*Department of Administration*

*Bureau of Housing*

*January 2023 Updates*

**WERA (Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance) Program**

WERA is being administered by WISCAP and the local Community Action Programs, along with Energy Services, Inc. with a dedicated hotline to answer questions and take applications.

ERA 1 funds have been completely expended.

ERA2 in spend down and a moratorium on application intake commences January 31st at 11:59pm.

**WERA REPORT as of January 18, 2023**

Total Rent Assistance (WERA) distributed: **$242,971,389**. This covers68 Wisconsin counties excluding Brown, Dane, Milwaukee and Waukesha.

January 18, 2023 extraction #100- **$2,920,509;** Avg per Extraction- $**2.4M**

Total Households: **60,310**

Total Persons: **148,404** (There is some duplication of households and persons as some have drawn funds from WERA 1 and WERA 2)

Total Spending per household (HH) is approximately **$4,029.**

**64.4%** HH are 0 to ≤ 30% AMI; **22%** HH are › 30% and ≤ 50% AMI; **13.3%** HH › 50% and ≤ 80% AMI.

**Wisconsin Eviction Data Project**

[**https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/Wisconsin-Eviction-Data-Project.aspx**](https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/Wisconsin-Eviction-Data-Project.aspx)

The Wisconsin Eviction Data Project ​is produced by the [Interagency Council on Homelessness​](https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/AboutDOA/ICH.aspx) to track, on a monthly basis, the number of eviction filings and judgements for eviction in all 72 counties in the state to track the state's housing economy, the efficacy of homelessness prevention programs, and to inform the public on housing policy needs throughout Wisconsin.

**HOME ARP Program**

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 appropriated $5 billion to provide housing, services, and shelter to individuals experiencing homeless and other vulnerable populations, to be allocated by formula to jurisdictions that qualified for HOME Investment Partnerships Program allocations in Fiscal Year 2021. DEHCR received $41,859,563 in funding. As of October 2022,

the program’s allocation plan has been approved by HUD. Program staff are working on policies and procedures for the program and anticipate the release of an application in Spring of 2023.

**CARES ESG-CV Funds**

The State of Wisconsin was awarded two Emergency Solutions Grants-Coronavirus (ESG-CV) totaling $32,484,591. Round 1 included $12,723,269 and round 2 totaled $19,761,322

These ESG-CV funds are to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) among individuals and families who are homeless or receiving homeless assistance; and to support additional homeless assistance and homelessness prevention activities to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. ESG-CV funds the following activities: Rapid Re-Housing, Homelessness Prevention, Street Outreach, Emergency Shelter, and HMIS.

As of the end of November 2022, ESG-CV expenditures are reported at about $30.4 million which is 97% of the total award. All but one ESG-CV contract ended either 6/30/22 or 9/30/22.

DEHCR received an additional $173,646.87 in ESG-CV funding from HUD due to a federal reallocation that took place late August 2022. Those funds, along with unspent funds from the original allocations, were awarded in December 2022 through a competitive application process (a total of about $1.5 million). Eight agencies received awards (3 emergency shelter renovation projects, one emergency shelter operations project, one motel voucher project, one street outreach project, one HMIS-support agency, and one non-HMIS support agency). All funds must be expended by September 30, 2023.

**CARES ACT – HOPWA**

The State of Wisconsin was awarded one Housing Opportunities for Person with AIDS – Coronavirus (HOPWA-CV) supplemental grant for $113,711. The HOPWA-CV funds were awarded to Vivent Health to maintain operations and rental assistance, supportive services and other necessary actions for low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.

The HOPWA-CV supplemental grant may be used to fund the following activities:

* Assisting HOPWA eligible households in accessing essential services and supplies such as food, water, medications, medical care, and information
* Educating assisted households on ways to reduce the risk of getting sick or spreading infectious diseases such as COVID-19 to others
* Providing transportation services for eligible households, including costs for privately-owned vehicle transportation when needed, to access medical care, supplies, and food or to commute to places of employment
* Providing nutrition services for eligible households in the form of food banks, groceries, and meal deliveries
* Providing lodging at hotels, motels, or other locations to quarantine HOPWA-eligible persons or their household members
* Providing short-term mortgage, and utility (STRMU) assistance payments to prevent homelessness of a tenant or mortgagor of a dwelling for a period of up to 24 months

**HOPWA-CV supplemental funding has been fully expensed.**

**Safe Shelter and Homelessness Grant (SSHG)**

On September 28, 2022, Governor Tony Evers announced $2.7 million in new, targeted grants to ensure support and services are available for families and individuals who need them. These new grants were funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to provide critical resources to domestic violence programs and emergency and homeless shelter services throughout the state of Wisconsin.

Of the $2.7 million available, up to $1.2 million was allocated to the Safe Shelter and Homelessness Grants (SSHG) program. The Secretary’s Office has approved an increase in that allocation level from $1.2 million to $2 million. In 2021, SSSG grantees were surveyed to identify their funding needs for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 winter seasons as well as their needs for critical capital investments. DEHCR utilized the existing 2022 SSSG funding formula and contracts to calculate the proportion of funding that each grantee would receive, creating the SSHG awards.

Like the SSSG program, SSHG funding may be used to assist individuals and families who are homeless by providing grants to local agencies in Wisconsin that provide emergency shelter and supportive services. Funding can be utilized for most shelter operation costs such as salaries and utilities.

* For the 2022-2023 winter season, 45 agencies received SSHG awards totaling $2 million

**State Shelter Subsidy Grant – Homeless Case Management Services (SSSG HCMS)**

On September 28, 2022, Governor Tony Evers announced $2.7 million in new, targeted grants to ensure support and services are available for families and individuals who need them. These new grants were funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to provide critical resources to domestic violence programs and emergency and homeless shelter services throughout the state of Wisconsin.

Of the $2.7 million available, $500,000 was allocated to the State Shelter Subsidy Grant (SSSG) program. These funds will be used to provide homeless case management services (HCMS) to families and individuals who currently reside in emergency shelter facilities or motel voucher programs.

* For 2023, 10 agencies received SSSG HCMS awards totaling $500,000

**BUREAU OF HOUSING UPDATES**

**HOME Homebuyer and Rehabilitation (HHR)**

Provides direct assistance for acquisition, rehabilitation or new construction. Funds are awarded through a biennial funding cycle.

* Current 2021 HHR contracts go through December 2023.
* Applications will be out mid-February and due March 15, 2023 for next HHR 2022 contracts starting 7/1/23.

**Housing Cost Reduction Initiative (HCRI)**

State funds set aside to assist with acquisition and foreclosure prevention. These funds are awarded on a biennial competition basis.

* DEHCR awarded $2.6 million in HCRI funds for the 2021-2023 biennium with contracts in July 2021. Performance period for HCRI contracts run from July 1, 2021-September 30, 2023.
* Applications will be out mid-February and due March 15, 2023 for 2023-2025 contracts starting 7/1/23.

**HOME Rental Housing Development (RHD)**

Rental Housing Development (RHD) Program is designed to assist affordable housing development opportunities for persons at or below 60% County Median Income (CMI).

* Applications now have a maximum of $1,000,000 per award, increased from $500,000.  General application round is June 2023.
* Rental activities all require targeting Section 3 workers in projects awarded HOME funds over $200,000.

**Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)**

The TBRA program provides security deposits and rental assistance, up to 24 months, to individuals and families at or below 60% County Median Income (CMI) who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

* DEHCR approved 15 TBRA grantee awards for the 2021-2023 application, totaling $6.6 million.
* DEHCR approved 13 TBRA grantee awards for the 2022-2024 application, totaling $4.7 million.

***Public Housing Authorities are encouraged to partner with their local TBRA grant recipient to assist with gap payments while clients are waiting to receive housing choice vouchers.***

**Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)/Housing Assistance Program (HAP)/Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) (EHH)**

The ESG federal funds are to assist with rapid re-housing, homelessness prevention, emergency shelter and street outreach. The Housing Assistance Program is a state program to assist for housing, support services and administrative costs to facilitate the movement of homeless individuals and families to independent living. Homeless Prevention Program is a state program used for rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention.

* The 2021-2022 contract period is July 1, 2021, to September 30, 2022. Twenty-five grantees across the state received a total of $5,434,013 in funding ($3,619,013 ESG / $1,515,000 HPP / $300,000 HAP).
* Contracts for the 2022-2023 grant cycle were executed in August 2022. Twenty-five grantees across the state received a total of $7,134,006 in funding ($3,262,257 ESG / $2,971,749 HPP / $900,000 HAP). This grant cycle includes a one-time double allocation of HPP to better align funding and grant cycles as well as a permanent increase in HAP funding.

**Homeless Case Management Services Grant (HCMS)**

This program supports intensive case management for families living in shelter focusing on financial management, employment, ensuring school continuation for children, and enrolling unemployed or underemployed parents in W-2 or Food Share Employment and Training.

* 10 grantees were awarded $50,000 each for the 2022-23 grant cycle
* Applications for the 2023-24 grant cycle will be available in Spring 2023

**Employment Grant**

This program helps connect people experiencing homelessness to work and training opportunities. Funding can be used to cover clients’ wages/stipends, as well as operational, and administrative costs. Each year, one award of $75,000 is granted.

* The 2023 grant funding was awarded to the City of Madison

**Recovery Voucher Grant Program (RV)**

This new program started in January 2023. It provides an option for people experiencing homelessness who have also been diagnosed with an opioid use disorder (OUD) or who have been receiving treatment for OUD within the past 12-months to be housed in Department of Health Services’ recognized recovery residences. Seven awards were given. Six grantees are the RV Administrators for their Continuum of Care/ Local Homeless Coalition Service Areas. Their role includes accepting clients into the program and working with recovery residences to house them. The remaining grantee is the Reporting Lead. More information on this program can be found on [DEHCR’s Website](https://energyandhousing.wi.gov/Pages/AgencyResources/RecoveryVoucherGrant.aspx).

* 7 grantees received awards totaling $609,800

**State Shelter Subsidy Grant (SSSG)**

The SSSG program assists individuals and families who are homeless by awarding state grants to eligible agencies that provide emergency shelter and supportive services. SSSG funding is awarded based on shelter nights, eligibility requirements and minimum and maximum amounts set by state statutes and administrative code. Funding can be utilized for most shelter operation costs such as salaries and utilities.

* For 2023, 49 agencies received awards totaling $1,647,400.

**Critical Assistance (CA)**

The Critical Assistance (CA) program provides homeless prevention assistance to individuals and families who are at or below 60% County Median Income (CMI), at risk of homelessness and who reside in areas that other homeless prevention resources are exhausted or not available. CA funds can provide a one-time only payment towards the following items: security deposits, rental payments, mortgage payments, utility payments and tax arrearages.

* For 2022-2023, Foundation for Rural Housing received $565,600 in CA renewal funding to provide services in the Wisconsin Balance of State area.

**Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)**

The state of Wisconsin receives HOPWA funding based on a formula developed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) federal HOPWA program.

The HOPWA program provides short-term rent, mortgage and utility (STRMU) assistance to low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families, up to 21 weeks per year, to prevent homelessness. HOPWA funds may also be used to provide supportive services and housing information services in conjunction with housing assistance to clients.

* For 2022-2023, Vivent Health was awarded $934,593 in HOPWA renewal funding. The agency proposes to provide STRMU assistance to 134 HIV/AIDS client households at or below 80 percent of CMI; TBRA to 21 HIV/AIDS client households; housing information services to 134 HIV/AIDS client households and supportive services to 157 persons with HIV/AIDS.

**Fair Housing Contract**

DEHCR contracts with an outside agency to provide fair housing assistance and information statewide. To be an eligible Fair Housing applicant, the contractor must meet the following mandatory qualifications: experience in fair housing complaint investigations and follow-up; experience in fair housing training and outreach; and have a toll-free telephone number, in-person office locations and a website to assist individuals who believe they have experienced illegal housing discrimination.

Fair Housing services include providing fair housing information statewide; counseling Wisconsin residents on fair housing law; making fair housing complaint intake and investigation available to persons who believe they have experienced discrimination; and conducting fair housing testing. By offering these services, the Division meets various state and federal fair housing requirements.

* For 2022-2023, Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council was awarded $62,150 in Fair Housing funding to provide these services statewide under the terms of the 2022 request for purchasing authority process.

For more information of the Department of Administration programs, visit the website at

https://energyandhousing.wi.gov/Pages/Home.aspx.