



STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Tony Evers, Governor  
Kathy Blumenfeld, Secretary

December 18, 2025

To: Governor Tony Evers  
Cyrus Anderson, Chief Clerk, Wisconsin State Senate  
Ted Blazel, Chief Clerk, Wisconsin State Assembly

From: Michael Basford, Director, State of Wisconsin Interagency Council on Homelessness

**VIA EMAIL**

Dear Governor Evers, Senate Chief Clerk Anderson, and Assembly Chief Clerk Blazel:

Pursuant to §16.03(2)(c), Wisconsin Statutes, please find attached the annual report for the State of Wisconsin Interagency Council on Homelessness. This report will also be made available online on the Council's website.

Please let me know if you have any questions or require more information.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Basford".

Michael Basford  
Director  
State of Wisconsin Interagency Council on Homelessness

**cc (VIA EMAIL):**

Council Members: Secretary Kathy Blumenfeld (Administration), Secretary Jeff Perlt (Children and Families), Secretary Jared Hoy (Corrections), Secretary Kirsten Johnson (Health Services), Secretary James Bond (Veterans Affairs), Secretary Amy Pechacek (Workforce Development), Superintendent Dr. Jill Underly (Public Instruction), Executive Director Elmer Moore (WI Housing and Economic Development Authority), Rafael J. Acevedo, Jr., Teresa Reinders, Torrie Kopp Mueller, Carrie Poser

# State of Wisconsin Interagency Council on Homelessness

## 2025 Annual Report

Prepared by Michael Basford, Director  
Submitted January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## **Foreword**

In 2025, a new federal administration came into power – causing a near-endless stream of chaos and confusion for homeless systems all over our country and state. On July 24<sup>th</sup>, the Trump administration released its “Ending Crime and Disorder on America’s Streets” executive order. This order withdrew support for Housing First – a proven approach to ending homelessness used throughout Wisconsin. Following the order, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released a new Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Following the release of the new NOFO, Governor Evers announced that Wisconsin joined a multi-state lawsuit to stop HUD from making drastic and immediate changes and cuts to the main source of federal funding to help end homelessness in Wisconsin. As of the writing of this report, that lawsuit is ongoing.

In 2025, Wisconsin saw concerning growth in homelessness throughout the state. The annual point-in-time (PIT) count in January 2025 recorded 5,225 people in emergency shelters, transitional housing, Safe Havens, or unsheltered – the highest number recorded since 2016. Of those people counted, 782 were experiencing chronic homelessness or homelessness for longer than one year - the highest number since we started counting in 2010. Of the people identified in the January 2025 PIT count, 476 were experiencing unsheltered homelessness, a slight drop from the last year – which was the highest number recorded since 2012.

The Department of Public Instruction reported there were 20,195 students experiencing homelessness that were served by the Education for Homeless Children and Youth program in Wisconsin schools for the 2023-24 school year. This is the most students served since the 2013-14 school year. 2,260 of the students served were unaccompanied youth, the most since the 2018-19 school year. Of the students served, 593 were experiencing unsheltered homelessness, a 21% increase from the previous school year and the most since students experiencing unsheltered homelessness were counted starting in 2018-19.

The Interagency Council on Homelessness believes that the number one cause of homelessness is the lack of affordable housing. Responding to the growing number of homeless individuals and families in Wisconsin has been the focus of the Interagency Council on Homelessness over the last year.

## **Interagency Council Meetings**

The Interagency Council held four meetings in 2024. Members of the 2024 Interagency Council on Homelessness were:

Lieutenant Governor Sara Rodriguez, Chair  
Secretary Kathy Blumenfeld (Administration)  
Secretary Jeff Pertl (Children and Families)  
Secretary Jared Hoy (Corrections)  
Secretary Kirsten Johnson (Health Services)  
State Coordinator of Education for Homeless Children and Youth Kristine Nadolski (Public Instruction)  
Executive Director Elmer Moore (Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority)  
Deputy Secretary Pam McGillivray (Workforce Development)  
Assistant Deputy Secretary Joseph Hoey (Veterans Affairs)  
Carrie Poser (Wisconsin Balance of State Continuum of Care)  
Torrie Kopp Mueller (Dane County Continuum of Care)  
Rafael J. Acevedo, Jr. (Milwaukee County Continuum of Care)  
Teresa Reinders (Racine County Continuum of Care)

The activities for the Council for the meetings were:

- March 12<sup>th</sup> was the Council's first meeting. The meeting featured updates from the Continuum of Care Organizations on the Council, a presentation on evictions in 2024, a presentation on items on homelessness in the Governor's budget, a report from Director Basford on the National Alliance to End Homelessness' Spring Conference, and an update on the statewide plan.
- June 26 meeting was held in Milwaukee with an option to attend virtually and was preceded with a public hearing on homelessness in Milwaukee. The meeting featured updates from the Continuum of Care Organizations on the Council, Information on the January PIT count, and updates from Wisconsin Eviction Data project.
- September 25 meeting was held virtually. The meeting featured updates from the Continuum of Care organizations on the Council and a presentation by Jesse Rabinowitz of the National Homeless Law Center on President Trump's Executive Order.

Eight workgroup sessions were held in 2025 on January 28, February 24, April 29, May 27, July 29, August 26, October 28, and November 25. Sessions focused on:

- Updates from Continuum of Care organizations and state agencies on programs to serve people experiencing homelessness, including efforts to transition people into housing, and updates on programs to assist with housing stability,
- Work on the statewide plan update with presentations from the Runaway and Homeless Youth, Interpersonal Violence, and LGBTQIA+ Issues working groups,
- Information on the January PIT Count,

- A discussion on “Student Homelessness at a New High” Report by the Wisconsin Policy Forum,
- A presentation on Department of Workforce Development programming,
- A presentation on Department of Children and Families programming,
- A presentation on Department of Veterans Affairs’ Veterans Housing and Recovery Program,
- A presentation on Department of Veterans Affairs’ Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program,

## **The State’s Response to Homelessness**

State agencies continue to help people experiencing homelessness and to keep people in housing and out of the homelessness system. Relevant efforts in 2024 include:

### **Administration (DOA)**

#### **Supportive Housing Section Highlights – 2025**

##### **Program Updates:**

###### **1. Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG CV)**

Provides assistance to low-income households through rent and/or utility assistance, emergency shelter operations, and motel vouchers.

- Held an All-Grantee Meeting in January 2025 to discuss program requirements with the 23 grantees who were awarded **\$4.3M** of funding in late 2024
- Held a second round of applications, awarding an additional **\$1M** in funding to 8 grantees (seven current and one new)
- Program Enhancements and Innovations:
  - Created a process for grantees to move funds between project types

###### **2. Critical Assistance (CA)**

Provides direct emergency financial assistance to prevent homelessness amongst renters and homeowners.

- Executed 1 contract for the 2025-2026 performance period, providing \$282,800 in funding to provide financial assistance across Wisconsin (excluding Dane, Milwaukee, and Racine counties)
- Completed 1 monitoring
- Program Enhancements and Innovations:
  - Modified monitoring documentation to improve compliance checks and evaluate performance of their CA program

###### **3. Emergency Solutions, Housing Assistance, and Homelessness Prevention Program (EHH)**

Provides assistance to households experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness through emergency shelter, street outreach, rapid re-housing, homelessness prevention, and other housing programs.

- Executed 26 contracts for 2025-2026, providing **\$6M** in funding to grantees across Wisconsin
- Two new grantees (CAP Services and Green County Human Services)
- Completed 27 monitorings
- Completed 5 emergency shelter inspections
- Program Enhancements and Innovations:
  - Made policy changes and updated the allocation method to emphasize project performance and encourage the development of homelessness prevention and street outreach projects, in collaboration with the HUD Continua of Care.

#### 4. Fair Housing

Provides fair housing counseling and enforcement services to assist persons with fair housing discrimination complaints.

- Executed 1 contract for the 2025-2026 contract period, providing \$62,150 in funding according to the terms of the Request for Purchasing Authority (RPA)

#### 5. HOME-American Rescue Plan (HOME ARP)

Provides funds to reduce homelessness and increase housing stability through supportive services (rental/utility assistance, workforce education, childcare, etc.).

##### *Supportive Services*

Provides funds to reduce homelessness and increase housing stability through supportive services (rental/utility assistance, workforce education, childcare, etc.).

- Held an All-Grantee Meeting in June 2025 to train the **19 grantees**, who were awarded **\$4.6M**, on the program
  - Twelve of the 19 grantees are new
- Over **250 households** have been assisted to date
- Program Enhancements and Innovations:
  - Revised application and program manual

##### *Rental Housing Development*

Provides funds to develop affordable rental housing for qualifying populations (people who have experienced homelessness and other vulnerable populations) and low-income households.

- Two projects placed into service (15 units)
- One project started construction (10 units)
- Two projects received preliminary awards (22 units)
- Totaling **five projects and 47 units**
- Reviewed nine applications, met with over 24 prospective applicants, performed outreach and presented the program to advocacy groups and Wisconsin Tribes and Bands

#### 6. Homeless Case Management Services (HCMS)

Provides intensive case management services for people experiencing homelessness.

- Successfully closed out the 2024-2025 performance period, during which 1,476 clients were provided intensive case management services.
- 832 of the 1,476 clients served were children under the age of 18. 603 of these children received services to ensure continuation of school enrollment.
- Executed 10 contracts totaling \$500,000.

#### 7. Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA)

Provides housing assistance and related supportive services for persons with HIV/AIDS.

- Successfully closed out the 2024-2025 performance period, during which 134 households were provided housing subsidies totaling \$476,119 and 135 households received supportive services.
- Executed 2 contracts totaling \$1,126,255.
- Program Enhancements and Innovations:
  - Successfully on-boarded a new, second Project Sponsor, as now allowable under The Wisconsin 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan. The 2025-2026 performance period will be the first that the WI HOPWA program has had more than one Project Sponsor.

- Created a comprehensive State of WI HOPWA Program Manual to better support our Project Sponsors and ensure continued compliance as the program expands the pool of eligible grantees.

## **8. Recovery Voucher Program (RV)**

Provides housing in DHS recognized recovery residences for people experiencing homelessness with an opioid use disorder (OUD) diagnosis or who have received treatment for OUD within the past 12-months.

- Successfully closed out the 2024 performance period, which saw a **44%** YoY increase in the number of clients served (177 to 254) and a **33%** YoY increase in a client's length of stay at a recovery residence (3.9 months to 5.2 months).
- The performance period also saw a YoY increase in clients who reported income upon exit (+2%) and an increase in clients who reported leaving for permanent housing (+50%).
- Executed 7 contracts totaling \$947,300.
- Program Enhancements and Innovations:
  - Secured an additional \$1,705,000 in McKinsey & Company Settlement funds from our partners at DHS to sustain the RV program after the initial Interagency Agreement expires on 12/31/2025.

## **9. Safe Shelter and Homelessness Grant Program (SSHG)**

Provides funds to eligible agencies that provide emergency shelter and supportive services to persons experiencing homelessness.

- Executed 37 contracts for the 2025-2026 performance period, providing \$4 million in funding to grantees across Wisconsin.
- Completed 4 monitorings.
- Program Enhancements and Innovations:
  - Modified monitoring documentation to improve compliance checks and evaluate performance of their SSHG programs.

## **10. State Shelter Subsidy Grant Program (SSSG)**

Provides funds to eligible agencies that provide emergency shelter and supportive services to persons experiencing homelessness.

- Executed 38 contracts for the 2025 performance period, providing \$1.67 million in funding to grantees across Wisconsin.
  - Two new grantees (Benjamin's House Emergency Shelter and Burlington Transitional Living Center)
  - Burlington Transitional Living Center rescinded their contract in February 2025
- Completed 18 monitorings.
- Completed 8 emergency shelter inspections.
- Program Enhancements and Innovations:
  - Created updated program manual for current grantees and future applicant agencies to reference all applicable information related to the SSSG program.
  - Made HE+ system policy changes to encourage autonomy amongst grantees in the management of their users' profiles.
  - Modified monitoring documentation to improve compliance checks and evaluate performance of their SSSG programs.

## **11. Employment Grants (EG)**

Connects homeless individuals with permanent employment.

- Successfully closed out the 2024 performance period, which saw 36% of previously unemployed program participants gain employment through the EG program.

## 12. Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)

Provides assistance to households experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness through security deposit, rental, and utility assistance.

- Executed 11 contracts for the 2024-2026 performance period, providing \$5 million in funding to grantees across Wisconsin.
- Executed 15 contracts for the 2025-2027 performance period, providing \$6 million in funding to grantees across Wisconsin
  - Three new grantees (CAP Services, Red Cliff Chippewa Housing Authority, and Winnebago County)
- Completed 12 monitorings.
- Program Enhancements and Innovations:
  - Revised the program manual for current grantees and future applicant agencies to reference all applicable information related to the TBRA program.
  - Conducted an on-site program training for one of the new TBRA grantees. Posted all training material on the DEHCR TBRA webpage as reference material.
  - Modified monitoring documentation to improve compliance checks and evaluate performance of their TBRA programs.

## 13. Veteran Rental Assistance Program (VRAP)

Provides rental assistance for veterans who are struggling to pay rent.

- Provided more than \$1.5 million in rental assistance to more than 350 veterans across the state of Wisconsin.
- Facilitated payments to more than 300 landlords across 46 counties to prevent displacement and keep veterans safely housed.

## 14. Wisconsin Emergency Rent Assistance (WERA)

The Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance (WERA) Program was created as a response to the loss of income for many rental households during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program provided Housing Stability Services in 2025.

- 42,377 unique households were assisted with Housing Stability resources in 2025.
- Successfully closed out the WERA program, spending over **\$500,000,000** since 2020 to keep Wisconsin residents stably housed.

## Affordable Housing Section Highlights – 2025

### Program Updates:

#### 1. Housing Cost Reduction Initiative (HCRI)

Provides assistance to low-income families who are at risk of foreclosure and those who strive for the stability and benefits of homeownership.

- Supported **30 households**, including 4 households with children, in becoming **new homeowners** across 16 counties
- Successfully closed out the 2023-2025 HCRI grant assisting over **250 Wisconsin households**.
- Executed 23 contracts for 2025-2027, providing **\$2.6M** in funding to grantees across Wisconsin
- One new grantee (Madison Area Community Land Trust)

- Program Enhancements and Innovations:
  - Hired new staff member, Joy Bosco, to support the HCRI program.
  - Created a statewide grant snapshot to illustrate program impact and highlight housing needs across Wisconsin
  - Began program form revamp process

## 2. HOME Homebuyer and Rehabilitation (HHR) Program

Assisted low-income families with purchasing or rehabilitating homes and supported grantees building/selling new homes.

- **67 homebuyer and homeowner** rehabilitation activities completed
- **4 new homes constructed** and sold to low- to moderate-income families
- Completed 14 monitoring visits with zero significant findings.
- **Executed 14 contracts** for 2025-2027, providing **\$4 Million** in funding to grantees across Wisconsin
- Program Enhancements and Innovations:
  - Reviewed and updated policies to align with the new HOME rule to ensure ongoing compliance.

## 3. Rental Housing Development (RHD) Program

- Five new applications were received in 2025.
- **\$8.8M was awarded** to 10 new contracts to expand affordable housing across Wisconsin.
  - 10 new contracts created **115 additional HOME-assisted units** for Wisconsin residents. An average of **\$77,115** invested per HOME unit.
  - 9 projects were New Construction; 1 was Rehabilitation.
- **7 projects** completed construction, totaling **61 new HOME-assisted units**.
  - 6 projects were New Construction, and 1 Rehabilitation.
  - Counties across Wisconsin include Waupaca, Dunn, Rusk, Sheboygan, Barron, Polk, and Vilas.
- Long term Affordability and Oversight:
  - Supported **192 projects** during their period of affordability, ensuring that **1,771 HOME-assisted units** remain in good condition and affordable to low-income households.
  - Completed **78 monitoring visits**.
  - Reviewed **192 in-service reports** and **180 compliance reports** to ensure program quality and compliance.
- Program Enhancements and Innovations:
  - Completed its first year of the new rolling application cycle (February–November, first Monday of each month).
  - Updated the RHD application and streamlining in-service and compliance reporting on ACCESSgov.
  - Developed new informational guides to further support RHD recipients in navigating program rules and federal regulation.
  - Implemented Build America, Buy America (BABA) requirements
  - Converted one GSA Adv to PPA Adv to better support policy operations – hired Brooke Arnold, first RHD PPA-Adv.
  - Published the RHD program map for public and stakeholder use
  - Established a dedicated email account exclusively for RHD reporting to streamline communication, enhance data organization, and improve response efficiency

- Completed a Multi-Family Inspection RFB in partnership with CDBG HTF staff and executed a contract with the selected bidder.
- Initiated efforts to build stronger relationships with developers to support program technical assistance and growth.

## Children and Families (DCF)

- Wisconsin Domestic Abuse Programs report that the housing crisis in many communities has impacted survivors' ability to find safe housing. From FFY23 to FFY24, the number of nights of shelter provided annually increased from 253,946 to 268,670. In the same span of time, the average length of shelter stay for a family in crisis increased from 47.1 nights to 55.2 nights.

Shelter can be provided in numerous ways. Domestic abuse programs work with survivors to provide the best option available depending on survivor needs and the availability of space and funding. DCF currently funds 40 domestic abuse shelters which provide residential and support services for survivors and their children fleeing violent homes. When shelters are full or the needs of a client warrant it, domestic abuse programs may provide hotel rooms or emergency funding to help a survivor remain safely housed.

- The Domestic Violence Housing First Pilot Project (DVHF) is an evidence based and trauma informed practice that moves domestic abuse survivors into safe, stable, and permanent housing as quickly as possible, reducing or avoiding the need for emergency shelter. Once housed, survivors have access to supportive, holistic advocacy resources to rebuild their lives.

This pilot project started in December 2021 with DCF issuing awards to nine domestic abuse agencies from around the state: Embrace (Ladysmith), Cia Siab (La Crosse), The Family Center (Wisconsin Rapids), Safe Harbor (Sheboygan), Harbor House (Appleton), Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (Madison), The Women's Community (Wausau), Center Against Sexual and Domestic Abuse (Superior), and the Milwaukee Center for Children and Youth (Milwaukee).

- Corrections (DOC)

- In FY25, DOC spent \$6.6 million in housing services for clients on community supervision. This includes approximately \$4.4 million in transitional housing, \$1.3 million in supportive housing, \$660,000 in short-term housing, and almost \$300,000 in emergency housing.
- There are approximately 63,500 clients on community supervision.

## Health Services (DHS)

### Children's Health Insurance Program Housing Support Initiative

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services is implementing a health services initiative using Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) funds to cover a set of supportive housing services for families with dependent children 18 years and younger and individuals who are pregnant. To be eligible families must have an income that does not exceed 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Families must also be experiencing homelessness as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The supportive housing services provided under this benefit include housing consultation, transition supports, sustaining supports and relocation supports.

- Housing Consultation develops a person-centered housing support plan based on family needs.
- Transition Supports assist families to prepare for and transition to housing.
- Sustaining Supports are provided once a family is housed to help them achieve and maintain housing stability and achieve the goals identified in the person-centered housing support plan.

- Relocation Supports are \$2,000 in set up expenses to help financially facilitate a family's transition to housing. Funds can be used for security deposits, utility activation, essential household furnishings and health and safety services in the unit.

This initiative is supporting a grant program for homeless assistance providers to deliver the supportive housing services to eligible families. The Department has selected eight agencies throughout the state to deliver the supportive housing services. The start date for this program was 5/1/2023.

### **1915(i) Medicaid State Plan Amendment**

Under the direction of 2019 Wisconsin Act 76, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is implementing a 1915(i) Medicaid State Plan Amendment to address homelessness through Medicaid. The 1915(i) Medicaid Housing Benefit launched on 2/1/25. The benefit provides a set of supportive housing services to Medicaid members who are homeless and have an identified health need. To be eligible to receive the 1915(i) services, a Medicaid member must have either a substance abuse issue or mental health issue, be 18 years or older, be experiencing homelessness as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and require assistance with certain activities of daily living. The supportive housing services provided under this benefit include housing consultation, transition supports, sustaining supports and relocation supports.

- Housing Consultation develops a person-centered housing support plan based on member needs.
- Transition Supports assist members to prepare for and transition to housing.
- Sustaining Supports are provided once a member is housed to help them achieve and maintain housing stability and achieve the goals identified in the person-centered housing support plan.
- Relocation Supports are set-up expenses to help to financially facilitate a member's transition to housing. Funds can be used for security deposits, utility activation, essential household furnishings and health and safety services in the unit.

Housing services under the 1915(i) are provided by agencies who are enrolled as Supportive Housing Providers under Wisconsin Medicaid. Supportive Housing Providers are required to belong to one of the four HUD Continuum of Care Lead Agencies in Wisconsin (Milwaukee, Racine, Dane, Balance of the State) or be affiliated with a tribal nation. To date, there are 52 enrolled 1915(i) supportive housing providers.

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### **Public Instruction (DPI)**

DPI had a contract with the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board to support resource navigators in eight Family Resource Centers through June 2025. In March the U.S. Department of Education stopped all payments of American Rescue Plan-Homeless Children & Youth Funds. At that time the resource navigators had to stop their work. The Resource Navigators, through the relationships they had built with school districts, helped connect students and families identified by the school district as experiencing homelessness with housing and other resources in their communities. The work was very successful in connecting families to resources, especially in rural communities. It is unfortunate there was an abrupt end to the program.

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### **Veterans Affairs (DVA)**

Accomplishments in FY25 by VORP:

- Served over 5,500 veterans
- Provided 9,000 services to Wisconsin veterans seeking assistance and made 7,300 referrals to community partners. During these outreach efforts, staff make referrals and provide short-term intervention assistance to veterans based on needs, even if program enrollment and further interventions may not be required.
- Provided \$56,823.44 in treatment finding and \$203,453.61 in emergency services for veterans experiencing hardship. VORP expanded emergency services for veterans by increasing the number of case managers to five, allowing VORP staff to engage in more outreach and meet veterans in their

own space. VORP continued to refer veterans to partner community agencies and utilized their funds as applicable.

- Outreach Coordinators conducted 8,738 hours of case management services to participants enrolled in the program. Case management services include referrals, assistance, and interventions to address needs identified in enrollment and ongoing assessments.
- Secured federal grant funding to increase the number of outreach and clinical staff, which allows staff to promptly respond to veterans in need. The additional positions ended on August 1, 2025.
- Utilized a federal Suicide Prevention Grant, which allowed for increased suicide prevention outreach to gun shops, facilitation of community training, and distribution of firearm safety kits.

Accomplishments in FY25 by VHRP:

- Provided housing for 410 veterans.
- Average length of stay for an individual veteran in the program was 202 nights, which is well below the program maximum threshold of 730 nights, but an increase from the previous biennium average, due to serving veterans with a greater need for physical and mental health resources.

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### **Workforce Development (DWD)**

Throughout 2025, the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) continued to build on the success of Governor Evers' Workforce Solutions Initiative. The \$158 million dollar investment into solutions to address the state's workforce needs and support innovative pandemic recovery efforts assisted many people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity:

- Workforce Innovation Grant Program: the \$128 million program awarded up to \$10 million in funding to help make grant recipient workforce solution plans a reality. Four WIG projects utilized their funding to address housing issues in their local communities. WIG funding has supported the construction of nearly 200 affordable workforce housing units, with more planned or under construction. These projects include:

- \$4.5 million to Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe to develop water infrastructure for future tribal workforce housing units.
- \$3.5 million to United Way of Door County to develop affordable housing.
- \$9.8 million to Northwood Technical College to develop workforce housing complexes in rural areas. These complexes will include co-located classrooms where residents can access educational services.
- \$5 million to Local Initiatives Supports Corporation to build affordable homes that will be available for purchase by Early Childhood Education workers.

- Worker Advancement Initiative serves Wisconsin residents whose employment was negatively impacted by the pandemic, as well as those who were not attached to or not successful in the labor market prior to the pandemic. When Round 1 of the program concluded in September 2024, it had served more than 4,400 participants statewide, including 240 people who were identified as being unhoused. DWD was able to extend the Worker Advancement Initiative for a second round. Round 2 began on April 1, 2025, and continues to serve individuals experiencing homelessness. To date, both rounds of the Worker Advancement Initiative have provided 1,360 services to 262 participants identifying as homeless at program entry.

- Worker Connection Program: From January 1 through December 4, 2025, 13% of participants enrolled identified as being homeless at program entry. In July 2025, the Worker Connection program expanded coverage to eight additional workforce development areas (WDAs). Initial outreach efforts have resulted in partnerships with 15 organizations across the state that provide shelter or housing resources, including rental assistance.

For example, recently a Career Navigator attended the Dane County Homeless Services Consortium networking event. The event aimed to foster connections between housing and homelessness service providers and employment and training providers to better serve individuals and families facing homelessness. 12 direct contacts were made with attendees.

The Office of Veteran Employment Services has developed a relationship with three Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program organizations throughout the state to provide individualized career services and employment referrals for veterans who are experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. In 2025, the Veteran Employment Services program assisted more than 130 veterans experiencing homelessness or at-risk for homelessness.

### **Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA)**

- The WHEDA Foundation announced that in 2025 there will be \$2 Million awarded for the fourth year in a row for the Housing Grant Program. This will provide resources for construction/maintenance/repair programs for Emergency/Transitional housing and Permanent Housing programs.
- Through the Vacancy-to-Vitality, Infrastructure Access and Restore Main Street loan programs created in 2023 that invite developers to apply in a twice-annual competitive loan process, FY25 included Fall 24 and Spring 25 awards totaling \$11,957,068 creating 608 affordable units. Total to date awarded (as of Spring 25) is \$18,899,457 creating 1,090 affordable units.
- Through the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program, projects across Wisconsin were awarded \$36.6 Million in federal and state tax credits to create 1,731 low-income affordable units.

### **Evictions in Wisconsin**

The Wisconsin Eviction Data Project, launched in May 2021, continues to be a valuable resource for understanding the trends in eviction filings and judgements in every county of the state.

With the end of the one-time ARPA funded Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance program, the state continues to see increases in eviction filings and judgments. From January 2025 through October 2025, there were 21,887 eviction filings and 1,962 eviction judgments. Note that these are preliminary numbers, which will be updated in 2026 and are expected to increase.

### **Director's Activities**

From Michael Basford, Interagency Council on Homelessness Director:

As highlighted in the 2019 Interagency Council Annual Report, I continued performing the following duties in addition to statutory requirements:

- Establish a relationship with communities and organizations around Wisconsin to understand how homelessness affects every area of Wisconsin, to learn the details of community responses to homelessness, and to provide whatever assistance I can to help these communities fight homelessness;
- Identify areas of policy for focusing state resources; and
- Serve as a conduit between levels of government.

Between December 2024 and the time of this report, I participated in the following meetings and events:

January 22: Participated in the Point-in-Time Count in Eau Claire with Lieutenant Governor Rodriguez.

January 23: Visited with LG Rodriguez the post-PIT Homeless Connect events in La Crosse and Black River Falls.

February 17-19: Attended the Balance of State CoC's annual conference in Green Bay – giving a presentation on the Governor's Executive Budget.

February 26-28: Attended the National Alliance to End Homelessness' Spring Conference on Innovations and Solutions for Ending Unsheltered Homelessness in Los Angeles, CA.

March 3: Presented on the Governor's Executive Budget for the Dane County/Madison Homelessness Issues Committee

March 20: Participated in the quarterly Landlord Engagement event with the Dane County landlord engagement committee – giving a presentation on landlord mitigation funding.

March 28: Met with the Dane County Lived Experience Committee to present on items in the Governor's Executive Budget.

April 24: Participated in the Wisconsin League of Municipalities Food for Thought lunch meeting presenting on the state of homelessness in Wisconsin.

May 22: Travelled to Monroe to meet with the Green County Housing Coalition.

June 9: Travelled to Waukesha to attend the opening of Sentry House.

June 10: Travelled to Milwaukee to visit Courage+ with the Lieutenant Governor.

June 25: Visited Pathfinders in Milwaukee with Senator Drake

July 8: Attended the Emergency Support Network of Kenosha's monthly meeting and visited Shalom Center and the Grace Welcome Center

July 9: Visited the HALO Shelter in Racine as well as visit with Walter Williams of the City of Racine.

July 17: Visited with Street Angels in Milwaukee and went out on a nighttime visit with people who are experiencing homelessness on Milwaukee's south side.

July 24: Visited La Crosse, participating in the Summer Point-in-Time Count. I also met with Mayor Shaundel Washington-Spivey and with other city and county leaders to discuss Pathways Home, the City's and County's plan to end homelessness in La Crosse. I also visited the Project Homeless Connect event.

July 28: Visited Lakeshore CAP in Manitowoc with LG Rodriguez to learn about what they are doing to end homelessness in the Lakeshore region.

August 13-14: Attended the Home for Everyone conference in Wisconsin Dells and gave a presentation on the state of homelessness in Wisconsin.

September 10: Visited Walker's Point Youth and Family Center Shelter in Milwaukee with LG Rodriguez.

October 1-2: Attended the WISCAP Poverty Matters Conference in Wisconsin Dells.

November 12-13: Attended the WHEDA "How Housing Happens" Conference

November 18: Attended the Dane County Homelessness Summit

November 19: Visited Eau Claire with Lt. Governor Rodriguez and visited Western Dairyland Economic Opportunity Council, the Day Resource Center, and the Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association

### **Looking Forward**

In 2026, the Interagency Council on Homelessness looks forward continuing to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable in Wisconsin by persevering in the face of threats to federal funding and inaction by the State Legislature to address the homelessness crisis despite numerous requests and proposals from Governor Evers.