

# Metro Transit Police Department Homeless Action Team

Last Revised 07.2024



**Watch:** [Meet one of the driving forces behind MTPD's Homeless Action Team](#)

The Metro Transit Police Department first launched its Homeless Action Team (HAT) in 2018, in response to the growing need to connect people experiencing homelessness with services.

HAT is currently lead by Sgt. Beverly Rodriguez, with three other officers assigned to the unit.

The team spends nights on rail vehicles building trust by providing food, clothing, and other assistance. The team also utilizes its special vehicles to transport people to temporary shelters or to get health screenings.

Since its inception, HAT has placed more than 500 people in more permanent housing, thanks to the Metropolitan Council Housing and Redevelopment Authority's (HRA) federally funded rental assistance program.

HAT also works with city and county attorneys to address issues in someone's criminal history that might preclude them from public housing. The team also helps individuals secure identification cards. While not yet a legal form of identification, it helps establish that each person has an identity.

HAT has been recognized both nationally and locally for its work and has been hailed as a model for law enforcement agencies hoping to find a better way to help this underserved community.

In 2020, the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce and seven chamber partners recognized the shared effort to move people into safe housing with a Local Government Award.

Some of HAT's partners and the services they provide include:

- **American Indian Community Development Corporation** – Housing and services for American Indians
- **Radias Health** – Wholistic care, including physical and mental care, pharmacy services
- **Women of Nations** – Safety and shelter for women experiencing domestic violence and sexual assault
- **Catholic Charities** – Assistance to people suffering from abuse, illness, homelessness, and hunger
- **Avivo** – Services including chemical and mental health, employment, career education
- **Healthcare of Homeless** – Reduces barriers to health care by bringing care to shelters and other areas
- **Breaking Free** – Helps women escape sex trafficking and prostitution, connecting survivors with safe housing
- **Street Works Collaborative** – Connects unsheltered youth with services
- **Mac-V** – Veterans services
- **HART** – Homeless Assistance Response Team
- **Wovan** – Housing stabilization
- **Guild Outreach** – Anoka County Outreach
- **Ally Services** – Dakota County Outreach

