



## WHAT IS HMIS?

We collect information about the people we serve in a web-based computer system called Minnesota's HMIS (Homeless Management Information System). Most of the agencies providing housing services to individuals experiencing homelessness across the state of Minnesota use this computer system, including street outreach, drop-ins, shelters, and housing programs.

## WHY DO WE USE HMIS?

- **Case Management**– HMIS helps us keep track of program enrollment and funding streams, and allows us to better understand your individual needs and plan services around them.
- **Housing Referrals** – We use HMIS to initiate and accept housing referrals and connect people with housing services in a more accurate and efficient way.
- **Statistical Data & Evaluation** – HMIS helps us to better understand the characteristics and needs of people experiencing housing instability across Minnesota, and to evaluate how programs can better meet those needs.
- **Funding** – HMIS allows our community's programs to stay in business by helping Minnesota agencies compete more effectively for state and federal funding.
- **System Change** - HMIS is a critical element of Minnesota's initiative to end homelessness statewide, and informs policy and funding decisions at the federal, state, and local levels.