



WALKING ALONGSIDE YOUNG PEOPLE

Acknowledging and Honoring their Individual Journeys

ABOUT US

StreetWorks, a program of Lutheran Social Service of MN, is a collaborative of youth-serving nonprofits that have provided street-based outreach to youth experiencing homelessness in the Metro area since 1994. We are the largest outreach collaborative in Minnesota focused on ending youth homelessness.

Our collaborative model has proven to be an effective way to conduct coordinated outreach across a broad metro area. By combining our efforts, outreach workers provide young people (ages 13-24) with connections and needed resources such as housing, case management, counseling, life skills training, food, family reunification and safety planning, emergency shelter, and other basic necessities.

StreetWorks provides a coordinated intervention to meet the immediate needs of youth experiencing or at-risk of homelessness and exploitation, and to interrupt exploitation by providing valuable resources, connection to services, and regular interaction with a trustworthy adult.

MISSION / We walk alongside young people at-risk of, or experiencing, homelessness and exploitation, by providing collaborative outreach through education, coordination, and systems reform.

PURPOSE / To lead the way in supporting, connecting, and advocating for youth who are marginalized by existing systems.

OUR APPROACH / Our work is grounded in the '9 Evidence Based Guiding Principles to Help Youth Overcome Homelessness'. More information about these principles can be found on our website.

MEMBER & PARTNER AGENCIES

StreetWorks has many diverse members and partners that work collaboratively to develop best practices, participate in various training opportunities, attend monthly informational meetings, and coordinate geographic outreach areas and schedules to ensure the most consistent services for youth. Membership is open to all youth-serving agencies throughout the 7-county metro. A list of current StreetWorks Member and Partner Agencies is available on our website.

STREETWORKS TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

In-service Trainings, Certification, and Technical Assistance for:

- Youth Workers
- Advocates (adult and youth)
- Social Workers
- Service Providers
- Law Enforcement
- Juvenile Justice Personnel
- Physical, mental, and chemical health providers
- Schools/School Nurses
- Community Services
- Libraries

STREETWORKS TRAINING TOOLS & RESOURCES

In-person Trainings:

- StreetWorks Toolkit 50-hour Certification Training
- Tailored Best Practice Training for Agencies & Organizations

Free Online Resources:

- Safe Harbor Trainings & Discussion Guides
- Crash Course Video Series
- Additional Training Tools, Videos and Resources

SAFE HARBOR / NO WRONG DOOR

In 2011, Minnesota passed the *Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Youth Act*. Minnesota's Safe Harbor Law ensures young people who are sexually exploited are treated as victims and survivors, not criminals. Through the No Wrong Door model, youth can receive trauma-informed support rather than being treated as juvenile delinquents. Commercial sexual exploitation of youth occurs when someone age 24 and younger engages in sexual activity in exchange for the promise of something of value: money, drugs, food, shelter or transportation for example. Sex trafficking is one type of sexual exploitation—in which someone other than the “buyer” or “victim” profits from or facilitates an act of prostitution—and can often co-exist with forced labor, debt bondage and slavery.

The *“No Wrong Door Model: A Comprehensive Approach to Safe Harbor for Minnesota’s Sexually Exploited Youth”*, is a comprehensive, multidisciplinary, and multi-state agency approach. It ensures communities across Minnesota have the knowledge, skills and resources to effectively identify sexually exploited and at-risk youth. Youth are provided with victim-centered, trauma-informed services and safe housing.

In 2015, StreetWorks was awarded a Safe Harbor grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services Office of Economic Opportunity (DHS O.E.O.) to develop a training curriculum and tools to ensure consistent and effective training for youth outreach workers. The focus of this grant was specifically to build capacity for working with youth at-risk of, or experiencing, sexual exploitation who are also experiencing homelessness or housing instability.

The certification process trains youth workers in best practices to support this population and began with a focus in the Twin Cities metro area. StreetWorks has now adapted and expanded its work to Greater Minnesota service providers and multidisciplinary professionals who encounter youth in their work.

STREETWORKS TOOLKIT 50-HOUR CERTIFICATION TRAINING

After extensive research through focus groups and expert interviews in Greater Minnesota, the StreetWorks Toolkit curriculum has been adapted to be an effective training tool for the Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota.

Training on the foundational best practices in the curriculum—including harm reduction, safety, boundaries, trauma-informed care, and more—is also relevant for adult service providers because there is so much overlap in populations and services. Additionally, professionals whose job incorporates outreach and service provision (but who are not explicitly “Outreach Workers”) can benefit from the training.

The Toolkit Training curriculum involves 50+ hours of classroom training, field experience (partner site visits and shadow shifts), and prompts for solo reflection. Trainees receive a bound workbook and printed materials.

We currently offer trainings in the Twin Cities Metro and Greater MN. We provide trainings in six Greater Minnesota regions: Brainerd, Willmar, Bemidji, Mankato, Rochester and Duluth. Trainings are available to all youth and adult providers, health care professionals, school officials and teachers, as well as anyone working with or encountering youth or adult populations at-risk of or experiencing homelessness and/or exploitation.

The trainings consist of two, 3-day sessions with field work, video conference support and discussion in between sessions. There is a nominal fee for certification.

For more information about StreetWorks Training, Technical Assistance and Certification, please visit our website or contact streetworkstraining@lssmn.org.

CONTACT

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LOCATIONS: StreetWorks Outreach Workers currently work in Hennepin, Ramsey, Anoka, Scott, Carver, Washington and Dakota counties of Minnesota.



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