



WIBOSCOC

**HOUSING
FOCUSED SHELTER
WORKGROUP AND
NEW WEBSITE
UPDATES**

Housing Focused Shelter Workgroup



- The BoS will be starting a housing focused shelter workgroup in September for shelter staff to come together to collaborate and discuss best practices, strategies, policies, etc. for shelter
- What is housing focused shelter?
 - It's an emergency shelter model designed to get those experiencing homelessness into permanent housing as quickly as possible
 - This model views shelter not as a solution but as a brief, temporary step in a larger housing plan for those experiencing homelessness



Scope of Workgroup

- Be a space to learn and educate those working in shelters across the BoS on housing focused shelter. This includes what it is, what it requires, key components, etc.
- Be a space for shelter case managers/managers to come together to discuss shelter
 - What is going well?
 - What is not going well?
 - Best practices
- Be a space for collaboration. We want this workgroup to eventually evolve into a discussion led platform for shelter providers to discuss shelter operations, case management, etc.



Who Should Attend?

- Anyone is welcome to attend but shelter managers or case managers are encouraged
- The plan is to have the first workgroup meeting at the end of September
- If you or anyone at your agency is interested in attending this workgroup, please email me at adam.hurst@wibos.org
- More information to come



New Website

- Since February, the BoS has been working with a website development company to transition to a new website design
- Goals of the new website:
 - Provide a modern design
 - Improved user experience for those visiting our website that is easy to navigate and accessible
 - Provide an engaging experience that will allow providers to better support their communities and bring awareness to homelessness



Website Timeline

- The new website development has/will follow these steps:
 1. Strategy and discovery
 2. Content review
 3. Page layout design
 4. Website development
 5. Launch
- Currently, we are between the page layout and website development phase
- The launch of the new website most likely will be some time this fall



New Website Impact

- This new website will allow for a better experience when utilizing our website for information and resources
- It will also incorporate new features to help educate you and your communities about homelessness both at the local level and beyond
- Much of the information that is currently on the website will be transferred to the new website and will be more accessible and easier to navigate
- You all will be updated as we get closer to the new website going live and what to expect

Example of New Website Features



- One new feature with the new website will be an interactive “story board”
- This story board will be an interactive informational tool that will provide continuously updated information regarding homelessness in BoS
- It’s to be used as an educational tool for you or those in your community to learn more about homelessness, solutions to homelessness, the BoS, CE, and housing first

CHALLENGES

What causes homelessness in Wisconsin?

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CHALLENGES

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Homelessness in the United States is an urgent public health issue and humanitarian crisis. It impacts cities, suburbs, and rural towns in every state including Wisconsin. According to the annual Point in Time Count, in 2021 4,327 people experienced homelessness. In 2022, that number jumped to 4,775. Economic hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic along with the sharp rise in housing costs have led to the increase in those experiencing homelessness. However, there are many more reasons as to why people are homeless.

[Homelessness Data & Trends | United States Interagency Council on Homelessness \(usich.gov\)](#)

Causes of homelessness include:

1. [Lack of affordable housing](#)
2. [Low Income](#)
3. [Health](#)
4. [Domestic violence](#)
5. [Racial disparities](#)

Lack of Affordable Housing



HOW WE CAN HELP

What is the Wisconsin Balance of State Continuum of Care?

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 VIDEO

 FAQs





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What is the Wisconsin Balance of State Continuum of Care?

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Wisconsin Balance of State Continuum of Care

The Wisconsin Balance of State Continuum of Care (WIBOSCOC) is one of four CoC's within the state of Wisconsin that work to end homelessness. Ending homelessness means every community will have a systematic response in place that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible, or if it can't be prevented, it is a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience.

The 4 CoC's in Wisconsin:

- **Dane County CoC** (1 county)
- **Milwaukee County CoC** (1 county)
- **Racine County CoC** (1 county)
- **Wisconsin Balance of State CoC** (69 counties comprised of 21 coalitions or members)



- There will be much more information to come about the website
- If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me

- Contact information:

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