



2025 Snapshot



1.3M
residents



607
square miles



45
cities



9
fortune 500
companies



100+
lakes and the
Mississippi River





DEDICATED TO SERVICE

Each day in Hennepin County, hundreds of thousands of our nearly 1.3 million residents engage with county services, both directly and indirectly. From housing, roads, libraries, and economic supports to environmental education, health care, public safety, and more — we deliver essential services that support our residents' health, well-being, and vitality.

In our pursuit of equitable and responsive service, we recognize that our residents experience systemic barriers and stark disparities. For more than a decade, we have prioritized closing gaps in seven key disparity domains: Connectivity, Education, Employment, Health, Housing, Income, and Justice. These domains guide our work through an equity lens, and this report

is organized around them to provide a snapshot of progress in each area.

In 2025, we faced substantial challenges. But guided by our core values and dedication to eliminating disparities, Hennepin County innovated, adapted our service models, streamlined approaches, and reallocated resources to meet residents' needs. We also reaffirmed our commitments to equity and climate action, and to not only reducing disparities but eliminating them altogether.

I am immensely proud of the progress described in this report and of the many county employees, partners, and residents who helped to make it possible.

Together, we have remained resilient, responsible, and committed to advancing equitable outcomes for everyone who calls Hennepin County home.

Jodi Wentland
Hennepin County Administrator



We ensure our technology, transit, and transportation systems are accessible, affordable, and climate ready

56

strategies in our Toward Zero Deaths action plan

13+

miles of bikeways and new/improved sidewalks recently added

1,371

people supported with digital navigation help in 2025



Connectivity

Providing physical and digital connections for people is key. We are improving transit, multi-modal options, safety, and accessibility along our transportation system, connecting people to health care, employment, housing, and education. Our collaborative and collective efforts are transforming connections and improving quality of life for residents and communities.

Advancing safety as we move toward zero deaths

We are working toward a long-term goal of eliminating traffic-related deaths and serious injuries on county roadways by the year 2045. As part of a system-wide approach, we are modernizing infrastructure to improve safety in high injury locations with special emphasis on areas of poverty and social vulnerability.

Improving mobility for county clients

When people can confidently meet their mobility needs, everyone experiences the benefits of money saved, improved efficiency, and less redundancy in transportation coordination. That is why we are integrating transit services and technology for aging residents and those with disabilities.

Ensuring accessibility for all roadway users

We have updated our accessibility plan to ensure our transportation system is accessible for all people. When people can cross a roadway using compliant ramps and audible countdown signals, and can easily activate push buttons, they are experiencing our plan in action. By making sure walking, biking, rolling, and using transit are more accessible and safer, we are lowering dependency on cars and reducing climate pollution.

Increasing resident access to high-quality information

We are increasing computer and internet access and helping residents grow their digital skills and online safety knowledge. We work alongside those already receiving county services to provide online navigation help as they seek opportunities within education, employment, and other areas.

Education

We recognize every learner's potential to succeed and offer services that benefit individuals and families at every stage of life, from early childhood learning to adult education pathways. Our goal is to promote learning and provide access to resources, support, and funding for educational programs and services. These efforts are individualized and help build healthy connections within our communities.

A path for success: Grow, Learn, Thrive

Our county is improving how residents experience education support by bringing services together from across departments. Guided by a shared approach shaped with more than 150 partners, our framework focuses on what matters most: helping children get a strong start, supporting learning through the school years, and creating clear paths to graduation, careers, and lifelong learning. With this approach, we make it easier for families, youth, and adults to find the support they need to grow, learn, and thrive.

Providing flexible tutoring

Our programs help children and teens succeed in school with literacy and academic supports grounded in the science of reading. Through volunteer-supported Let's Read and Homework Help at Hennepin County libraries, students can

take part in both scheduled and drop-in tutoring to build skills and stay on track. When more individualized support is needed, county-connected youth can access additional tutoring through contracted partners.

Helping students succeed everywhere they learn

Alongside direct student support, we partner with families and school districts to strengthen learning at home and in the classroom. Book giveaways help children build their own libraries and promote reading routines that reinforce literacy development at home. Families also receive help with navigating school systems and tools for supporting their students' Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), leading to better learning experiences in the classroom.



We support greater achievement and whole-being outcomes for youth and families through educational success

89%

of Homework Help students speak languages other than English at home

69,000+

attendees at library storytimes and early literacy programs in 2025

10,000+

hours of tutoring provided by Education Support Services





We promote meaningful employment opportunities that provide a living wage and comprehensive benefits

14,314

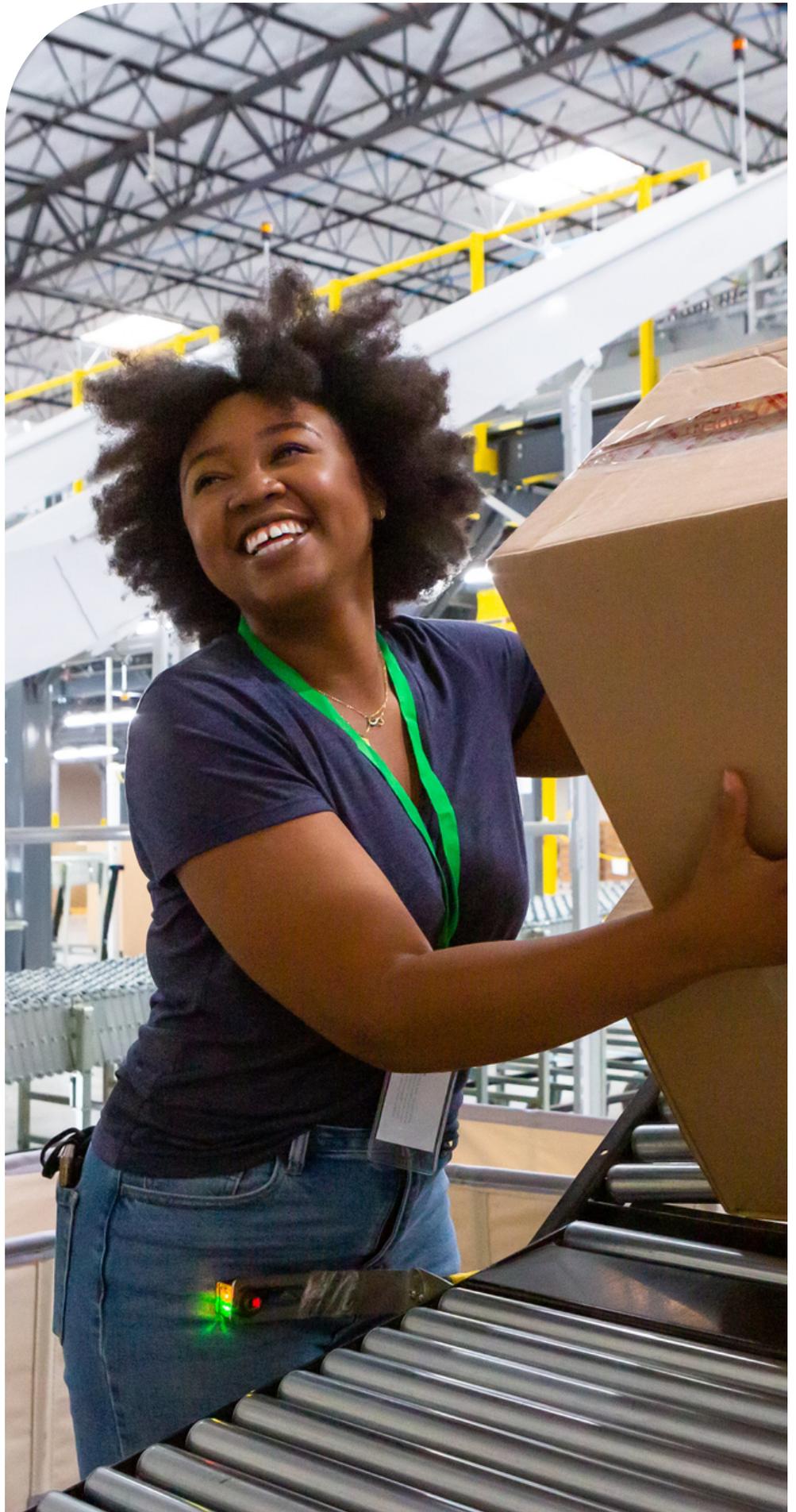
people served across workforce development programs

913

people placed in full-time, unsubsidized employment

2,909

youth receiving employment services across all workforce programs, including career expos and internships



Employment

Employment is a cornerstone of economic stability, opening doors to income, resources, and long-term security. Our county plays a vital role in preparing residents for the workforce, connecting them to meaningful careers, and supporting local employers. By championing strategies that expand access to quality jobs with living wages, benefits and advancement pathways, we are reducing barriers to employment and advancing equitable outcomes for all residents.

Developing, supporting, and employing residents

Implementing an integrated approach, Workforce Development launched the Develop, Support and Employ framework, organizing the county's work across the workforce spectrum into three strategies: Develop focuses on supporting the development of job seekers and career advancement opportunities; Support provides employees with the support they need to prepare and excel within their roles; and Employ emphasizes collaborating with employers and connecting them with workforce solutions.

By using this framework, the county is more effectively leveraging cross-functional partnerships, providing low-barrier training and employment services and supports, and increasing opportunities for residents to earn a livable wage.

Empowering youth through intentional connection

Empowering our youth with the right tools and support benefits us all. It helps young people achieve higher earning potential and a better quality of life, while also strengthening our region's workforce. Hennepin Growth and Opportunity (GO) is the county's primary programmatic strategy to provide residents internships and employment pathways, serving residents ages 14 and older.

In 2025, the county hosted its first two GO Expos — in-person events that connected more than 200 high school students with county staff to learn about careers in government. This effort not only strengthens Hennepin County's pipeline of future talent as an employer, but also reinforces our commitment to helping residents explore opportunities, gain confidence, and move toward careers in our community.

Health

We take a comprehensive approach to health by integrating various services ranging from mental health support and preventive care to community resources. We aim to create an inclusive environment where every individual can access essential services and benefits from health services, regardless of their background or socioeconomic status.

Combatting hunger and food waste

In 2025, we funded community food banks and food shelves to fight hunger through an initial investment of \$4 million plus a \$2 million emergency investment, along with \$540,000 to organizations that rescue surplus foods from local retailers to help feed residents and reduce waste.

Improving maternal health outcomes

To address the impact of racism and advocate for policy in maternal health, we invested \$1.6 million in the Birth Justice Collaborative. A postpartum support pilot served 42 African American/Black and Indigenous families for the first 15 months after birth. The results include participants reporting lower levels of anxiety, fewer stressors related to breastfeeding and childcare, greater confidence in parenting, and a sense of support.

Tuned into the heart of community

African American/Black and Indigenous women in Hennepin County experience higher rates cardiovascular diseases, including heart attacks and strokes, than women of any other racial group. To address these disparities, we have partnered with community and clinical partners since 2024 to develop and support culturally relevant prevention, care coordination, and mental health services. This work is funded by a \$1 million per year investment from the county board. The investment also has supported the “Your Heart Beats for Generations” campaign co-created with our community.



We provide access to high-quality, affordable services that promote whole health and well-being

\$6M

distributed to food banks and food shelves

5,000+

residents took part in heart health education, prevention and social support activities

32,943

estimated membership in Hennepin Health community health plan





We open doors
to safe, stable,
affordable,
permanent housing

8,551

evictions prevented
since 2023

650+

families served by
School to Housing
since 2023

1,713

affordable housing
units created or
preserved in 2025



Housing

By developing and delivering effective housing solutions, we work to support a range of affordable housing options and services across income levels, playing a vital role in addressing housing instability and homelessness. We serve as both a funder of affordable housing and provider of essential human services. By investing in housing and providing support to those in need, we and our partners help everyone across the housing continuum gain access to greater housing stability.

Preventing eviction

Households can get help to prevent an eviction and stay in the housing they have. We work with people who are behind on their rent to find a solution with their property manager or assess whether they are eligible to receive county-funded emergency rent assistance and access community resources.

Supporting School to Housing

Families with school-aged children in unstable or temporary housing can get help transitioning into safe, dignified, permanent housing. We collaborate with the nine school districts in Hennepin County that have the highest number of households at risk of homelessness. Along with our partners, we identify families at risk and deliver intensive housing-focused support services and rent subsidies to help families stabilize for the long term.

Funding affordable rental units

Housing ends homelessness — that is why we continue to lead development of new affordable housing for Hennepin County residents. In 2025, we invested in 17 projects, to create or preserve 1,292 affordable rental housing units. 41% of those are affordable at 30% of the area median income (AMI), and 207 units are for people exiting homelessness.

Stabilizing homeownership

Homeownership is a key strategy for residents working to build generational wealth. We approach this work by funding first-time homebuyer opportunities and making essential improvements to preserve homes. In 2025, we invested \$2.7 million to create 60 first-time homeownership opportunities. The home repair team completed 286 projects, including removal of lead and other health-focused repairs.

Income

Income is foundational to self-sufficiency and opportunity, paying for basic needs, and creating a path to establish wealth and grow assets. Significant gaps exist in median household incomes for Black, Indigenous, and Latino households, which means lifelong disparities in access to economic opportunity and wealth creation.

Dismantling barriers to business ownership

We are driving inclusive growth and prosperity by equipping small businesses and entrepreneurs with tools and resources that deliver results. Of the businesses Elevate Hennepin has helped launch, 66% are owned by people of color and 61% by women.

Over 70% of the financing we have facilitated has been directed to businesses owned by people of color. We have provided more than 4,000 businesses and entrepreneurs expert consulting and cohort learning programs tailored to different stages of business growth. Advisors specialize in areas such as accounting, marketing, business planning, technology, and access to capital.

Building a workforce that reflects community

Our programs connect job seekers to meaningful work with livable wages, benefits, and growth potential. As part of the Hennepin Growth and Opportunity (GO) suite, Pathways partners with educators and community providers to close employment disparities and employ qualified candidates through our training and internship programs.

Since 2014, the county has led 34 Pathways programs in fields such as Human Services, Information Technology, Building Operations, and Office Administration — creating opportunities that strengthen both individuals and the regional workforce.



We strive to advance inclusive and equitable economic opportunities that give individuals and businesses of every size the ability to prosper

322

new businesses launched, facilitated by Elevate Hennepin

\$50M

in small business financing, facilitated by Elevate Hennepin



460

employees hired through the Hennepin Pathways Program



We prioritize safety, stability and well-being for all

395

referrals to Adult Representation Services for immigration legal services

500+

records sealed through the County Attorney's expungement efforts

2,332

naloxone kits distributed by the Sheriff's Office to people leaving the jail



Justice

Hennepin County supports a legal system that is equitable and prioritizes individual success and community safety through early intervention and prevention strategies. We advance policies and programming that aim to improve life outcomes, increase access to justice, and are responsive to the needs of people engaged with the legal system, including victims of crime.

Alternative response for non-emergencies

People often call 911 for mental health-related situations that do not require a police, fire, or emergency medical response. To ensure residents are receiving appropriate support to prevent emergency escalations, we partner with cities to create Alternative Response teams — social workers paired with medical professionals — to respond to non-emergency behavioral health calls.

Legal help for tenants and immigrants

Tenants caught in housing court, where eviction filings continue to rise, see more dismissals and additional time to remain in housing when they receive legal support from Adult Representation Services. ARS also provides immigration legal services — another growing area of need — assisting people with green cards, citizenship, and work permits.

Removing barriers for people with records

To reduce the collateral consequences of a criminal record, which limits employment opportunities and housing stability, the Hennepin County Attorney's Office hosts expungement clinics, assists people requesting to seal their records, and has expanded its prosecutor-led expungement program to include juvenile records.

Expanding access to addiction resources

By providing medications for Opioid Use Disorder to people in jail custody and naloxone to those being released, the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office aims to reduce overdoses and improve treatment outcomes for historically underserved populations.

Stabilization for youth with complex needs

Gaps in human services and juvenile justice systems have left some youth without access to appropriate care for complex mental health and behavioral needs. Our new Youth Stabilization Center, which began serving youth in mid-December, helps fill the gap for youth, offering treatment, therapeutic supports, and planning with families.

OUR COMMITMENT TO CLIMATE

We are acting boldly on climate change for ourselves and generations to come. We are cutting greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the changing climate to ensure an equitable and resilient Hennepin County.

Growing communities through urban agriculture

In 2025, the county converted 70,540 square feet of surplus county land into urban agriculture sites in partnership with community-based organizations. These spaces help increase access to fresh produce in food-insecure neighborhoods, reduce the urban heat island effect, and offer hands-on learning opportunities for youth. Residents have participated in gardening, education, and community-building activities through the program.

Electrifying our fleet of vehicles

We have continued to electrify the county's fleet vehicles and now nearly a third of our light-duty fleet are hybrid or electric. To ensure those vehicles are ready to go when our employees need them to serve people and places, we have made impressive strides on our fast-charging infrastructure at county-owned locations. 44 of 74 planned EV charging ports have been installed at county facilities.

Planting with a purpose

We use nature-based solutions to increase the resilience of our community. We are expanding the tree canopy to reduce heat island impacts, filter and cool our air, and sequester carbon. Since 2020, 576,000 trees have been planted with agencies and city partners. We are more than halfway to our goal of planting 1 million trees by 2030. With the help of a federal forestry grant, foresters have removed 700 diseased trees for residents with lower incomes and are replacing at a 2 to 1 ratio with climate-resilient tree species, expanding resident education and a workforce tree care Pathways program.

Accelerating a zero-waste future

Our formula to achieve a zero-waste future is investing in 12 bold actions in policy, programming, and infrastructure to reinvent our solid waste system. Priorities include increasing efforts to reduce single-use plastics, providing more drop-off options for hard-to-recycle items, and increasing access to recycling services. Keeping food and other compostable materials out of landfills is a critical climate action.



17,000+

trees planted, sold or given away in 2025

1,300

residents participated in urban agriculture programming

1/3

of light-duty fleet vehicles are either hybrid or electric

32%

of households in the county now participate in organics recycling programs

By putting our residents first, Hennepin County employees work every day to achieve our mission and vision. We strive to improve our services through proactive, innovative public stewardship.

