



# HOUSING STABILITY ESTIMATOR: HENNEPIN COUNTY, MN

***The following sample screening questions are adapted from the Housing Stability Estimator used in Hennepin County, Minnesota.***

**The Housing Stability where the family is currently:  
(answer all that apply)**

- Does the family currently have a lease? Yes/No
- Does the family currently have a mortgage? Yes/No
- Is the family paying more than 50% of monthly income on rent? Yes/No
- Does the family currently have an eviction notice? Yes/No
- Is the family temporarily doubled-up, couch hopping or living in a motel? Yes/No
- Is the family currently fleeing domestic violence? Yes/No
- Is the care giver exiting treatment, jail or hospital? Yes/No
- Is the family currently unsheltered (living on street, in car/bus/light rail, camping, etc.), living in condemned property or staying in a shelter? Yes/No

In Hennepin County, MN the Housing Stability Estimator was developed and implemented to identify child welfare involved families at-risk of, or currently experiencing homelessness and help connect them to the housing and support services they may need. After speaking with child welfare and child protection staff, it became apparent that while all of the families they are working with have a variety of housing needs, staff felt disconnected from housing resources and wanted a clear path to access those resources.

The Housing Stability Estimator is based on a tool used in Connecticut and Maryland to better understand housing stability for child welfare involved families. A group of experts that included Hennepin County child welfare, county attorney, public defender, housing and homelessness staff, Hennepin County family providers, Minneapolis Public Housing staff, and child welfare involved and homeless families themselves, further built out the Housing Stability Estimator to reflect and fit Hennepin County families.

**The Housing History of the family:**

- No significant history of housing problems before this interview
- Currently housed but unable to pay their rent or mortgage at least once in the past year
- Three or more moves in past year
- Significant life changes (job loss, death in family)
- Two or more shelter stays in past year
- Multiple episodes of unsheltered homelessness
- Chronically Homeless

**The Barriers to Housing the family is currently facing are:**

- No barriers
- No rental history
- None or poor credit
- Past eviction(s)
- Justice system history
- No/low income
- Source of income
- Move-in costs & related fees
- Back owed bills (utility, housing authority, other)
- Stigma/bias related to disabilities, race, gender, sexual orientation, family type