

LEAG highlights for 2023

LEAG Overview

The goal of the Lived Expertise Advisory Group (LEAG) is to ensure that the work towards ending homelessness happens with people with lived expertise at the table, particularly members of the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities (BIPOC).

The committee is made up of 10 members, all of whom are currently experiencing homelessness or have in the past. The members meet monthly to organize around common ideas, gain support on projects they are working on, and learn about topics of interest. Outside of the monthly meetings, members can opt-in to different opportunities such as serving on request for proposals (RFP's) panels, assist on hiring panels, or joining other advisory committees.

Compensation and staff support

Members are compensated at a rate of \$25 per hour for the activities they participate in. Hennepin County provides staffing to manage the application process, facilitate monthly meetings, connect LEAG members to opportunities, and oversee the compensation process.

Request for proposal panels

LEAG members served on several requests for proposals (RFP) panels so far in 2023. In this role, members assist in reviewing applications and advise on what projects should be awarded funding. In many cases, members are also involved in the development of the RFP by informing the priorities for the funding opportunity.

Examples of the RFP panels that members served on include:

- Operating overflow shelter for families experiencing homelessness
- Providing services for foster care youth who are experiencing homelessness
- Administering local homeless prevention aid
- Providing supportive housing with Housing Support funding
- Rank supportive housing and homeless service projects for the Continuum of Care Program
- Youth Housing and Homeless Services (YHHS)

Hiring panels

LEAG members served on several Hennepin County Housing Stability hiring panels since the start of 2023. In this role, members assist in interviewing potential candidates for key positions in the homeless response system.

The positions that LEAG members assisted in hiring have included:

- Coordinated Entry Senior Planning Analyst,
- Coordinated Entry Priority List Manager,
- 4 Case Managers for Homeless to Housing program

Other opportunities

LEAG member are also requested to participate in various other roles like speaking engagements, one-time projects, and on-going committees. In 2023, LEAG members were involved in the following advisory roles:

- Assisted in developing the survey that will be used in the 2023 Minnesota Homeless Study conducted by Wilder research
- Keynote speakers at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute on the causes and solutions to homelessness
- LEAG members speak to all new employees in the Housing Stability area as part of the orientation process.
- Two LEAG members serve on the City Minneapolis Housing Advisory Committee
- Participation in the National Conference on Ending Homelessness (hosted by the National Alliance to End Homelessness) in Washington, D.C.