

Jyoti Wadhwa (MDE): Gap Analysis Discussion

In December 2023, Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness (MICH) formally adopted its [Crossroads to Justice Plan](#) to coordinate enterprise-wide strategies around homelessness. As part of this plan, MDE was charged with developing a gaps analysis to identify where programs and services surrounding youth homelessness were disconnected, inadequate, or missing. MDE has now secured a vendor (The Bellwether consulting) for this project and is starting to engage with the Homeless liaisons, community-based organizations, and Tribal partners supporting youth experiencing homelessness and other stakeholders to facilitate collaboration on conducting the gaps analysis.

The Bellwether consulting team will conduct community engagement activities between now and October 2024. The final result of this project is expected to be a story-driven gaps analysis report highlighting the challenges homeless youth face. I am looking for participants/representation from the Tribal Nations Education Committee and/or other Tribal representatives for their input. The consultants will need about an hour of the participants' time in the next few weeks. We would also like to reach some youth and families with lived experiences. There will be a small stipend offered to youth and families for participation and we understand our responsibility to engage in a manner that preserves their dignity and respect.

Any information shared with The Bellwether consulting will be protected and participants' name and other personally identifiable information will not be associated with their answers.