

# Prospective Campaign Fact Sheet

Avenues for Youth - November 2021

## At Avenues for Youth, We Believe That:

- Homelessness does not define a person. It is just one part of their journey.
- Youth experiencing homelessness have or are experiencing trauma.
- Systems of oppression, racism, and poverty are the root causes of homelessness.
- Youth are resilient, inspiring, and the drivers of their own journey.

## The Youth We Partner With:

- Are experiencing homelessness and are ages 16-24
- Mostly identify as Black, Indigenous, and or People of Color
- Disproportionately identify as LGBTQI+
- Have dreams and aspirations that deserve investment

## Our Core Programs Are:

*Minneapolis Avenues Congregate Shelter and Transitional Housing Program*

- 21 youth have a temporary home and intensive supports
- Youth have access to an on-site health and wellness team, education career specialist, 24/7 staff, and case management

*Brooklyn Avenues Congregate Shelter and Transitional Housing Program*

- 12 youth have a temporary home and intensive supports
- Youth have access to an on-site health and wellness team, education career specialist, 24/7 staff, and case management

*ConneQT Host Home Program*

- 10 youth have safe, supportive shelter and short-term housing in host homes.
- Program supports youth who identify as LGBTQI+

*Young Families Our Future Rapid Rehousing Program*

- 12 young families are housed in apartments with their children and have supportive services

*Abule Collective Housing Program*

- A new collective housing program for youth who identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color
- The program uses a culturally-centered approach to connect BIPOC youth with BIPOC community members willing to share their home and resources

***On average our programs support over 300 youth a year with housing, shelter, and other critical supports -- with over 70% moving into stable housing.***



## Mission

Avenues partners with youth experiencing homelessness to achieve their dreams.

## Vision

A community where all youth flourish.

## Values

Equity, Community, Respect + Dignity, Trust, Liberation, Anti-Oppression



## History

Avenues for Youth was founded in 1994 by a youth experiencing homelessness. She recognized the need for youth-specific housing and support, and since then Avenues has supported thousands of youth in the Twin Cities area. Avenues is a local leader in providing youth-centered supports, and known nationally for its host home program that supports LGBTQI+ youth.

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## Current Challenges

- Every night in Minnesota, more than 6,000 youth experience homelessness. There are few youth-specific housing programs to meet the need, and the Twin Cities has the worst housing shortage in the nation. Youth ages 16-24 realistically cannot afford an average rate apartment.
- Youth experiencing homelessness face unique challenges and barriers, and need youth-centered support to thrive.
- Avenues has outgrown its Minneapolis Avenues location, which houses 21 youth and serves as the organization's administrative offices. As is, Minneapolis Avenues cannot meet the needs of staff or youth.

## Our Response

A new North Minneapolis home is essential to meet our goals and positively impact the lives of youth experiencing homelessness. We are exploring an \$8M - \$12M campaign to serve as an investment in our young people and the future of our region. Our new home will:

- Enhance the available shelter space and transitional housing units for youth ages 16-21
- Provide single bedrooms to youth, increasing dignity, health and safety, and eliminating gender and age restrictions
- Add affordable apartments for youth ages 18-25
- Create gathering space to facilitate internal and external community and relationship building
- Maximize space to boost capacity and efficiency, and create flexibility for the future
- Serve as the new administrative headquarters for Avenues

## Campaign Impact

A successful campaign will position Avenues to meet the needs of the youth we support, and help reduce homelessness in the future. A new North Minneapolis home will:

- Provide more housing options for youth despite age and gender, and add more affordable housing for youth
- Provide dignified, youth-centered spaces for youth, contributing to improved outcomes
- Strengthen our partnerships and sense of community by creating community space, and hold more youth events
- Allow Avenues to have control and ownership of the space, providing flexibility to expand and prepare for the future and improve overall efficiency



## First Time Homeowners

Avenues currently leases its North Minneapolis location from the City of Minneapolis. Even with expansion, the lot and building cannot meet Avenues' growing needs.

Once we determined that Avenues would need to relocate to meet our needs, an analysis of options was conducted. It was determined that ownership was the best course of action. It ensures that capital investment benefits Avenues directly and exclusively.



## Avenues current strategic plan includes:

- Placing social justice at the center of our work
- Creating an inclusive and learning culture
- Strengthening organization effectiveness and impact
- Championing community engagement and solidarity, partnerships, and collaboration