The **Dignity Center**

**A MINISTRY OF HENNEPIN AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

### What We Do at The Dignity Center

**Welcoming** and **Supporting People** living in **Poverty** on their **Path** to **Stability**

Through relationship, provision of stabilizing resources, and referrals to specific supportive services.

### Who We Served 2019

- **877 People Served**
- **5,830 Total Visits**
- **441 New People Visited**

**Mean Age 50**

- **Male 62%**
- **Person of Color 70%**
- **Homeless 62%**

**Obstacles to Stability**

- Mental Health 64%
- Chronic Health 64%
- Substance Abuse 29%
- Criminal Record 13%

### How We Supported 2019

- **415 New People**
- **268 New Appointments**

**43% of New Participants Kept Their Appointments!**

There is a **Correlation** between **Keeping Appointments** & **Making Progress**!

**Ways We Invest in Participants**

- Transportation $15k
- Housing $12k
- Meals $8k

### On the Path to Stability 2019

- **164 Participants** are **Engaged** in a **Relationship** with an **Advocate**

- **80% Moved Out of Crisis**
- **33% Gained Income**
- **26% Improved Housing**
- **39% Worked on Addressing Substance Abuse**
- **30% Improved Their Relationships**
**WHAT is STABILITY?**

We define “stability” as housing, a means to support it, and a supportive community to maintain it. Our definition includes more than an economic assessment of a person’s situation; it includes other aspects of a person’s life, including education, life skills, mental health, substance abuse, social support, etc.

**HOW WE DO IT**

These percentages are from assessments the advocate and participant complete together. There is an initial assessment for a baseline, and then quarterly or as a change in status happens, to record progress achieved or lost, i.e. got a job/lost a job; sober for 3 months/started using again.

The assessment has a 5-point scale:

1 = In Crisis  
2 = Vulnerable  
3 = Safe  
4 = Building Capacity  
5 = Empowered

It measures movement out of crisis in 11 domains—housing, employment, income, education, legal, life skills, health, mental health, substance abuse, transportation, and relationships. Scoring a 3 or above in any domain is crossing the safety line into stability.

Examples:

In 2019, 80% of the people engaged in our program moved out of crisis or across the safety line—that is, an individual’s total score is now over 30.

33% of people engaged with their advocate increased their income through, for example, Federal, State, or County benefits, SNAP, or employment.

26% improved their housing by moving out of a shelter or into more secure, safe housing.

39% of people with self-identified substance abuse issues report they spend less time using, are seeking assistance, are attending recovery groups, etc.

30% of people engaged with their advocate report healthier personal supportive relationships and/or are involved in the community.

**WAYS WE USE THE ASSESSMENTS**

1) as a CASE MANAGEMENT TOOL, for advocates as they work with individual participants and document progress towards self-sufficiency over time.

2) as a MANAGEMENT TOOL, for program staff to identify where additional resources are needed and how to deploy those resources most effectively.

3) as a MEASUREMENT TOOL, to consolidate outcomes for multiple participants and report results to funders and stakeholders.

4) as a COMMUNICATION TOOL, for demonstrating the success of the program, and sharing information about community conditions with the general public and policymakers.