Michael Basford
Director
State of Wisconsin Interagency Council on Homelessness

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https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/AboutDOA/ICH.aspx
Interagency Council on Homelessness

History

• Created in 2017 with the bipartisan support of the Legislature of Act 74, which was signed into law by then-Governor Walker in November.

• Held first meeting in February, 2018.

• Wrote and released the “Hand and a Home” – detailing 31 strategies with dozens of recommendations over six themes on fighting homelessness in Wisconsin. Released at the end of November, 2018.

• Evers Administration’s ICH held first meeting in June, 2019.
Interagency Council on Homelessness

Members

Governor Tony Evers
Department of Administration Secretary Joel Brennan
Department of Health Services Secretary Andrea Palm
Department of Veterans Affairs Mary Kolar
Department of Children and Families Emilie Amundson
Department of Corrections Secretary Kevin Carr
Department of Workforce Development Secretary Caleb Frostman
Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority Executive Director Joaquin Altoro
Department of Public Instruction Superintendent Carolyn Stanford Taylor
Torrie Kopp Mueller (Dane County)
Rafael Acevedo (Milwaukee County)
Gai Lorenzen (Racine County)
Carrie Poser (Balance of State)
Interagency Council on Homelessness
Mission and Responsibilities

• “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.”
ICH Director: Michael Basford

Duties

• 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

Locations visited outside Dane County since May, 2019:

La Crosse  Denver, CO  Green Bay  Racine
Milwaukee (6X)  West Bend  Eau Claire  Washington DC
Spooner  Janesville  Delavan  Darien
Waukesha (3X)  Kenosha  Loyal  Neillsville
Wisconsin Rapids  Trevor  Superior  Wausau
Stevens Point  Waupaca
Interagency Council on Homelessness Activities in 2019

• Organizing Council with new Administration; confirming Director’s appointment in June, 2019.
• Approving disbursement of grants from WHEDA dividends of $500,000
• Continuum-of-Care education session with new department leaders
• Review of strategies and recommendations in “Hand and a Home” plan, as well as determine metrics for measuring success.
Interagency Council on Homelessness
Areas of Study and Action

- WHEDA: Exploring options and areas to increase production of affordable housing for people at 30%-and-under CMI.
- Veterans Affairs: Planning for directing resources to help veterans into housing
- Children and Families: Examining EA administrative rules to better serve citizens who could receive EA in cases of homelessness or housing instability, looking into DV sheltering and housing strategies
- Corrections: Connecting prisons better with CoC’s to better serve inmates who may be discharged to homelessness, examining processes available to inmates at discharge
- Workforce Development: Better connecting job placement with homelessness programs
- Health Services: Finishing work on 1115 waiver to provide more supportive services
- Administration: Planning for quickly rolling out programs and funding in event bills are approved by the Legislature
- Public Instruction: Working on strategies with their data warehouse to better share data with HMIS
Funding timeline for 2019-20 Budget

- November, 2018: $3.75 million annually recommended in “Hand and a Home” plan for 2019-20 biennium budget
- February, 2019: Governor Evers adopts plan’s recommendations for budget
- March, 2019: Assembly Republicans introduce eight bills on funding that echo plan recommendations and the Governor’s budget requests
- May, 2019: Joint Finance Committee removes line items from budget while setting aside funds
- June, 2019: State Assembly passes eight bills on homelessness funding. Bills are amended to remove dollar amounts while allowing Department of Administration to request funds from Joint Finance Committee through 13.10 process. Bills are referred to the State Senate for approval.
- July, 2019-present: Bills have been before Senate committees. Only AB 119 has passed the committee and is available for Senate scheduling. None of the bills are scheduled for floor action today.
Interagency Council on Homelessness
Areas of Study and Action

- Quarters 1 and 2: Review Progress Towards Goals
- Quarters 3 and 4: 2-Year Review of “Hand and a Home Plan”