of five FSHS programs. Figure 1 illustrates the target population of each program, as well as those served between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016.

## 1. FSHS programs, including numbers served

Name of program	Target population	Clients served		Families served	
		#	% (N=183)	#	% (N=60)
Jackson Street Village	Previously homeless families Families who experience chemical and mental health challenges	128	70%	29	48%
Northgate Woods	Long-term homeless families in Anoka County	15	8%	4	7%
St. Alban's Place	Long-term homeless families in Saint Paul	13	7%	5	8%
Minnesota Place Apartments	Long-term homeless single adults Disabled single adults	11	6%	11	18%
St. Philip's Gardens	Previously homeless families in Saint Paul At least one family member has a disability	9	5%	4	7%
Western U Plaza	Long-term homeless single adults	7	4%	7	12%
<b>Total number served</b>		<b>183</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Client characteristics

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016, the five programs listed above served **183 unduplicated individuals**, including **60 households**. Eighteen of those served were single adults, while the remainder were part of a family (n=165). During the fiscal year, 31 clients entered these programs, and 34 exited (Figure 2).

## 2. Unduplicated individuals and households served

	Number of individuals	Number of households
First day of reporting period (July 1, 2015)	152	46
New intakes during reporting period	31	14
Exited/left program during reporting period	34	12
Cases open at the end of the year (December 31, 2016)	149	48
<b>Total served during reporting period</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>60</b>

The following bullets outline several demographic characteristics for those served by the five programs highlighted in this report.

- **Gender:** Over three-quarters of adult clients served were women (77%), and 60 percent of households were headed by single mothers.
- **Age:** The five programs reported here served every age group; however, the largest group served was youth age 17 and younger (62%) (Figure 3).

### 3. Age of clients served (N=183)

	N	%
Under 1 year old	6	3%
1 to 5 years old	18	10%
6 to 12 years old	60	33%
13 to 17 years old	30	16%
18 to 21 years old	6	3%
22 to 25 years old	4	2%
26 to 50 years old	48	26%
51 years and older	11	6%

- **Age, by head of household:** In terms of heads of households, three-quarters of those *with children* were 40 years old or younger, while the majority of *single* heads of household were older than 40 (Figure 4).

### 4. Age, by head of household (N=61)

	Family heads of household (N=43)		Single heads of household (N=18)	
	N	%	N	%
17 years old and under	1	2%	0	0%
18 to 21 years old	0	0%	0	0%
22 to 25 years old	3	7%	1	6%
26 to 30 years old	5	12%	2	11%
31 to 40 years old	23	53%	4	22%
41 to 50 years old	7	16%	4	22%
51 to 61 years old	4	9%	6	33%
62 or older	0	0%	1	6%

- **Race and ethnicity:** The majority of clients were people of color (87%), with over two-thirds identifying as African American or black (70%). In addition, six percent identified as Hispanic.
- **Disability:** The majority (85%) of heads of household had at least one disability of long duration. Of those clients, the most common disability reported was mental illness (71%), followed by physical disability (25%), a chronic health condition (20%), a developmental disability (18%), alcohol abuse (15%), and drug abuse (11%); clients could report more than one disability.
- **Disability, by head of household:** When broken down by *type* of head of household (single vs. family), 88 percent of family heads of household had at least one disability of long duration, compared to nearly all (94%) single heads of household. Single adults were more likely to report a physical disability, chronic health condition, or visual impairment (Figure 5).

## 5. Disability, by head of household (N=61)

	Family heads of household (N=43)		Single heads of household (N=18)	
	N	%	N	%
<b>At least one disability</b>	38	88%	17	94%
Alcohol abuse	7	16%	1	6%
Drug abuse	4	9%	2	11%
Mental illness	28	65%	11	61%
Both alcohol and drug abuse	2	5%	1	6%
Chronic health condition	4	9%	7	39%
HIV/AIDS	3	7%	0	0%
Developmental disability	8	19%	2	11%
Traumatic brain injury	1	2%	1	6%
Physical disability	6	14%	8	44%
Vision impaired	2	5%	4	22%

Note: Percentages do not total 100%, as clients can choose more than one disability.

- **Domestic violence:** At program entry, 42 percent of adults had experienced domestic violence within the past year.
- **History of homelessness, by household:** Prior to their involvement in an FSHS program, about half (49%) of households served were living in an emergency shelter. The next most common living arrangements were transitional housing (28%) and living with family or friends (11%). At program entry, 72 percent of families were considered long-term homeless.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Minnesota's 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.

# Client outcomes

## Stable housing

- The majority (79%) of households served during this reporting period had stable housing for at least 6 months after program entry, and most (74%) had stable housing for more than a year.
- After leaving the program, households most commonly went to live with friends or family, either on a temporary or permanent basis (Figure 6).

### 6. Destination for households that exited

<b>N=12</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Staying or living with friends or family (temporarily or permanently)	5	42%
Rental by client (with or without ongoing subsidy)	3	25%
Other	2	17%
No exit interview completed	2	17%

## Employment and income

- Of the households that exited their program during the reporting period, six (50%) had a monthly income of \$600 or less at program entry (Figure 7).
- Over the course of their involvement in an FSHS program, the median income of exited clients decreased (\$610 to \$580).

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

<b>N=12</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	0	0%	1	8%
\$1 – 600	6	50%	6	50%
\$601 or more	6	50%	5	42%
Average monthly income	\$755		\$712	
Median monthly income	\$610		\$580	

Note. This table is based on 12 households that left during the reporting period. Cases with “no income” reported are excluded from the calculations of average and median income.

- The proportion of **all** households with earned income increased slightly between intake and the most recent assessment (17% to 22%); however, the proportion remained the same for exited clients (8%) (Figure 8).
- Sources for income assistance remained fairly consistent between program entry and a client’s most recent assessment. In most cases, there was an increase or decrease of one or two clients receiving assistance in each area (Figure 8).

## 8. Income sources between program entry and exit

	# of <b>exited</b> households receiving income source (N=12)*		# of <b>all</b> households receiving income source (N=60)	
	Program entry	Program exit	Program entry	Most recent assessment
<b>Earned income</b>	8%	8%	17%	22%
<b>Cash assistance</b>				
MFIP (a.k.a. TANF)	50%	50%	42%	42%
SSI	25%	25%	33%	35%
Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA)	8%	8%	10%	10%
Child support	50%	42%	22%	23%
General Assistance	25%	25%	18%	17%
SSDI	8%	8%	10%	13%
Unemployment insurance	0%	0%	3%	2%
VA-connected disability compensation	0%	0%	2%	2%
<b>Non-cash assistance</b>				
Food stamps/SNAP	92%	100%	90%	92%
WIC	0%	0%	2%	3%
Section 8 or other rental assistance	0%	0%	7%	7%

\* These columns are based on 12 households that left during the reporting period.

## 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 Jackson Street Village, Northgate Woods, St. Alban's Place, Minnesota Place Apartments, St. Philip's Gardens, and Western U Plaza served a total of 183 individual, unduplicated clients (60 families). Jackson Street Village accounted for most (70%) of these clients. The majority of those served were women, and clients have diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds. Clients also come to the program with 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, although the number of clients who exited these programs during the reporting period is small. The majority (79%) of all households served during the reporting period had stable housing for at least 6 months, and 74 percent had stable housing for more than a year.

The median income of exited clients *decreased* over the course of the reporting period, and only one client reported having earned income; however the number of exited clients was small.

In moving forward, it will be important to have 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.

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