



In December 2018, the Education and Advocacy Committee surveyed HSC members and people with lived experience of homelessness to get feedback on what the funding and advocacy priorities should be for 2019. A total of 145 surveys were received, including 49 from guests of The Beacon. The Education and Advocacy Committee looked at the priorities that received the most votes in each of the categories: Housing/Homeless Prevention, Basic Needs, Emergency Shelter, Medical/Other Services, and Non-profit Employee Support. The Committee decided to focus on the top 3 priorities in Housing and Homeless Prevention and the top priority in each of the other categories.

The Education and Advocacy Committee feels strongly that we must look to our Community Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness and the State of Wisconsin and Federal Plans to Prevent and End Homelessness to find where our priorities align. Below is a summary of the priorities with the most votes and how they fit into the Plans.

1. Eviction Prevention Services/Dollars

Community Plan:

Objective 1.1 Identify Barriers and Improve Access to Tenant Services

Strategies:

- 1.1.4 Incorporate eviction prevention best practices in local government contracts and require documentation of efforts to prevent eviction in non-profit, affordable, and subsidized housing and advocate for increased funds for tenant assistance services (e.g. rent assistance, legal aid, mediation, prevention education, etc.) at the local and state levels.
- 1.1.5 Establish consensus eviction protocols and decrease the number of evictions by non-profit, affordable and subsidized housing by 20% annually

State of Wisconsin Plan:

Strategy 1.1 Increase Prevention Funding

Recommendation:

- Increase Homeless Prevention Program by \$500,000 annually

Strategy 1.2 Begin State Diversion Programming

Recommendations:

- Amend 16.303, Wis. Stats., and ch. Adm 89, Wis. Adm. Code, to identify diversion as a distinct application item in the Homeless Prevention Program (HPP)
- Increase HPP funding by \$300,000 annually, specifically for diversion

Federal Plan:

Objective 1.2 Increase Capacity and Strengthen Practices to Prevent Housing Crises and Homelessness

2. Purpose Built Shelter (new construction where the purpose of the building is to provide shelter, guest needs, staff needs and safety needs are all incorporated into the design)

State of Wisconsin Plan:

Strategy 1.3 Increase State Shelter Subsidy Grant

Recommendation:

- Increase the State Shelter Subsidy Grant by \$500,000 annually

3. Affordable Housing

Community Plan:

Objective 1.3 Identify Barriers and Improve Connections to Affordable Housing, Jobs, and Other Benefits and Resources

Strategy:

- 1.3.7 Develop strategies to approach affordable housing providers to remove barriers to getting into their housing related to:
 - a. Inability to meet a minimum income requirement
 - b. Lack of housing history
 - c. Credit score
 - d. Information on credit report that is disputed, in repayment, or unrelated to a past housing or utility (gas, electricity and water only) obligation
 - e. Inability to meet financial obligations other than housing and utilities necessary for housing quality (gas, electric, water)
 - f. Owing money to a prior landlord or negative rent payment history if the tenant's housing and utility costs were more than 50% of their monthly income.
 - g. Owing money to a prior landlord or negative rent or utility payment history if applicant does one of the following: (1) establishes a regular record of repayment of the obligation; (2) signs up for the automatic payment of rent to PHA; or (3) obtains a representative payee.
 - h. Wisconsin Circuit Court Access (aka CCAP) records;
 - i. Criminal activity, except criminal activity resulting in a *criminal conviction for violent criminal activity or criminal activity that would threaten the health, safety or right to peaceful enjoyment of others within the last two years* and if the program or project is federally assisted, *criminal activity for which federal law currently requires denial*, (e.g. manufacture of methamphetamine, lifetime sex offender registry requirement.)
 - j. Membership in a class protected by Madison's equal opportunity ordinance.

Objective 3.1 Support Funding for Rapid Rehousing

Strategies:

- 3.1.1 Increase or fund new allotments of rapid rehousing assistance for single adults
- 3.1.2 Increase or fund new allotments of rapid rehousing assistance for families
- 3.1.3 Increase or fund new allotments of rapid rehousing assistance for young adults, 18-24

Objective 3.2 Align and Prioritize Capital, Operating and Service Funding Packages for the Development of New Permanent Supportive Housing

Strategies:

- 3.2.1 Fund 160 new units of permanent supportive housing for single adults. Funders will follow best practices for client to staff services according to written standards for case management.
- 3.2.2 Fund 40 new units of permanent supportive housing for families. Funders will follow best practices for client to staff services according to written standards for case management
- 3.2.3 Fund 20 new units of permanent supportive housing for young adults, 18-24. Funders will follow best practices for client to staff services according to written standards for case management.

Objective 3.3 Engage Private Landlords to Access Additional Units of Existing Housing

Strategy:

- 3.3.3 Conduct a landlord-outreach campaign to establish commitments for additional units of existing housing in the private market for people experiencing homelessness

Objective 3.8 Increase Housing Stock in Dane County to Meet the Needs Identified in the Housing Needs Assessment

Strategies:

- 3.8.1 Pursue and implement a housing plan for Dane County to address the housing gap set forth in the Dane County Housing Needs Assessment and substantially increase the number of new affordable housing units available to Dane County residents, particularly those at or below a score of 4 on the VI-SPDAT and those self-paying in hotels
- 3.8.2 Pursue legislation to prioritize affordable housing development with surplus property owned by local governments, including tax deeded properties.
- 3.8.3 Maintain and enhance affordable housing funds established by the City of Madison and Dane County.
- 3.8.4 Evaluate and provide input regarding the City of Madison's affordable housing development initiative to create 1000 new affordable housing units and Dane County's affordable housing fund and make recommendations about distribution of units among targeted populations.
- 3.8.5 Prioritize affordable rental housing with CDBG funds allocated to the City of Madison and Dane County.

State of Wisconsin Plan:

Strategy 1.6 Increase Housing Assistance Program (HAP) Funding

Recommendation:

- Increase Housing Assistance Program by \$900,000 annually

Strategy 1.7 Encourage Homeless Preferences for Housing Choice Vouchers

Recommendation:

- All Public Housing Agencies that administer Public Housing and/or Housing Choice Voucher programs should work with their local Continuum of Care to adopt a homeless preference for a portion of their vouchers.

Strategy 1.8 Encourage Landlords to Accept Housing Choice Vouchers

Strategy 4.4: Align and Deploy Resources of Existing State Programming for Construction/Rehabilitation of Affordable Housing Units

Federal Plan:

Objective 1.1 Collaboratively Build Lasting Systems that End Homelessness

Objective 2.4 Assist People to Move Swiftly into Permanent Housing with Appropriate and Person-Centered Services

4. Increase in housing navigation services for people doubled-up, self-paying at hotels or at-risk of homelessness

Community Plan:

Objective 1.1 Identify Barriers and Improve Access to Tenant Services

Strategies:

- 1.1.7 Increase housing navigation services for tenant who need to move and those doubled up or self-paying in hotels

Objective 3.4 End Veteran Homelessness

Strategy:

- 3.4.5 Provide housing locator services to VASH and Section 8 Housing Choice voucher holders and consider other strategies to prevent vouchers from expiring before a voucher holder leases up.

Objective 3.6 End Family Homelessness

Strategy:

- 3.6.6 Provide housing locator services to VASH and Section 8 Housing Choice voucher holders and consider other strategies to prevent vouchers from expiring before a voucher holder leases up.

State of Wisconsin Plan:

Strategy 4.1 Create Grant for Housing Navigation

Recommendation:

- Create a state grant within DEHCR, funded at \$300,000 annually, to allow for CoCs to hire housing navigators throughout the state.

5. Transportation/Free/Reduced rate transportation for employment, schools, medical appointments etc.

Community Plan:

Objective 1.3 Identify Barriers and Improve Connections to Affordable Housing, Jobs, and Other Benefits and Resources

Strategy:

- 1.3.6 Advocate for increased access to transportation options for homeless persons, including, but not limited to Madison Metro

State of Wisconsin Plan:

Other considerations 1. Transportation

As the Council continues to pursue policies to increase independence and stability, it must continue to recognize the role adequate transportation options and mobility have in this arena.

6. Co-location of human services for people with mental health challenges near shelter and housing for formerly homeless

Community Plan:

Objective 1.2 Identify Barriers and Improve Access to Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Strategies:

- 1.2.4 Improve formal collaborations between county healthcare providers and non-profit affordable, and subsidized housing by partnering in service delivery and/or training to support housing case managers
- 1.2.5 Encourage all housing programs and service providers to move toward a harm reduction model and evaluate other policies that ban persons from services or housing

Objective 2.4 Provide Supportive Services that Address Individual Underlying Factors of Homelessness and Housing Instability

Strategy:

- Funders and mainstream providers will engage mental health agencies to partner in service delivery and/or training to support housing case managers.

State of Wisconsin Plan:

Strategy 2.5 Support Efforts to Increase Numbers of Mental Health/Addiction Professionals

7. Mental Health First Aid Training

Provide funding for HSC providers and property managers to receive training in Mental Health First Aid.