

Report Summary

Homeless Continuum Report

2021-2022



Winnebagoland Housing Coalition

An inventory of the services and housing resources that support individuals at risk of and experiencing homelessness in Oshkosh and Southern Winnebago County, WI

July 2021

Homeless Continuum Report: 2021-2022 Summary



The Winnebagoland Housing Coalition (WHC) sits on the verge of a transformational period that has the potential to elevate the care and support our communities deliver to individuals experiencing homelessness to a level unprecedented in our community. Built upon the vast expertise of members and an excitement that now is the time, WHC and its members are in a position to realistically fill three major service gaps within the next 24 months while also implementing targeted actions designed to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of the WHC organization.

Essential to the success of all new initiatives and the long-term sustainability of our existing core programming is an informed and engaged community of support including service providers, funders, policy makers, and our neighbors; working collaboratively with sufficient resources to achieve a comprehensive and inclusive homeless continuum that serves as a model of excellence.

The Homeless Continuum Report: 2021-22 was developed following an early 2021 community meeting hosted by the Oshkosh Community Foundation that concluded with two key unanswered questions: who is doing what, and how can we better collaborate. Information from more than 20 interviews of WHC members and stakeholders has been compiled, with the incorporation of additional feedback received through the May 2021 planning session and a six week comment period.

Gaps in our continuum reveal areas of high concern where our community is failing to meet the needs of individuals who are amidst or on the verge of crisis. The Oshkosh area offers no formal services or options for unaccompanied minors experiencing homelessness. One of our primary responses for families experiencing homelessness is to pay for hotel stays – a costly response deficient in client support or long-term program sustainability. Day by Day Warming Shelter, a key institution in our continuum, continues to operate on the uncertain grounds of temporary conditional use permits in a space that limits the scope and effectiveness of their programming. WHC as an organization has ineffectively led the community conversation regarding homeless information and data, while individual members resist the foundational collaboration concepts of homeless data sharing and communication about new program planning.

Seven recommendations are presented within the report intended to address many of the gaps identified while strengthening WHC capacity. The recommendations are that:

1. All homeless program developments and changes be coordinated in collaboration with WHC.
2. Day by Day Warming Shelter develop a permanent shelter
3. Oshkosh Kids Foundation develop a transitional housing village for families facing homelessness
4. WHC develop an online Homeless Continuum Decision Tree
5. ADVOCAP lead a task force on the issue of youth homelessness
6. WHC create a Public Relations officer position
7. WHC host an annual planning meeting

We have the knowledge, experience, and resources necessary to make considerable progress towards achieving a comprehensive continuum of excellent. This report provides navigational directions to help guide our community as we collaboratively and decisively close the service gaps in our continuum.

