

Dane County Commitment to End Homelessness

*The 2015 Dane County budget includes more than **\$1.8 million** in funding to support housing and homeless services and an **\$8 million** capital commitment over the next four years to increase the availability of affordable housing throughout Dane County.*

"Homelessness is complex and we need to address it at its root causes." - Dane County Executive Joe Parisi

Emergency Shelter

The county helps fund five programs that provide emergency shelter to single men, single women, and/or families. Most of these shelter programs provide on-site case management to individuals and families to help them find stable housing, employment and training, medical care, mental health services, alcohol and other drug addiction services, health insurance, FoodShare, and more.

Providers: The Salvation Army, Porchlight, the YWCA, The Road Home.

Create More affordable Housing

An additional, historic investment in increasing affordable housing was included in the 2015 county budget as well with the creation of the Affordable Housing Fund – an \$8 million commitment over the next 4 years (\$2 million available for projects each year).

In 2014, the county partnered with the City of Madison on what is referred to as the Rethke Project – the creation of 60 new units of permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless single adults that will operate under the "Housing First" model. The county purchased the land and part of the housing development to help the project move forward (\$750,000).

Help Homeless Youth

The county provided more than \$103,000 to Briarpatch Youth Services to help open a homeless and runaway youth shelter.

In 2015 the county continued to fund the \$25,000 Youth Eviction Prevention Fund (created in 2014). The fund, administered by the county's Joining Forces for Families program, helps families facing a financial emergency maintain their housing and avoid homelessness.

In 2013, the county budget included \$500,000 to acquire a property for co-op housing. Located on Roth St. in Madison, the property was purchased and leased to Madison Community Cooperative, with support services for homeless and runaway youth provided by Briarpatch Youth Services using a grant from the federal government.

Dane County has over 500,000 residents and is the fastest growing county in Wisconsin.

Help for survivors of domestic violence

The county provides \$25,000 to Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS) to help fund emergency hotel vouchers for families in need when the DAIS shelter is at-capacity. This lifeline helps prevent survivors of domestic violence from having to return to a dangerous situation or choose homelessness to escape their attacker.

In the 2014 budget, the county invested \$2 million in capital funds to help DAIS complete construction of their new facility on Fordem Ave.

Housing Case Management and Homeless Prevention

The county helps fund community-based housing case management through the Community Action Coalition that stabilizes individuals and families by connecting them to permanent housing, employment and training, medical care, mental health services, alcohol and other drug addiction services, health insurance, FoodShare, and more. The county also helps fund grants through CAC that help families facing eviction maintain their housing, and helps families acquire housing with money for a security deposit or a first month's rent.

The county also funds a Housing Help Desk through the Tenant Resource Center. The Housing Help Desk administers eviction prevention funds up to \$50.00 per person in need, and provides information on housing availability to individuals looking for a place to live.

Day Services

The county funds day services operations out of two facilities – Bethel Lutheran Church in downtown Madison and Hospitality House (run by Porchlight). In addition to providing a place for individuals who are homeless to go during the day, Bethel and Hospitality House provide referral to services including housing, employment and training, medical care, mental health services, alcohol and other drug addiction services, health insurance, FoodShare, and more.

The county is also working to locate a comprehensive day resource center at the site currently home to Hospitality House on Martin St. off Fish Hatchery Rd. in the Town of Madison and contract with a provider to operate the facility. Once open, the facility will be a one stop shop for individuals and families who are homeless so they can access resources to obtain housing, employment and training, and other services, as well as other life necessities including showers, laundry facilities, and storage.

Community Effort to End Homelessness

The county is an important partner with the City of Madison, the United Way, and the county's homeless service providers in our shared goal to end homelessness. The county participates in the Homeless Services Consortium (the formal organization for homeless service providers).

In 2013

A total of 1,753 households avoided homelessness as a result of an intervention by a program in Dane County.

3,370 people were reported to have been served at least one night by a shelter program in Dane County.

