

Dane County Homeless Services Consortium

2023 Education and Advocacy Platform

The Homeless Services Consortium Education and Advocacy Committee proposes that the Homeless Services Consortium advocate for the following in 2023 to support those experiencing sheltered, unsheltered, and doubled-up homelessness, and self-paying in hotels:

1. Increased number of units of **affordable housing** in Dane County, especially the number of units designated for individuals at or below 30% of area median income, as well as for policies that reduce barriers and increase access to affordable housing for those experiencing homelessness.
2. Increased funding for **eviction prevention** services in Dane County.
3. Increased funding to expand and improve **shelter services**, including case management and housing navigation. Address gaps in shelter services including but not limited to shelter for families, couples without children and for parents under age 18.
4. Funding for homeless services agencies to **build capacity** within their organizations to enable them to innovate, expand, and improve efficacy.
5. Reduced carceral responses to behaviors related to homelessness, mental health symptoms and/or substance use and increased funding for **mental health and substance use treatment** options that are accessible to individuals experiencing homelessness.
6. Expanded **partnerships with community businesses and institutions** to increase and diversify funding for programs and services that will make homelessness brief, rare and non-recurring.

The Homeless Services Consortium Education and Advocacy Committee further proposes that the Homeless Services Consortium educate its members and the public on the following in 2023:

1. The **Housing First** model and its benefits to the entire community.
2. Effective strategies to **prevent overdose and substance-use-related deaths**.
3. **Decriminalization** of homelessness.