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## Wisconsin Affordable Housing Network Newsletter

July 2023

### And The Name Is....

Despite late calls from Andy asking me to find 11,000 more votes for "CHEESE CURDS" a new name has been chosen, as announced at A Home for Everyone Conference.

WAHAN is no longer viva la Badger State Housing Alliance (BSHA, which is kinda fun to say!) We will be announcing our new name at the A Home for Everyone Conference.



**BADGER STATE HOUSING ALLIANCE**

### Historic Opportunity to Strengthen Renters' Rights: Show Support and Submit Your Comments by July 31!

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Renters and advocates have a historic opportunity to strengthen federal renter protections. The Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) issued a Request for Input (RFI) on how the agency can create and enforce protections for renters living in homes with federally backed mortgages. Because more than 12 million renters live in properties with federally backed mortgages, any renter protections enacted by FHFA could cover a significant share of renters across the nation and put the United States on a pathway towards stronger protections for all renters.

Advocates have until July 31 to weigh in with FHFA and urge the agency to adopt strong renter protections. You do not need to be a policy expert to submit a comment! FHFA staff are interested in hearing renters' personal stories and perspectives on how new protections would improve their housing stability. Feel free to use NLIHC's sample comment letter and resources from [tenantcomment.org](https://tenantcomment.org) to craft your comment, and submit on [FHFA's online portal here](#).

NLIHC is also collecting organizational signatures on a national support letter, which focuses on four priorities:

source-of-income protections, just cause eviction standards, anti-rent gouging protections, and habitability standards. Add your organization to NLIHC's letter here!

For more information, visit NLIHC's webpage or email Courtney Cooperman, housing advocacy organizer, at [ccooperman@nlihc.org](mailto:ccooperman@nlihc.org)

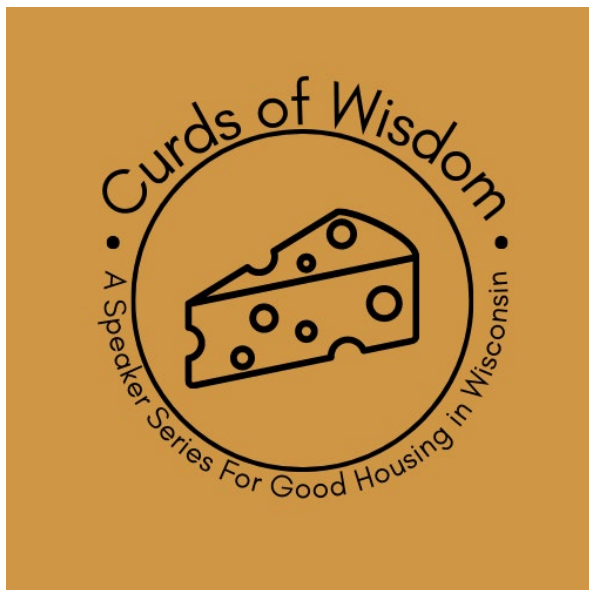
### **Join a Steering Committee!**

It's hard to believe that this group has been meeting for over a year now. In that time we've published a monthly newsletter that reaches all corners of the state. Curds of Wisdom provides a digestible opportunity to hear from housing experts and advocates on various subjects. Our networking opportunities alone have paved the way for new relationships in the struggle for a more just housing system for Wisconsin.

This is just the beginning and we need more voices at the table to plan the next steps for this group. We all wear multiple hats and between work, life, and the demanding blows of a post-pandemic world, free time is something few of us have. However, with more voices guiding this ship we can sail into a new future. Additionally, the commitment for steering committee members is to participate in a monthly discussion, provide leadership and structure to our working groups, and bring a spirit of constructive solidarity and vision to how we can craft this network.

If you are interested or have more questions, please reach out to Marlo Fields and Andy Heidt at [mfields@wiscap.org](mailto:mfields@wiscap.org) and [aheidt@wiscap.org](mailto:aheidt@wiscap.org)

### **You're Invited!!!**



The next series starts in September! We are starting a series on "Good Development, Making it Happen in your Community".

We will have someone from the non-profit affordable housing development community, Nicole Solheim of CINNARE, a city alderperson from Eau Claire and someone from the supportive services community.

If you have ideas for our Curds of Wisdom Speaker Series, please reach out to Marlo Fields and Andy Heidt at [mfields@wiscap.org](mailto:mfields@wiscap.org) and [aheidt@wiscap.org](mailto:aheidt@wiscap.org)

[Register Here!](#)

## **New Data!**

The housing crisis requires action is informed by the sad reality of income inequality and rising rent burdens. The Urban Institute has developed a dataset on homelessness.

What does your neighborhood look like and how can it be transformed for the better?

## **Who is RON!**

Reclaiming Our Neighborhoods (RON) is a highly effective coalition of 11 neighborhood partner organizations representing 15 neighborhoods, working alongside City of Milwaukee partners and housing agencies with the mission to improve the quality of housing in Milwaukee through data-informed, resident-engaged strategies and actions.

[Learn More](#)

## **Talking Homelessness**

The Schoolhouse connection explains why they use the phrase “Experiencing Homelessness” instead of “Unhoused.”

[Learn More](#)

## **Badger State Housing Alliance**

We are in the process of building a contact list of individuals who would like to receive updates on housing issues across the state. Please feel free to pass this newsletter along to any colleagues, elected officials, friends, family members or anyone you think would benefit from this effort. You can also share the link below for folks to sign up for this distribution list.

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