

RAMSEY COUNTY HRA LEVY

*Preserving and providing
homes for all.*



Starting in 2022, funds collected would preserve and create affordable housing for Ramsey County residents, providing a long-term resource to combat the existing housing crisis.

Ramsey County is exploring a property tax levy for its Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) to address the longstanding housing crisis that has been exacerbated due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent economic downturn.

Our challenge

Many Ramsey County residents live in poverty and struggle to find or afford stable housing. The current market is not building or preserving enough affordable housing to meet the needs of these residents, including seniors, low-wage workers and others who make less than \$25,000 annually. This challenge is anticipated to grow, placing further strain on the housing market and county services for all households.



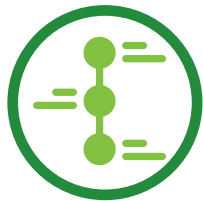
Housing and redevelopment authorities

To help solve these challenges, many local units of government levy for affordable housing through their Housing Redevelopment Authorities – public entities that specifically focus on housing and redevelopment. While Ramsey County has an HRA, it is the only county in the Twin Cities metropolitan area that does not actively levy for affordable housing.



What will the levy fund?

Funds collected through a Ramsey County HRA Levy would support the preservation of existing and creation of new affordable housing developments and build community wealth by creating pathways to homeownership. This would be done by offering gap financing and land acquisition funds as well as allocating resources to increase the competitiveness of local community housing projects in Ramsey County applying for state grants.



Timeline

Ramsey County's HRA plans to begin levying in 2022. However, communities that had active HRA levy authorities prior to 1971 are statutorily required to pass a resolution to participate in Ramsey County's levy as well. This currently applies to the cities of Saint Paul and North St. Paul.



Learn more at ramseycounty.us/HRA

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Additional information



RAMSEY COUNTY



65,000 households
in Ramsey County pay
more than 30%
of their income on housing.

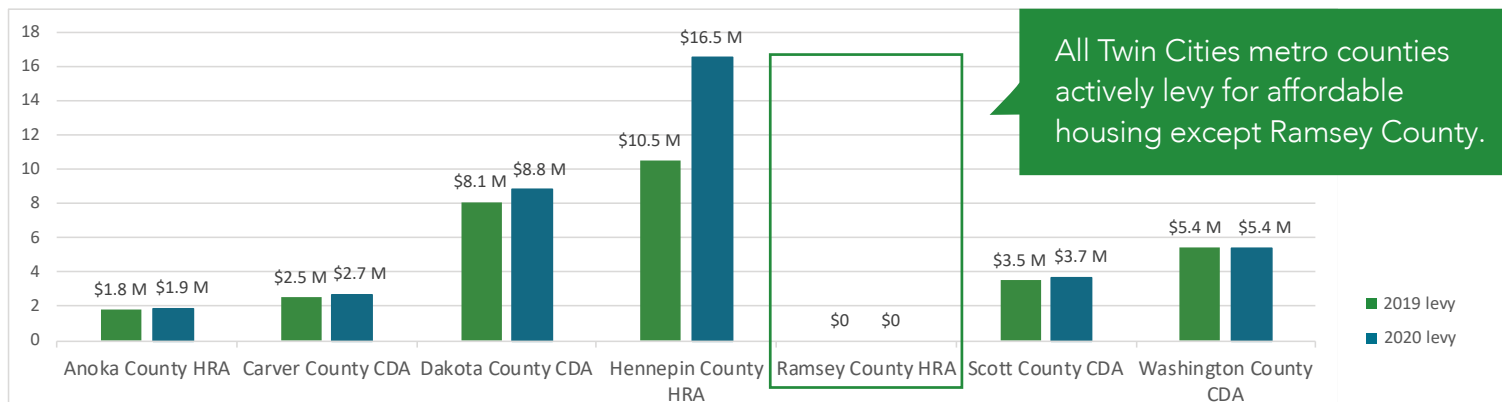
There are 209,000 households in Ramsey County.*

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019.

An HRA levy in Ramsey County
**could raise up to
\$11.6 million a year**
to fund affordable housing.



HRA Levies by Metro County (2019 and 2020)



**There is currently a shortage of
15,000+ homes** that are affordable
for Ramsey County households making
between \$30,000-\$50,000 per year and
50,000+ homes that are affordable
for households making less than
\$30,000 per year.



New construction would take
20-50 years
to meet the current need, and
would still require subsidies.

The proposed HRA Levy
would increase annual taxes on a
median value residential property
by about \$45.

“ **THE COST OF INACTION IS TOO GREAT.**

If we wish to chart a path toward recovery and create a more resilient future,
then we must ensure our commitment to our most vulnerable residents.

When our most vulnerable residents thrive, we all thrive. ”

– Economic Competitiveness and Inclusion Plan participant



Learn more: ramseycounty.us/HRA