



COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY

SCOTT COUNTY



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Agenda



1. Live Learn Earn Initiatives

2. Student Homelessness and the Response in Scott County:

- ✓What we know
- ✓What we did
- ✓Where this fits with Scott County Blue-Print Priorities

3. Recommendations for next steps

A photograph of a playground with several children. In the foreground, a girl in a pink shirt is sliding down a slide, with another child behind her. To the left, two more children are on a different slide. In the background, a boy is on a monkey bar. The entire image has a blue tint. The text "Live Learn Earn" is overlaid in white.

Live Learn Earn

Live Learn Earn

Housing: Create housing options that give people in all stages of life and of all economic means viable choices for safe, stable, and affordable homes.

Workforce Readiness: Elevate each person's contribution to the community through a rich variety of local employment opportunities and career pathways.

Educational Preparedness: Ensure children are developmentally on track and prepared for educational success.

Transportation: Ensure access to safe, reliable, and affordable transportation options that connect people to jobs, goods, and services.

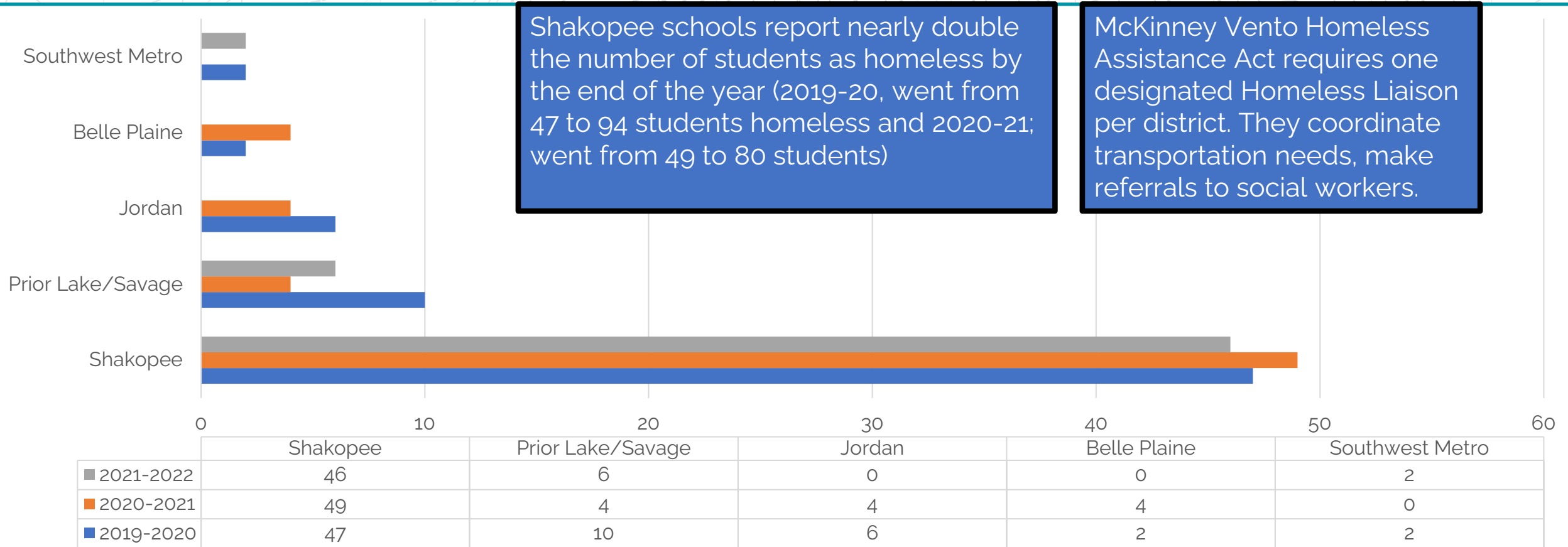




Student Homelessness and the Response in Scott County

What we know

Student Homelessness: *MN Dept of Education Data*



■ 2021-2022 ■ 2020-2021 ■ 2019-2020

Student Homelessness: Other Data

Scott County families with school age children who are homeless or near homelessness will access other housing services through Scott County's homeless response system (CAP, Scott County Human Service areas, Coordinated Entry)

Child Enrollment/school district is not tracked as part of the intake process for housing services.

School social workers refer to housing resources, but there is no follow-up from housing entities back to the schools.

- Coordinated Entry System: 8 families with 20 children (school age) homeless in and waiting for housing as of June 2021
- CAP Agency: 61 families, including 73 school age children received prevention and/or rehousing assistance from CAP as of December of 2020.
- *The children above may or may not be the same children counted in the Scott County school district data.

Student Homelessness: What We Know

- 1.** The number of students who report as experiencing homelessness is much lower than the number of students who are actually homeless.
- 2.** There is a lack of integration and coordination between schools and the homeless response system.

Student Homelessness: What We Know

3. Stable Housing is correlated with academic success
4. Unstable housing experiences is linked to poor academic performance and outcomes
5. Reading proficiency among 3rd graders is a predictor of future academic success. Those that can't read by 3rd grade, 4 times more likely not to graduate. Children/youth experiencing homelessness are more likely not to be reading proficient by 3rd grade.

*National Center for Children in Poverty
US Interagency Council on Homelessness
MN Department of Education*

Planning Grant

CDA contracted with Improve Group, using Planning Grant Money from MN Housing, to assess the current homeless system for students and families in Scott County.

Through interviews with partners and families with lived experiences, a systems map was developed that describes the current network of the homeless response system and referral structures among agencies who support students and families experiencing homelessness

KEY Partners:

Scott County CDA (Lead Applicant)

Scott County Health and Human Services:

- *Children and Family*
- *Mental Health*
- *Economic Assistance*
- *Housing and Homelessness*

SMAC

CAP Agency

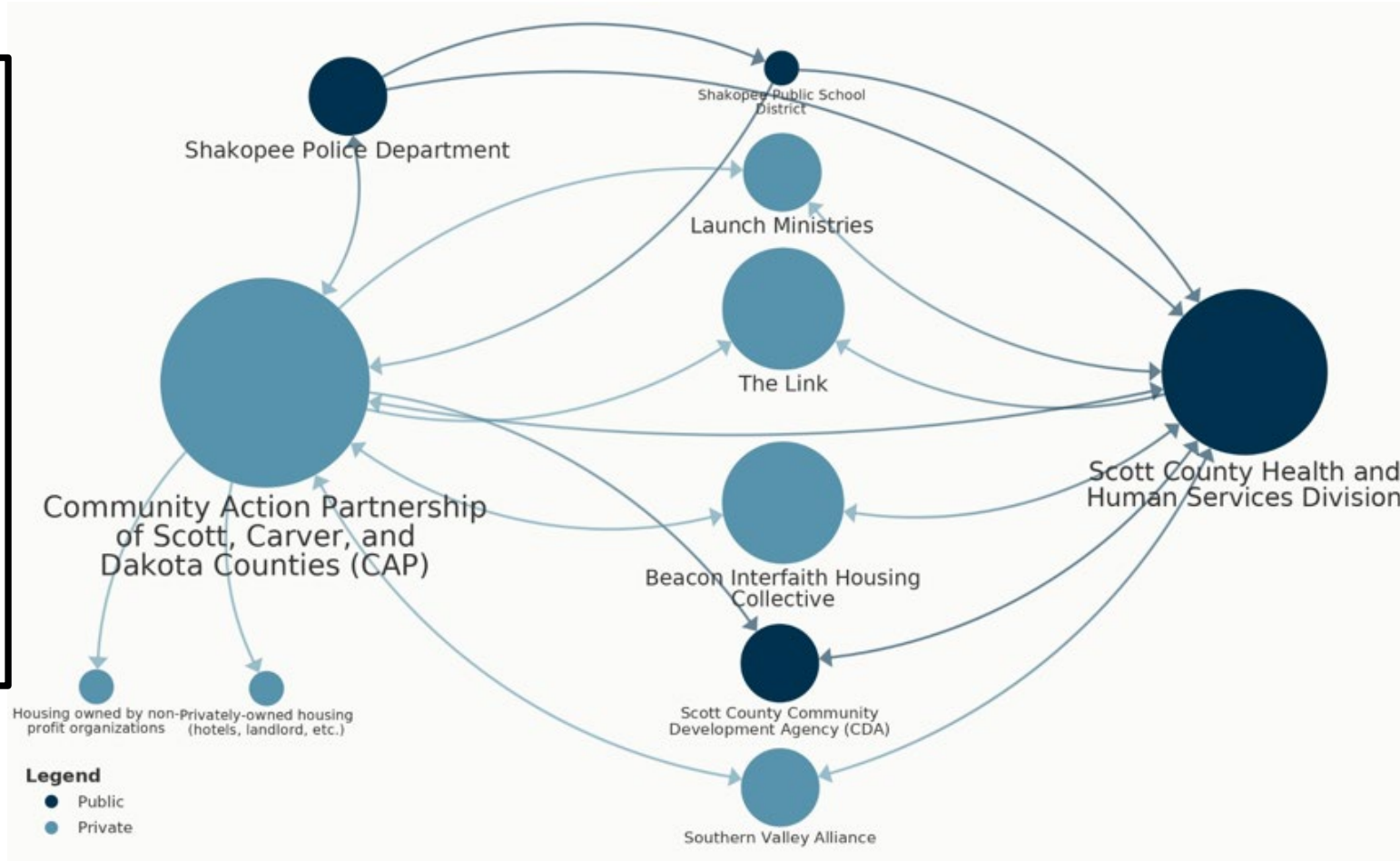
Shakopee Schools

Other Partners: Beacon, Southern Valley, Diversity Council, Police Department, The Link, People with Lived Experiences, Common Bond.

Homeless Response System Map

Findings:

Systems are working in isolation, with CAP and Scott County Human Services receiving and sending most referrals and schools referring families to housing system but no one to the schools.



*Map represents referral structures among agencies who support students and families experiencing homelessness

Strengths:

- a) Centralized Coordinated Entry location for screening.
- b) There is a network that exists to work together.
- c) Priority is given to homeless youth and families.

A photograph of a playground with children playing on slides, overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text is centered over the image.

Student Homelessness and the Response in Scott County

What We Did

Student Homelessness: What We Did

1.

We met with all Key Partners, including CDA, CAP, Scott County Human Service Areas, Shakopee School Principals, to design a program that responded to student homelessness using learnings from the work with the Improve Group, their Systems Map and Final Report.

Our belief/goal of the program: Through increased collaboration, we could build a better network of supports for students and their families experiencing housing instability, thereby decreasing experiences and severity of homelessness, increase housing stability, and improving student academic success.

Student Homelessness: What We Did

Our Program includes:

- **Hiring of a designated staff** (School Family Service Coordinator) to take referrals, conduct screening, administer housing assistance, provide navigation and supportive services as needed. Will work between the Shakopee District, CAP Agency, CDA, Coordinated Entry, and County Housing Services. Will follow-up with schools/housing agencies as appropriate for holistic service delivery. Evaluation, outcome, and data tracking.
- **Administration of Rental Assistance and Subsidy, in collaboration with CAP, CDA**
- **Supportive Services/case plans as needed and in collaboration with CAP, Scott County, other entities**
- **Coordinated Screening across points of contact:** Brief pre-screening added to Key Partners existing intake including school district information, age of students, level/risk of homelessness, etc.
- **Coordinated Referral process:** Direct referrals to designated staff for those pre-screened eligible. Coordinated Entry referrals to and from the program.
- **Coordinated Release of information for data sharing between schools, CDA, County, CAP.**
- **Outreach:** Imbedded in Key Partner Outreach services
- **Collaborative Meetings:** Requirements for designated staff.

***We applied for program money, but were unsuccessful

A photograph of a playground with children playing on slides and climbing equipment. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The title text is centered over the image.

Scott County Blue Print Priorities

**PRIORITY A:
Homelessness and
Specialized Housing**

- 6 objectives
- 20 suggested strategies and tools
- Action tables

**PRIORITY B:
Education and Advocacy**

- 9 objectives
- 27 suggested strategies and tools
- Action tables

**PRIORITY C:
New Housing Options**

- 6 objectives
- 16 suggested strategies and tools
- Action tables

**PRIORITY D:
Housing Preservation**

- 3 objectives
- 10 suggested strategies and tools
- Action tables

Priority A: Homelessness and Specialized Housing:

Objective A.4: Coordinate with the Heading Home plan to end homelessness

- Strategy A.4.a: Develop a coordinated communication system with the Heading Home planning team •
- Strategy A.4.b: Evaluate rental assistance options for households in need
- Strategy A.4.c: Collaborate efforts to advance the Heading Home plan and the Homework Starts with Home project where appropriate.

Priority B: Education and Advocacy

Objective B.6:: Inform the community about the effects of housing on public services such as police and fire

- Strategy B.6.a: Develop a coordinated plan to collect, update, and share data between communities and service providers

Objective B.7: Pioneer new partnerships

- Strategy B.7.a: Develop a plan to build partnerships between service providers, nonprofits, schools, and businesses

A photograph of a playground with children playing on slides and climbing equipment. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text "Recommendations for Next Steps" is centered over the image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

Recommendations for Next Steps

Recommendations/Next Steps

- Funding to Implement Program Design
- Refine program design
- Engage Key partners

Thank you

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