



Wisconsin Affordable Housing Network Newsletter

February 2023

Wisconsin Affordable Housing Action Network Updates

General Meeting: We meet the first Thursday of every month at 9am. The next meeting is this Thursday, March 2nd. Here is a link to the agenda.

Besides needing a better name (see below), our subcommittees will have each met twice since the beginning of the year. You can sign up here to work in an area of interest.

CHEESE CURDS -Communities Housing Everyone Equitably, Sustainably and Efficiently – Considering Urban and Rural Development Systems (Kurt Paulsen)

WHALE- Wisconsin Housing Literally Everywhere! (Matt Frader)

ELA – Everyone Lives Affordably (Anne Michels)



Sub Committee Meetings

The discussion and actions that come about from these meetings will guide our actions as a whole. It's not too late to join a sub-committee. If you are interested in joining one please sign-up here and email the respective chair.

Affordable Rental Housing - Meets every 3rd Thur at 11am – [Zoom](#)

Activity: We are trying to build a list of actionable items for this committee! Please bring your top 3-5 actionable items to our next meeting. During our time together we will break out into smaller groups and prioritize these items.

Chair: Andy Heidt and possibly you! If you are interested in becoming co-chair, please reach out to Andy at aheidt@wiscap.org

Affordable Homeownership – Meets every 3rd Tues at 11am - [Zoom](#)

Activity: Lead innovation and policy direction in affordable home ownership.

Chair: Johanna Jimenez (Co-Chair needed! If interested email Johanna at jjimenez@wiscap.org)

Housing Innovation Meets every 4th Thursday at 11am - [Zoom](#)

Activity: Pursuing priorities, programs, and policies to pilot and support.

Co Chairs: Troy Theil and Olivia Williams

Technical Assistance (Sounds boring but this is the fun stuff!) Next Meeting is March 23 at 9am – [Zoom](#)

Activity: We are working with the League of Municipalities to coordinate educational opportunities and establish a speaker series. Please send us your ideas for this series.

Co Chairs: Kristine Giornalista and Andy Heidt (Temporary, if you are interested in co-chairing, please contact Andy at aheidt@wiscap.org)

Your input on these sub committees allows us to build local successes into models that can be replicated. The success locally gives us an opportunity to impact housing on a regional, state, and national level as opportunities arise. Your passion, expertise and ideas will help us collaboratively improve the current system of services and build a better one.

Wisconsin Affordable Housing Advocacy Network: We Need a New Name!!!

It's not too late to submit your ideas for the name of our group moving forward! Have a suggestion, email Marlo at mfields@wiscap.org

NLIHC (National Low Income Housing Coalition) Capitol Hill Day, March 21st-23rd Call to Advocacy

Courtney Cooperman from the coalition will be joining us to speak more about this upcoming event at our March meeting!

Issue Focus:

What is the deal with HUD's PIT (Point in Time) Count

As successive administrations have set a goal of “ending homelessness,” HUD’s narrow definition and thus the data compiled to guide this federal strategy is deeply flawed. The article, “The Pitfalls of HUD’s Point-in-Time Count for Children, Youth, and Families” looks deep into why housing advocates and policymakers should be skeptical of any homelessness data from HUD (Housing and Urban Development). This is especially important because the data collected from their Point-in-Time count determines funding, priorities, and paints an incomplete and dangerous picture of child and family homelessness in the state and nation.

Wisconsin State Budget

There was a lot of housing in Gov. Evers’ 2023-2025 budget proposal worth examining and advocating for. Read the full budget summary [here](#). Specifically, the Governor’s proposal would.

- Establish an Affordable Workforce Housing Grant program and provide \$150 million in funding to local municipalities to encourage the development and maintenance of additional affordable workforce housing in the state, including costs for infrastructure projects related to new residential developments, such as water, sidewalks, and sewer. Additionally, municipalities that change zoning criteria to support additional affordable housing development would qualify for a bonus;
- Provide \$100 million to create a Municipal Home Rehabilitation Program to award grants to municipalities to renovate and restore blighted residential properties with the goal of increasing available, affordable housing options within the municipality;
- Provide \$100 million to support a revised and more robust Workforce Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program at the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority. The revised program would provide low-interest and forgivable loans to low- to moderate-income households to renovate or repair their current home, including lead remediation.
- Modify the State Housing Tax Credit program to help address the need for affordable housing in the state by: (a) increasing the limit on the total amount of state housing tax credits that may be

authorized annually by the authority from \$42 million to \$100 million; and (b) increasing the credit period from six taxable years to 10 taxable years.

WISCAP's Legislative Advocacy Day: March 8th!

On Wednesday, March 8th WISCAP will be hosting an advocacy day at the State Capitol in Room 415 NW to promote the soon-to-be re-introduced Wisconsin Opportunity Act. Advocates representing Wisconsin's community action agencies and key partners will meet with bill author Rep. Lisa Subeck and other members of the assembly. Confirmed partners include: CDFI, SEIU, Habitat for Humanity, Wisconsin Apartment Association and IUPAT. The Wisconsin Opportunity Act advances comprehensive legislation designed to aid communities in the fight against poverty. The bill proposes to do this through a renewed investment in housing, transportation, employment and business development training, and other services. To learn more about WOA click here. If you are planning to attend, please email Andy or Marlo (aheidt@wiscap.org or mfields@wiscap.org)

Articles and Resources

- National Advocacy: <https://nlihc.org/take-action>
- [Analysis](#) of the new federal plan to “end” homelessness
- WI "GAP" Data from NLIHC
- Federal Advocacy Toolkit: <https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Oppose-Dramatic-Cuts-to-Federal-Investments-in-Affordable-Housing-Toolkit.pdf>
- [JOIN](#) NLIHC Housing Policy Forum and Capitol Hill Day March 21-23

Articles and Resources

- [City of La Crosse evicting homeless encampment.](#)
- Save the Date: WI Partnership for Housing Development: A Home for Everyone Conference July 19-20 in Oshkosh

Check it Out!

Co-Chair of the Housing Innovation Subcommittee of the soon to be improved named housing action network Olivia Williams is helping facilitate the post viewing discussion of this INTERESTING film, A Decent Home, at Union South next Wednesday March 1, 2023. Check it out! I hope to make it!
<https://havenswrightcenter.wisc.edu/2023/01/03/a-decent-home/>

Send your articles, local happenings, and events to Mfields@wiscap.org for our March newsletter.

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