

State of Wisconsin Interagency Council on Homelessness

Housing Funding and
“Welcoming Wisconsin Home”
A Statewide Action Plan for Homelessness



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Background
History on
Interagency
Council on
Homelessness
and
“Welcoming
Wisconsin
Home”

- 2019 – Spring, 2020: ICH and Workgroups reviewed themes and action items in “A Hand and a Home” plan
- Spring, 2020 – Spring, 2021: While putting hold on plan review to concentrate on pandemic response, workgroups reviewed agency programming
- Summer, 2020: Racial Equity Working Group formed to draft theme for new statewide plan focusing on racial equity
- Spring, 2021 – Winter, 2021: Workgroup develops new statewide plan



2021-2023

Welcoming Wisconsin Home

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“Welcoming Wisconsin Home”

- Adopted by ICH on December 8, 2021 and released February 28, 2022
- Included 44 action items organized around seven themes
- Included over \$12 Million in funding requests and \$58 Million increase in tax credits for affordable housing development – mirroring requests included in Governor Evers’ 2021-2022 Executive Budget

“Welcoming Wisconsin Home”

Six Guiding Principles:

- 1) Housing is a human right
- 2) Ending homelessness as we know it in Wisconsin means creating conditions where any future instances of homelessness are rare, brief, and nonrecurring.
- 3) Housing is the lodestone for better outcomes throughout society.



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Six Guiding Principles:

- 4) For people experiencing homelessness in Wisconsin, the single greatest barrier to securing stable housing is the lack of affordable housing unit availability.
- 5) The goal of ending homelessness as we know it in Wisconsin is inextricable from the moral imperative to address the effects of a long history of racial disparities in the homelessness system and housing markets.



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Six Guiding Principles:

- 6) The Council supports the principles of Housing First for all programs that serve people experiencing homelessness in Wisconsin.



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Theme 1: Focusing on Equity

Including action items keeping Racial Equity Working Group active, using racial equity analysis framework to review state programs, collecting demographic data from agencies, and promoting home ownership

Theme 2: Investing for Success

Increasing funding for existing programs and creating new programming



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Theme 3: Improving Housing Access

Creating housing navigation program and new funding to bring more affordable housing units online

Theme 4: Increasing Housing Stability

Increasing funds for HPP, Skills Enhancement Program, Homelessness Case Management, Pursue federal sources for health/housing supports, landlord/tenant legislation, civil legal services, and increasing employment and income

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Theme 5: Using Data and Information

Creating report on pandemic and homelessness, expand use and sharing of HMIS data, develop state homelessness dashboard

Theme 6: Leveraging Our Resources

Increase funding for HAP, promote homeless preferences for HCV



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Theme 7: Expanding Community Partnerships

Study Social Impact Bonding, Expanding education efforts on homelessness, Create landlord/property manager workgroup, Include persons with lived experience, Create regional homelessness consortium with neighboring states



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- Included with the plan is a performance metrics section that details action steps, assigns responsibilities, targeting timelines, and measurable indicators of success
- The metrics will be reviewed for progress at every ICH quarterly and workgroup meeting



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