



Wisconsin Affordable Housing Network Newsletter

June 2023

Get Involved in Your Affordable Housing Network!

Homeless numbers are rising as over 600 evictions are being filed a week in Wisconsin Courts. The need remains so great. While the state legislature just passed important housing legislation, what percent of the units will be for people earning 30% or less than area median income where the crisis is most acute? According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC), a housing wage of \$20.32 is needed for a worker to afford a market-rate 2-bedroom unit in Wisconsin.

We are moving our Main Meeting to Quarterly with the next meeting scheduled for September. We are considering if we need to change the time from the first Thursday of the month at 9 a.m. What are your thoughts? Also, we are trying to expand our steering committee and launch a subcommittee on a WI Housing Plan. Our Plan will offer a comprehensive blueprint for housing in Wisconsin.

We will be announcing our new name at the A Home for Everyone Conference.

Meanwhile, our affordable rental housing, home ownership, and technical assistance committees continue to meet. Please sign up if you are interested here. Our co-chairs recently met with Elmer Moore, the CEO of WHEDA. and had a fascinating conversation about the future of affordable housing in Wisconsin. Our Curds of Wisdom lunchtime conversations conducted the second session of the zoning and fair housing presentation. We are gearing up for our next series, starting in September on the challenges of building and managing good developments. We are still fine-tuning our subjects and content, so please hit us up with your ideas.

If we come together with our best ideas and innovations, we can move the debate on permanent affordable housing forward amid our housing crises.

We need your involvement, ideas and action to be part of a process of positive change amid our housing crisis. Our next meeting is Thursday June 1 at 9am. Join [HERE](#).

Join a sub-committee!

- **Affordable Homeownership** –Meets every 3rd Tue. 11am - [Zoom](#)
- **Affordable Rental Housing** –Meets every 3rd Thur. 11am - [Zoom](#)
- **Technical Assistance** – Meets every 4th Thur. 9am – [Zoom](#)

We are looking for volunteers to grow our steering committee. The SC guides the overall activities and priorities of the organization. Please reach out to Marlo or Andy if you would like to be part of this opportunity!

If you have an idea for a subcommittee or would love to get more involved but you're not sure where to start, we'd love to hear from you! Please reach out to Andy (aheidt@wiscap.org) or Marlo (mfields@wiscap.org) to get you started!

You're Invited!!!



The Curds of Wisdom speaker series is a free, monthly forum focused on creating and preserving housing options throughout Wisconsin. The series aims to share effective practices and build relationships among advocates and practitioners. Please join us whether you are an elected official or a motivated neighbor!

Curds of Wisdom is co-sponsored by [WISCAP](#), [League of Wisconsin Municipalities](#), and the [Wisconsin Council of Churches](#).

Upcoming Sessions:

Wed. June 14 - 12p - Zoning & Local Policies that Foster Good Housing - How zoning and fair housing can grow equitable and affordable housing in your community.

We are skipping July for the A Home for Everyone Conference, but in August we are kicking off a series on good (or excellent) housing projects in Wisconsin and how to make it happen!

If you have ideas for our Curds of Wisdom Speaker Series, let us know.

[Register Here!](#)

Register now for A Home for Everyone Conference

Wisconsin's premier state-wide affordable housing conference is open for registration! This year's conference theme is Advocacy Activated, Making Change Happen at Home. Advocacy sessions include an update on WAHAN after one year of action, a panel of advocates on activism and policy development, a report from NLIHC on federal housing advocacy, and much more! Please join us on July 19th and 20th in Oshkosh, where professionals from across all sectors will convene, connect and collaborate on top issues facing the industry. You can learn more by visiting the event website: <https://ahomeforeveryone.events/> (Questions? Contact Heather Boggs at WPHD: heatherboggs@wphd.org)

WAHAN New Name Final Election!

The primary results are in and we're off to the next round of elections to change our network's name. Please see the selections below and vote on the Google form here. A winner will be announced in June!

- Wisconsin Housing Coalition
- Affordable Homes for All
- Wisconsin Affordable Housing Partnership
- Badger State Housing Alliance

WHEDA Foundation 2023 Housing Grants

The application cycle for the 2023 Housing Grant Cycle is now open. (Click Here For Details) The Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) and the WHEDA Foundation, Inc. make available annual grant funds through the Housing Grant Program competition. The Program's mission is to assist in the improvement of the state's housing for special needs populations such as veterans, physically impaired or disabled persons, domestic abuse victims, runaways, homeless persons, and more.

A total of \$2,000,000 will be awarded for the 2023 cycle with awards to be announced in December. The maximum individual grant award is \$50,000 per project. The grants are for physical improvements such as rehabilitation, accessibility features, and new construction.

Who Can Apply?

- Nonprofit organizations or cooperatives organized under Chapters 181, 185, or 187 of the Wisconsin Statutes
- Community development, redevelopment, and housing authorities
- Local units of government
- Native American tribal authorities

Important details:

- The competition includes two separate housing categories: Emergency/Transitional housing and Permanent housing.
- Applicants may apply for grant funds in each category however they may only submit one application per category.
- The maximum individual grant award is \$50,000. There is no minimum award and small funding requests are allowed.

- For flexibility in awarding grants to the "best of the best", more or less than 50% of the funds may be allocated to each category depending on the quality of applications. However, no category will be allocated less than 25% or more than 75% of the total pool.
- Applications are due on August 11, 2023, by 11:59 p.m.
- Grant Awards will be announced in December 2023.

For application materials and to apply, visit: <https://www.wheda.com/Housing-Grant-Program/> On this page you will also find a list of past award winners and a list of projects that were completed with funds granted.

Feel free to share this opportunity with your community. If you have any questions of WHEDA or would like to discuss housing needs and resources, please reach out to Rebecca Giroux, the Community & Economic Development Officer at WHEDA Rebecca.Giroux@wheda.com

Job Listings!

WISCAP

[Executive Assistant - Madison, WI](#)

The Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council (MMFHC)

[Program Services Coordinator - Appleton, WI](#)

[Program Services Coordinator - Milwaukee, WI](#)

DOA Public Comment Period Open for 2023 Annual Action Plan

The Division of Energy, Housing, and Community Resources (DEHCR/Division) posted a draft 2023 Annual Action Plan to the State's 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan to its website. The Public Comment Period is now open through July 10, 2023. The 2023 Annual Action Plan defines how the State will distribute federal grant funds to local governments, public and private organizations, and businesses.

Copies are available for inspection at the link below, or in person at the Division office.

To view the DRAFT 2023 Annual Action Plan, click the following link:

<https://energyandhousing.wi.gov/Pages/Consolidated-Plan.aspx>

Public comments on the DRAFT 2023 Annual Action Plan may be emailed to the Division of Energy, Housing, and Community Resources at DOADEHCR@wisconsin.gov, or, mailed to:

Department of Administration

Division of Energy, Housing, and Community Resources

P.O. Box 7970

Madison, WI 53707-7970

Rent Smart: Train the Trainer

UW-Extension will be hosting Rent Smart which is a training that focuses on the knowledge and skills essential for successful renting experience. It challenges participants to know and understand their rights and responsibilities as a tenant, as well as know and understand the rights and responsibilities of their landlord. Emphasis is on partnership between the tenant and landlord. Register [here](#)

Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council Conducts Outreach to Raise Community Awareness and Urge Home Buyers to Report Discrimination. Read the Press Release [here](#)

Poverty Matters Conference Call for Presenters

The next edition of WISCAP's Poverty Matters Conference will take place Sept. 27-28 in BEAUTIFUL La Crosse at the newly renovated La Crosse Center. This conference will feature a Housing track throughout the conference, so if you have presented anything affordable housing-related, feel free to complete the Call for Presenters survey [here](#). We would love to hear from you!

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