

# State of Wisconsin Interagency Council on Homelessness

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Balance of State Board Meeting Presentation

February 2023



# Michael Basford

Director

State of Wisconsin Interagency Council on Homelessness

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# Interagency Council on Homelessness Members

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**Lieutenant Governor Sara Rodriguez**

Department of Administration Secretary-Designee Kathy Blumenfeld

**Department of Health Services Secretary-Designee Kirsten Johnson**

**Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary-Designee James Bond**

Department of Children and Families Secretary Emilie Amundson

Department of Corrections Secretary Kevin Carr

Department of Workforce Development Deputy Secretary Pamela McGillivray

Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority Executive Director Elmer Moore

Department of Public Instruction Superintendent Dr. Jill Underly

Torrie Kopp Mueller (Dane County)

Rafael Acevedo (Milwaukee County)

Teresa Reinders (Racine County)

Carrie Poser (Balance of State)

# Interagency Council on Homelessness

## Mission and Responsibilities

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- “The council shall meet quarterly and may meet at other times on the call of the chairperson or a majority of its members.”
- “Establish and periodically review a statewide policy with the purpose of preventing and ending homelessness in this state.”
- “Designate individuals from each agency or organization represented on the council, who shall meet at least twice quarterly, to coordinate the implementation of policy established by the council.”
- “Submit a report on the activities of the council to the governor and to the chief clerk of each house of the legislature, for distribution to the appropriate standing committees.”

# Interagency Council on Homelessness 2022 Activities

## WHEDA:

- Awarding of 9% LIHTC projects in Barron, Brown, Vilas, Oneida, Marathon, and Walworth Counties which will add 303 family Low-Income units.
- Awarding of 4% LIHTC projects in Barron, Douglas, Langlade, Dunn, Outagamie, La Crosse, and Sheboygan Counties which will add 456 family and senior Low-Income units.
- Governor Evers provided additional \$32.4 million for affordable multifamily housing developments to fill financing gaps caused by rising construction costs, interest rate increases, and supply chain delays.
- WHEDA Foundation Housing Grant Program awarded \$2 million in grants. This was possible with an additional \$1 million provided by Governor Evers. These grants will fund needed work for emergency and low-income housing projects in Barron, Portage, Outagamie, Sheboygan, Washington, Brown, Waukesha, Sawyer, Shawano, Ashland, Winnebago, Richland, Wood, Rock, Rusk, Marathon, Ozaukee, Juneau, La Crosse, Eau Claire, Pepin, Trempealeau, Walworth and Polk Counties.
- Successfully completed the first Supportive Housing Institute – a partnership with the Corporation for Supportive Housing to provide training and resources to develop supportive housing projects. Among the project teams to successfully complete the Institute were teams from Eau Claire and Brown Counties.

# Interagency Council on Homelessness 2022 Activities

## Children and Families:

- Launched Domestic Violence Housing First Program – a \$5 million/3-year pilot program. Program grantees include agencies in Ladysmith, La Crosse, Wisconsin Rapids, Appleton and Bayfield.
- Launched Family Keys – a 2-year pilot program to provide assistance to families short-term emergency housing to families who have cases with the child welfare system due to housing instability. The pilot is currently operating in Wood and La Crosse Counties.
- Support for YHDP: DCF has worked closely with the Balance of State CoC in their development of local Youth Action Boards and the Coordinated Community Plan.

## Corrections:

- Developing stronger connections between DOC and CoC Coordinated Entry systems.
- Created 44 supportive housing beds in Janesville and Milwaukee. Will be adding beds in Marathon County.

# Interagency Council on Homelessness 2022 Activities

## Health Services:

- Received approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to provide housing support for low-income Wisconsin families in need through a Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Health Services Initiative (HSI).
- Applied with CMS to provide housing services through Medicaid for people experiencing homelessness who have an identified healthcare need. The services to be offered are the same as the CHIP HSI. It is expected to be approved in the beginning of 2023.
- Stood up a new COVID telehealth program to provide COVID healthcare screenings with healthcare clinicians to provide medications to people with COVID and a program to provide rapid antigen COVID tests for emergency shelters for free.
- With DOA, stood up the Recovery Voucher Grant Program – a housing voucher program for people experiencing homelessness with an Opioid Use Disorder diagnosis funded with \$2 million in opioid settlement dollars.
- DHS continues to provide leadership through Emergency Support Function 6 Team to address emerging issues in Wisconsin around homelessness.

# Interagency Council on Homelessness 2022 Activities

## Administration:

- As of February 9<sup>th</sup>, DOA/DEHCR has administered over \$252 million in the Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance program – assisting over 62,000 housing-insecure households to keep them in their homes and out of the homelessness system.
- \$92 million distributed for shelter and housing projects from the Neighborhood Investment Fund. Housing projects awarded for Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Dodge, Grant, Milwaukee, Vernon, Racine, Brown, and Marathon counties and the Ho-Chunk Nation will add 817 housing units and shelter projects in Oshkosh, Milwaukee, Menomonie, and Eau Claire will add 100 shelter beds.
- Continued Safe Shelter and Homelessness Grant program with additional \$1.7 million allocation from ARPA funds.
- Launched Veterans Rental Assistance Program with \$2 million allocation from ARPA funds.

## Public Instruction:

- Distributed \$3 million to school districts through the EHCY-ARPA allocation.



# Interagency Council on Homelessness 2022 Activities

## Workforce Development:

- DWD's Office of Veteran Employment Services, through their partnership with the Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program, has provided individualized career services to 183 veterans experiencing homelessness since November 2021 with at least 59 of those veterans securing sustainable employment.
- Projects from the Workforce Innovation Grant Program are providing through their partners (Lakeshore Technical College, Goodwill Industries of North Central Wisconsin, Northwood Technical College, and Lac Courte Oreilles band of Lake Superior Chippewa) are providing housing construction, job training, and housing supports in Northern Wisconsin for people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity.

## Veterans Affairs:

- Served over 170 veterans experiencing homelessness through the Veterans Housing and Recovery Program. Exited 54 from the program into permanent housing.

# ICH Director: Michael Basford

## Duties

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- Organize and/or facilitate activities (meetings and workgroup sessions) for the Council,
- Serve as a conduit within Wisconsin State Government and between different levels of government,
- Serve as a conduit between public and private agencies and State Government,
- Represent the Governor and the Administration as needed,
- Serve as a resource for the Citizens of Wisconsin on matters of homelessness.

# ICH Director: Michael Basford Visits

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Waukesha (with  
DOA Secretary  
Kathy Blumenfeld)

Manitowoc

Green Bay

Oshkosh

Eau Claire (with  
DOA Secretary  
Kathy Blumenfeld)

Kenosha and  
Trevor

Delavan

Fond du Lac

Appleton

Beloit

Tomah

Chippewa Falls

Barron

Ashland (with  
DOA Secretary  
Kathy Blumenfeld)

Stevens Point

La Crosse

Odanah – Bad  
River Tribe

# ICH Director: Michael Basford

## Virtual Meeting Visits

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N\*WISH

Brown County  
Homeless and  
Housing Coalition

Coulee Coalition  
to End  
Homelessness

Dairyland  
Coalition

Housing Action  
Coalition of  
Waukesha County

Jackson County  
Homeless  
Committee

Fox Cities Housing  
Coalition

Beloit Area Task  
Force on  
Homelessness

Lakeshore  
Coalition

Northeast  
Coalition

Northwest  
Coalition

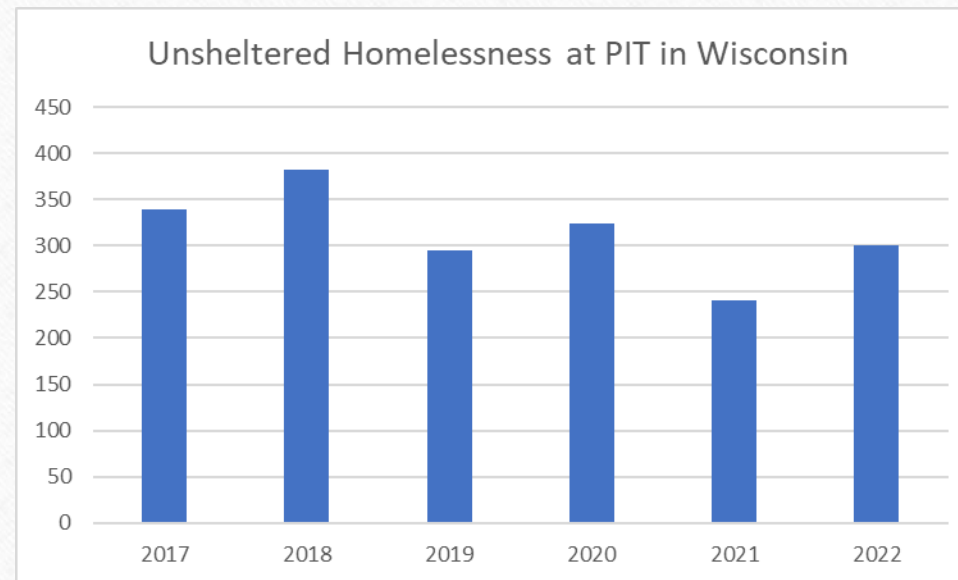
Southwest  
Coalition

Rock County  
Diversity Action  
Team

# Concerns for 2023

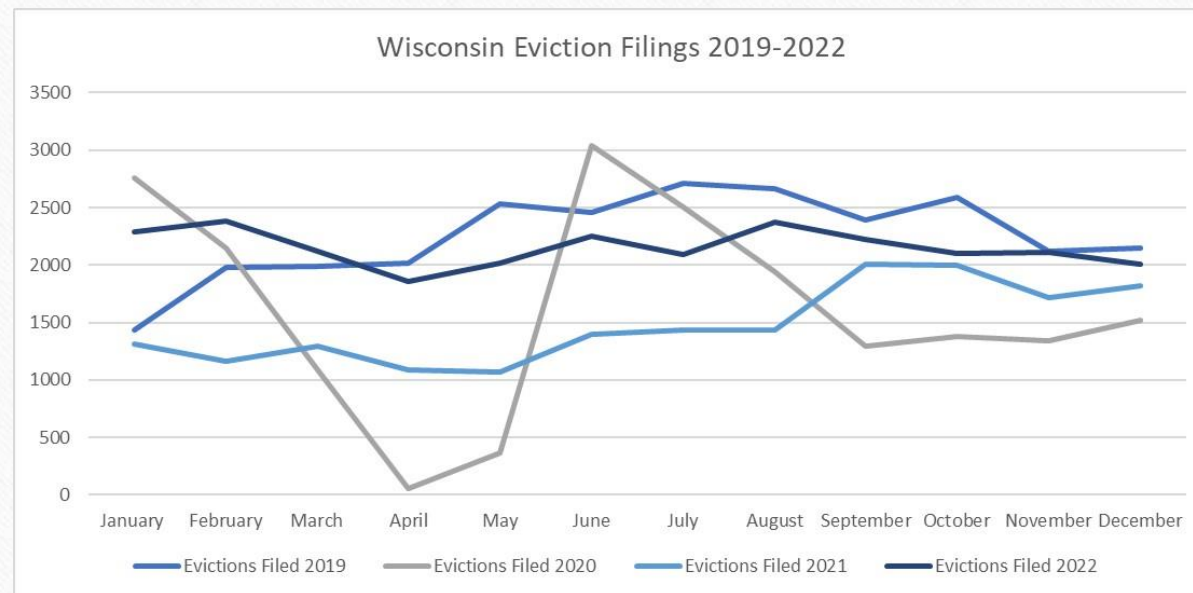
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- Rise in unsheltered homelessness



# Activities in 2023

- Rise in eviction filings as WERA comes to an end



# Activities for 2023

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- Implementing more strategies and recommendations from Welcoming Wisconsin Home – including racial equity analysis, outreach to landlords, and reports on lessons learned from the pandemic and barriers to affordable housing development
- 2023-2025 State Budget
- Legislative agenda
- Working to promote more affordable housing development.



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