The Dignity Center.org
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 2020

492 PEOPLE SERVED >> 3323 TOTAL VISITS >> 203 NEW PEOPLE VISITED

<table>
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<tr>
<th>MEAN AGE</th>
<th>MALE  70.5%</th>
<th>BLACK FOLKS 70%</th>
<th>INDIGENOUS FOLKS 10.5%</th>
<th>WHITE FOLKS 17%</th>
<th>HOMELESS 71%</th>
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AFTER THE STAY-IN-PLACE ORDER:
STOPPED COMING 40%
STILL COMING 60%

OF THOSE STILL COMING:
ENGAGING WITH THE PROGRAM TO ACHIEVE STABILITY 65%

ON THE PATH TO STABILITY 2020

RESOURCES THAT ARE PREDICTIVE OF IMPROVEMENT:

$19,911.83 GIVEN TO PARTICIPANTS AS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SUPPORTS
FOR THINGS SUCH AS:
FIRST MONTH’S RENT
RENTAL ASSISTANCE
LAPTOP COMPUTER

$1,160.00 GIVEN TO PARTICIPANTS AS ACHIEVEMENT INCENTIVES**
FOR THINGS SUCH AS:
PERSONAL ITEMS
BEDDING

**GIVEN AS GIFT CARDS, AS PARTICIPANTS FIND STABILITY

AREAS OF IMPROVED STABILITY:

52% LIVING IN SAFE HOUSING
17% AT LEAST PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT
53% RECEIVING SOME INCOME & CAN MEET BASIC NEEDS
78% INCREASED THEIR OVERALL STABILITY*

*TOTAL STABILITY SCORES IMPROVED (THEY MAY NOT HAVE MOVED ACROSS THE CRISIS LINE, BUT THEY MAY HAVE MOVED FROM SHELTERS TO TRANSITIONAL HOUSING)
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 of achievement include:

• Moving out of crisis by achieving a total assessment score of over 30.
• Increasing income stability by moving from just meeting basic needs, to budgeting, saving and managing debt without assistance.
• Improving housing stability by moving out of a shelter or into more secure, safe housing.
• Decreasing substance abuse by seeking assistance, attending recovery groups, and spending less time using substances.
• Building healthier, supportive, personal relationships by engaging with advocates and becoming more 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.