



Wisconsin Affordable Housing Network Newsletter

March 2023

Network Updates

General Meeting: We meet the first Thursday of every month at 9am. The next meeting is this **Thursday, April 6**. [Here](#) is a link to the agenda.

So much is going on in the Wisconsin Affordable Housing Action Network (WAHAN), including the search for a pithy new name, but more on that later. We want to start this month's newsletter by highlighting some of the great work of participants in the network. We will follow up with highlights from Marlo's adventures at Capitol Hill Day, federal and state budget updates, and updates on our sub-committees' work.

National Low-Income Housing Coalition Capitol Hill Day – Thursday, March 23

The work and goals of the network are truly inspiring. The sky is truly the limit on what we as housing experts, city planners, and concerned citizens can collectively accomplish. However, in order to do so, we need to regularly engage the elected officials who make decisions on our behalf.

Thursday, March 23 WISCAP's housing specialist, Marlo Fields will lead a Wisconsin delegation of housing experts and advocates to various Wisconsin Congressional offices. We will be advocating for a wide spectrum of housing issues such as urging members not to slash domestic programs in the upcoming budget and supporting permanent federal emergency rental assistance, among other topics. If you are interested in joining it's not too late to join! Please email him at mfields@wiscap.org and he'll provide resources and guidance for the day. Additionally, here is a [recording](#) and [slides](#) from NLIHC's research team on what to expect.

If you are unable to attend the advocacy day that's ok! Advocacy, like all aspects of democracy, is an ongoing process, and shouldn't be constrained to one day. Here are additional ways to start or continue a dialogue with your local elected officials.

- Set up an in-district meeting. This is often easier for many folks as you don't have to take a flight out to DC. Additionally, you'll be able to connect with a member's in-district staff. These are people who live and work in your communities and often have a better understanding of district needs than their DC counterparts.
- Attend a town hall meeting. While some members host these more frequently than others, town halls are a great way to meet and challenge your elected officials.
- Letter Campaign – For your convenience NLIHC has created a portal for you to find your legislatures and use their templated letters on given housing issues. Click [here](#) to see more information.

Organizational Spotlights



Movin' Out Celebrates The Andre'

Movin' Out is a nearly 30-year-old statewide nonprofit that advances disability justice by co-creating safe, affordable, community-integrated homes.

They have helped to develop and operate over 1,300 units of affordable rental housing across the state, with nearly 300 new units currently under development. To support their vision of equitable, accessible, and affordable community-integrated living opportunities for all, approximately 25% of these units are reserved for households that include someone with a disability. Residents can identify and select their supportive services through the long-term care system in Wisconsin based on their personal needs and preferences.

In addition to multifamily rental housing development, Movin' Out provides information and referrals, housing counseling, homebuyer education, down payment assistance, financial assistance for repairs and modifications for safety and accessibility, and various support programs to help ensure long-term housing stability. They primarily serve income-qualified households that include a person who has a permanent disability of any kind, whether intellectual, physical, or mental health. To date, Movin' Out housing counselors have helped 1,808 households purchase a home or make a necessary repair or modification to their home to secure their housing stability for years to come.

You can learn more about Movin' Out's efforts by visiting their website, following their [social media](#), and watching their recent [announcement video for The André](#) - new multifamily affordable rental housing on the corner of East Washington Avenue and 6th Street in Madison, Wisconsin. This project brings together affordable housing and accessible childcare in a unique way for the first time in Madison and is named after prominent community leader and inspiration for the creation of Movin' Out, André Brown.

Green Pastures Seeks To Create Affordable Senior Housing

"What we do not have, we must create." -Bishop Yvette Flunder

Concerned by the lack of affordable, independent senior housing in rural communities, Anne Michels created Green Pastures Living to address this unmet, growing need. For over five years she has been researching, networking, and building a sustainable business to provide small-scale housing uniquely designed for moderate-income seniors to remain rooted in rural living. Finding a way to serve the middle-class senior who desires to age-in-place is especially challenging in the current economic market of high construction costs and few funding sources for the 80 percent median income bracket. The housing stock is older and zoning is also prohibitive to creating small, affordable communities where seniors can remain connected.

The good news is that there are some examples of successful independent senior housing in Wisconsin. Our hope with this network is to find what has worked and to share it with other organizations, like Green Pastures Living, so that we can reproduce and provide more available affordable living options for our growing older population in Wisconsin.

We do not have enough affordable housing options, let us create a network to connect those projects and ideas so that more Wisconsinites have affordable housing.

You can reach Anne at live@greenpasturesliving.com
Learn more about us at: www.greenpasturesliving.com

Meanwhile in Milwaukee (thanks to our friends at the Community Development Alliance)

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.

The full RFP is available at <https://cityofmilwaukee.bonfirehub.com/opportunities/85475>. You have to create an account to submit a proposal, but the Scope of Work is attached. Proposals are due April 18th, 2023, 2:00 PM CDT. Please see the RFP for the full schedule.

Additionally, the City hosted an informational webinar which you can view [here](#). The RFP also includes a unique opportunity to help developers, architects, ABC manufacturers, and general contractors form teams to submit joint proposals.

All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted through the Bonfire Portal.

Check out the CDA’s plan for affordability: [Collective Affordable Housing Plan](#)

Name That Advocacy Organization

We had a few initial submissions:

- **CHEESE CURDS -Communities Housing Everyone Equitably, Sustainably and Efficiently – Considering Urban and Rural Development Systems (Anon.)**
- **WHALE- Wisconsin Housing Literally Everywhere! (Matt Frader)**
- **ELA - Everyone Lives Affordably (Anne Michels)**

Techie asked AI. This is what was suggested:

- **Badger Homes**
- **Home Wisconsin**
- **Affordable Homes for All – sounds like the conference group.**
- **The Wisconsin Housing Coalition**
- **The Badger State Housing Alliance**
- **Wisconsin Affordable Housing Action Group**
- **Safe Harbor Housing Coalition**
- **The Wisconsin Affordable Housing Partnership – close to another organization we know, eh?**
- **The Affordable Wisconsin Initiative**
- **Hopeful Housing Wisconsin**

The Badger State Housing Alliance, or add affordable rings nice, but what are your thoughts?

Save the Date

The Wisconsin Collaborative for Affordable Housing is pleased to present the 2023 A Home for Everyone Conference! Please mark your calendars and plan to join us on July 19th and 20th at the Oshkosh Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center for the premier state-wide affordable housing conference. Professionals from across all sectors will convene, connect and collaborate on top issues facing the industry. This year's conference will continue the advocacy theme of 2022 and take it a step forward - Advocacy Activated, Making Change Happen at Home. We look forward to seeing you there!

To sign up or get more information: <https://ahomeforeveryone.events/>

If you have questions email: ahfe@wphd.org

League of Wisconsin Municipalities Affordable Housing Guide

Check it out! www.lwm-info.org/1569/Using-the-Leagues-Zoning-Guide

The Technical Assistance Subcommittee of WAHAN is working with the league on a speaker series. A series of hour-long lunch-and-learn discussions of a variety of promising practices to expand affordable housing. Zoning,

fair housing, developing affordable housing, and other promising practices are slated for discussion with local and state experts. We are expecting to launch our monthly discussions in May. Stay tuned!

Know Your Rental Rights Webinar Tuesday, April 11 - 11 am

Register Here! <https://www.accelevents.com/e/rental-rights>

In this Lawyers for Learners webinar, Mitch, clinical law professor and the director of the Economic Justice Institute at the University of Wisconsin Law School, will cover the basics on how to get your security deposit back, get your rental home fixed and avoid forced eviction.

Registrants will obtain a recording too, so feel free to sign up even if you cannot attend but are interested in the topic. You're more than welcome to forward on to others you believe may be interested.

Any Questions? Contact - lawyersforlearners@ascendiumeducation.org

You can spotlight your work, organization or issues in upcoming newsletters by reaching out to mfields@wiscap.org or aheldt@wiscap.org

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