

FACT SHEET

The Warming Center closes April 1st. Over 500 persons used its services at some point over the last winter. All Duluth shelters are routinely at or beyond capacity. CHUM is collecting tents, tarps, and sleeping bags for these folks because they are going to the only place left for them to go: **OUTSIDE**.

Duluth's shortage of housing causes long-term and chronic homelessness. Waitlists stretch from months (in rare cases) to more than 2 years for subsidized housing. In addition, people experiencing long term homelessness and especially chronic homelessness are rarely able to transition smoothly from the streets or shelter into permanent, independent housing. What is needed are low-cost units that are private, dignified, small scale to encourage community, culturally specific, harm reduction based and providing services including basic life skills like cleaning and cooking.

Now is the time to fund Stepping On Up.



Stepping
- Up -
ON

A 5-YEAR PLAN TO
ADDRESS UNSHELTERED &
SHELTERED HOMELESSNESS
IN DULUTH, MN

SteppingOnUpDuluth.org

Stepping On Up

A Systematic Data-Driven Plan Addressing Homelessness

Duration: 5 years (2021-2026) Cost: \$33.3M

Phase 1 Immediate Response 2021-2022

- \$300,000.00 Authorized Living Zones & Outreach Workers
Safe outdoor spaces with Support

Phase 2 Stabilizing Response 2021-2023

- \$8M 100 Shelter-Next Units
Safe indoor shelter with support to overcome disabilities

Phase 3 Transforming Response 2021-2026

- \$25M 200 Tiny House Units
Safe tiny homes to maintain stability and support capacity development

I Support
Authorized
Living Zones

Let's do this for
our
Neighborhoods

our
Local Businesses

Our City

for our
Citizens
experiencing
Homelessness

Please let the Mayor and City Council know that you support Authorized Living Zones - safe outdoor spaces designated by the city OR on private land that would provide people living outside with some security as well as basic hygiene and sanitation. Each site would have garbage receptacle, porta potty, potable water, and regular contact with a street outreach worker, who can help connect people to resources including more permanent housing options.

An authorized outdoor living zone does not prevent or end homelessness. It can be challenging to manage, and carries many of the same risks of dispersed, unsanctioned sites. It should be viewed as a temporary, emergency harm reduction response within a broader strategy toward permanent housing. Please contact both Mayor Larson and your City Council Representative (see details overleaf). Let them know you support Authorized Living Zones - the first phase of our 5 year plan to address unsheltered and sheltered homelessness in Duluth.

AICHO | CHUM | Human Development Center | Life House | Loaves & Fishes

Lutheran Social Service | Safe Haven | The Salvation Army | The Affordable Housing Coalition

Suggestions for showing support:

- Learn about homelessness in Duluth – Visit SteppingOnUpDuluth.org
- How can you support Authorized Outdoor Living Zones in 2022 as the Warming Center closes and outdoor camping begins?
 - Be a part of the solution. Bring your wisdom, imagination, connections and resources to bear on this collaborative response to this city crisis.
- Write, email or call the Mayor or your City Councilor to express your concerns and invite them to be a champion for Stepping on Up. Include your name, address, and the name of your congregation.

Let us know what you do!
action@steppingonupduluth.org

Mayor Emily Larson

Email form at <https://duluthmn.gov/contact/mayor/>

Mail: City Hall, 411 West First Street, Duluth, MN 55802

City Council:

Gary Anderson <i>First Council District,</i> Precincts: 1-7 Phone: (218) 391-7404 Email: ganderson@DuluthMN.gov	Mike Mayou <i>Second Council District</i> Precincts: 8-13 Term Expires: January 5, 2026 Email: mmayou@duluthmn.gov
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THIS IS OUR MESSAGE

- CHUM is one of nine local homeless service entities who have sought partnership with the City and other community stakeholders on a response to the growing number of persons experiencing homelessness.
- The 5-year plan the service providers developed collaboratively presents in 3 phases, a response that is appropriate to the scope of the need.
- We have shared agreement in support of Phases II & III but are struggling with the first phase: establishing Authorized Outdoor Living Zones.
 - Phase I is an immediate emergency response coordinated to conclude with the construction of Shelter-Next units beginning in 2022, and the re-opening of the Warming Center next winter.
- The Warming Center is about to close, generating a sense of urgency for this temporary, emergency harm-reducing response within a broader strategy toward permanent housing.

The purpose of taking this action at this time is to reveal the level of support for Phase I. Mayor Larson cares, members of our City Council care, and we want to let them know that Duluth's faith communities also care. This is not intended as a display of an adversarial position, but a show of support for our leaders as they manage competing priorities and the complexities of this crisis. Now is the time for a just, realistic, practical and compassionate response appropriate to the scope of the need.

ACTION

- We invite your thoughts and wisdom as we work together to resolve this crisis.
- We invite you to join your voice with the chorus of concerned citizens offering support to our friends and neighbors who serve in local government as together we work for a more just and compassionate community.
- Will you be willing to be part of small delegations meeting with each Council member?
- Will you consider making land available temporarily for Phase I of this project?
- Will you be willing to volunteer at an Authorized Outdoor Living Zone (AOLZ)?
- Would you consider adopting an AOLZ by providing some sort of basic needs support on a regular basis? (Meals, hygiene kits etc.)

Let us know what you'd like to do! Send us an email.

action@steppingonupduluth.org

You can find more details on the full plan at SteppingOnUpDuluth.org