



2026 Legislative Request Housing Options for Young Families Experiencing Homelessness



The Need for Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Youth:

In 2024, **over 5,000 youth** representing more than **1,930 young families** were served by the homeless prevention, assessment, shelter, and housing system across all parts of Minnesota. These families included **2,900 children** who were with their youth parents.

Navigating pregnancy and parenthood is challenging under any circumstance. Now imagine being a young family without access to resources, supportive and loving relationships, and the stability of home.

For youth who are pregnant or parenting while experiencing homelessness, their family's need for support is critical and impacts two generations for a lifetime. The trauma they have experienced and the ongoing stress of having no safe or stable place to live with their children requires a tailored and timely response.

**The Existing Gap
Facing Young Families:
Only 161 youth focused
shelter beds and
housing units across
Minnesota for 5,000
youth & their children**

(Wilder Research, 2025)

The Recommended Solution by Wilder Research (2025):

- Increase the number of shelters and housing options that are designed specifically for young families.
- Address complex rules and requirements that make things more difficult for young families. *(Wilder Young Families Study, 2025)*

The Bridge for Youth's Legislative Request:

A request of **\$7.5 million** in state funds in fiscal year 2027, appropriated from the general fund to the Commissioner of Employment and Economic Development for a grant to The Bridge for Youth for land acquisition and to predesign, design, construct, furnish, and equip a new multiuse facility in Hennepin County. The new facility shall include youth program and recreational space, administrative and program office space, and up to 45 new units of transitional and affordable housing and emergency shelter space for unaccompanied homeless youth and young families experiencing homelessness.



The Bridge's new continuum of care vision includes:

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| Prevention Community outreach & mental health services | Emergency Shelter Gloria's Place 6 Units | Transitional Living Program (TLP) Expansion of Marlene's Place from 5 to 15 units | Non-Time Limited Supportive Housing New portfolio of 20-24 units | Aftercare Services Continuation of wholistic supports |
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The Bridge for Youth's Impact:

For 56-years, The Bridge for Youth has been a leader in supporting youth experiencing homelessness, and has evolved to meet the needs of our community. In 2025 alone, our impact included:

- Supporting youth in 22% of Minnesota's counties.
- 10,575 youth supported in prevention services, including outreach, crisis calls and texts.
- 92% of youth progressed in their personal goal plans.
- 84% youth either attended school, were employed, or both.
- 268 young fathers supported through mentorship, access to holistic health supports, parenting education, legal advocacy, other resources.

Supportive Services

- Culturally responsive and youth informed holistic programming
- Basic needs- food, housing, clothing, personal care.
- Case management and aftercare services.
- Access to pre- and post-natal healthcare and birthing supports.
- Individual and family therapeutic supports.
- Parenting education, mentorship, health education, and support groups.
- Young Father's programming.
- Life skills addressing the whole self.
- Recreational activities and community building for the whole family.



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Mission: The Bridge for Youth centers youth voice, justice, and equity in all we do, and empowers youth experiencing homelessness through safe shelter, basic needs, and healthy relationships.

Vision: All youth feel safe, accepted, and supported. www.bridgeforyouth.org