



Wisconsin Affordable Housing Network Newsletter

May 2023

Get Involved in Your Affordable Housing Network!

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!

- **Innovative Strategies** - Meets every 4th Thur. 11am - [Zoom](#)
- **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](#)

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!](#)

WAHAN (Wisconsin Affordable Housing Action Network) 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

WISCAP Responds to Housing Bills!

Full testimony can be accessed [here](#).

Over the last three years as the state and nation has struggled with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Community Action Network has played a central role in the execution of the Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance (WERA) and the Wisconsin Help for Homeowners (WHH) programs ... What these emergency efforts have not addressed, nor were they equipped or designed to do so, is the housing crisis that predates the pandemic and one that persists as we emerge from it.

While the term "workforce housing" has become commonplace, it often serves to obscure rather than reveal. Take, for example, a minimum wage worker (\$7.25/hour) who, by definition, is also in need of workforce housing. In the Badger state, however, they would need to work 82 hours a week in order to afford a one-bedroom rental at Fair Market Rate (\$777 per month). Securing a two-bedroom unit requires 102 hours of labor. Our lowest-wage workers and our poorest households remain pinched between the runaway cost of housing and the overall lack of availability. [We] would submit that, at its most basic level, Wisconsinites should be able to afford to live in the communities in which they work...

Taken as a whole, the bills propose a variety of creative solutions- from changes to the low-income housing tax credit to amending zoning ordinances to the creation of revolving loan funds to promoting mixed-use development... but as a general approach, we strongly recommend that money appropriated under AB 264, AB 265, and AB 268 include a 25% set aside to support rental housing for extremely low-income households as similarly proposed for senior and rural communities.

Federal Rental Assistance at Risk for 7,000 Wisconsinites—Take Action Today!



Courtney Cooperman – Housing Advocacy Organizer – NLIHC

President Biden and congressional leaders are negotiating proposals to raise the nation’s debt ceiling. The nation could default on its debt as soon as June 1 if congressional leaders and the White House do not reach an agreement. Despite the likely harm posed by a default, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) and House Republicans say they will only lift the debt ceiling in exchange for steep spending cuts, which could reduce funding for HUD’s and USDA’s vital affordable housing and homelessness programs by as much as 22 percent. These cuts could cause 7,000 Wisconsinites to lose access to rental assistance.

It is critical for advocates to reach out to their members of Congress and urge them to oppose these devastating spending cuts. The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) makes it easy to email, call, or tweet at your members of Congress through their [Legislative Action Center](#). Use this tool to customize a [template message](#) to your congressional offices in support of robust funding for housing and homelessness programs in the federal budget.

In addition, you can also urge your members of Congress to support the [Eviction Crisis Act](#), a bipartisan bill that would create a permanent emergency stabilization fund to help families at risk of eviction, the [Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act](#), a bipartisan bill that would expand rental assistance and mobility services to 250,000 families with young children, and other important federal legislation.

Please reach out to Courtney Cooperman, housing advocacy organizer at NLIHC, if you have questions or if you would like to get more involved with NLIHC. Thank you for taking action!

WISCAP has signed on to the Spring into Action Initiative. [Add your organization](#) to a national budget letter. Please have your organization sign-on!

Job Listings!

WISCAP

[Executive Assistant - Madison, WI](#)

The Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council (MMFHC)

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

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

A look at MMFHC's crusade for Fair Lending

-Bethany Sanchez - Senior Administrator, Fair Lending (MMFHC)

My goal as the person who leads the Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council's (MMFHC's) Fair Lending Program is to ensure that all credit-worthy borrowers have equal access to fairly-priced credit. The Fair Lending Program addresses Milwaukee's racial wealth gap in homeownership by working with nonprofit community partners, lenders, financial regulators, and policy-makers to help people of color gain equity in housing. This work occurs with individual organizations as well as via coalitions. Our activities increase homeownership, and combat generations of redlining and discrimination in the home lending market.

As part of the National Community Reinvestment Coalition's annual conference in April, along with other Milwaukeeans, we met with staff from both of our U.S. Senators and staff from Congresswoman Gwen Moore's office and Congressman Bryan Steil's office. We discussed bills related to supporting fair housing, fair lending, affordable housing, and strengthening the Community Reinvestment Act. And we expressed our concerns about a bill that would undermine the independence – and efficacy – of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, an agency that was born out of the foreclosure crisis that started in 2008.

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)

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