



## Badger State Housing Alliance Newsletter

November 2023



For items and dates of subcommittee meetings and archived material please check out our [website](#).

### BSHA Quarterly Recap

Recording: Passcode: 0nE1wMm+

### Important Update

Starting in the new year, BSHA will be consolidating and restructuring our subcommittees! The Innovative Strategies, Affordable Homeownership and Affordable Rental Housing will continue their valuable conversations as part of the new Outreach and Advocacy Committees, in addition to the Steering Committee. We will be discussing more at our December 7th Quarterly Meeting!

If you have any questions as always, please reach out to Marlo and Andy! ([aheidt@wiscap.org](mailto:aheidt@wiscap.org) and [mfields@wiscap.org](mailto:mfields@wiscap.org))

### WHY Badger State Housing Alliance?

We need to build a better system of permanent affordable housing in this country. Every state, county, city, and town needs a better approach to housing the individuals, families, and workers that create dynamic, thriving communities.

Predatory operations like those described in [this article](#) hurt communities to the core, yet a gerrymandered legislature and historically entrenched policies sustain a broken housing ecosystem.

The Badger State Housing Alliance exists to offer alternatives and build a new reality for housing in Wisconsin. We aim to create improved systems for how we finance, approve, and support good, permanent affordable housing that is both energy efficient and provides for individuals who occupy these homes to be able to access to high-quality customized supportive services. Investments in our communities will lead to social and economic returns well beyond the dollars initially invested. Building that effort is our challenge.

BSHA seeks to support a cross-sector effort to improve affordable housing on the national, state, and local levels while creating a “Blueprint for Wisconsin Housing.”

The main BSHA committee meets quarterly to set the agenda for our work. In addition to the main committee, we have a Steering Committee which guides and develops our work plan and an Advocacy and Outreach Committee that assists in the growth the impact of our work.

If you are interested, please join our sub-committees. Spread the word and please get involved!

## **Homelessness Awareness Month**

Speech by Mike Basford - Director of WI Interagency Council on Homelessness

I am grateful for the invitation and for seeing so many of you here today. I'd like to thank you for holding this kickoff event for Homelessness Awareness Month at your State Capitol.

As you heard from the Lieutenant Governor, Wisconsin's homelessness crisis continues, and that should not be tolerated by anybody in this state. The point-in-time numbers you heard from the Lieutenant governor are among the highest in the state in years. The number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness is the highest we've seen since 2012.

One thing that should be very clear for everybody is that homelessness is not just a Madison or a Milwaukee thing. This is a crisis that is happening in communities all over Wisconsin, in every county of this state - Whether it is in the north, south, east or west, whether it's an urban, suburban or rural community, it's affecting people throughout the state. Every year that we continue to not do enough to address the crisis of homelessness is a continuation of missing opportunities to do the right thing for the most vulnerable.

To read more of Mr. Basford's speech, click [here](#)

## Cooperman's Corner: Housing Advocacy Organizer, Courtney Cooperman

### Support Full Funding for Voucher Renewals in Federal Budget



The Senate passed its Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) spending bill for Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) with bipartisan support on November 1. The bill provides an approximately 13% increase in HUD funding over current levels. Because of rising rents, however, [new projections](#) indicate that the Senate bill's proposed funding for Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) would not cover the cost of renewing all existing voucher contracts. [According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#), an estimated 6,000 vouchers would be lost upon turnover. The spending levels in the House's proposed THUD spending bill would mean the loss of 40,000 vouchers upon turnover.

The House is hoping to consider its THUD spending bill the week of November 13 after cancelling a floor vote scheduled for November 7. While the bill did not receive a vote last week, members considered several amendments that would reduce funding to HUD programs or impose needless barriers to accessing HUD assistance. Thanks in large part to the work of advocates across the country who weighed in with their members of Congress, the House voted to reject several harmful amendments to the THUD spending bill, including an amendment that would allow for discrimination against transgender individuals in shelters, an amendment to cut funding for fair housing enforcement, and an amendment to eliminate funding for the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) program.

Congress faces a deadline of Friday, November 17, to enact a continuing resolution (CR) that temporarily extends government funding at current levels. Because both chambers of Congress need more time to reach an agreement on Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) spending bills, Congress must pass a CR to prevent a government shutdown.

Advocates should [reach out to their members of Congress](#) and urge them to enact a budget that includes the maximum possible resources for housing and homelessness programs, and funds top priority programs that serve the lowest-income people. The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) is calling on Congress to enact:

- Full funding to renew all existing contracts for the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) and Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA) programs.
- Full funding for public housing operations and repairs.
- The Senate's proposed funding for Homeless Assistance Grants.
- The Senate's proposed \$20 million in funding for legal assistance to prevent evictions, which the House bill would eliminate.

- The House’s proposed funding for Native housing, which would increase funding for Native housing programs by 40%.

Visit NLIHC’s Legislative [Action Center](#) to [send a message](#) in support these priorities and [join a sign-on letter](#) to call for maximum possible resources for housing and community development programs.

Please reach out to Courtney Cooperman, housing advocacy organizer, at [ccooperman@nlihc.org](mailto:ccooperman@nlihc.org) with questions.



## Curds of Wisdom



### [REGISTER HERE](#)

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](#). Time and date....

In November we continued our fall series on ***“Good Development, Making it Happen in your Community”***, with a conversation about messaging around affordable housing.

In December's edition join **Kelly Westlund** - Housing Educator at [UW-Extension](#) and **Nicole Solheim** - Vice President of [Cinnaire](#) for an exciting conversation about rural affordable housing opportunities and challenges. **Anne Michels**, Social Impact Entrepreneur and founder of [Green Pastures Living, Inc](#) will moderate this exciting discussion.

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



## Saint John's Project

Peter Beeson - Pastor at St. John's Lutheran, Madison

St. John's Lutheran Church is tearing down its current building to build 110 units of affordable housing, plus worship and community space. The project will house 130 apartments, including 20 at market rate. This will create mixed-income, mixed-use affordable housing **for people working in restaurants, retail, and service sector jobs**, as well as folks working for non-profits, entry-level government jobs, and living off social security. Having economic diversity within the building will allow people to stay in their same home even if they get a promotion, get married, or their income declines.

In addition to the 130 apartments, 110 of which will be affordable for households earning between 30 to 60% AMI, **the majority of the first floor will be available for nonprofit, neighborhood and community groups** who want to hold 12 step meetings, pay-what-you-can yoga and other wellness classes, book clubs, cooking groups, neighborhood meetings, and a staging space for rallies and groups organizing on Capitol Square. All bathrooms on the first floor will be ADA accessible, single stall, all gender restrooms. Outreach LGBT Community Center and Briarpatch Youth Services are two community groups, along with St. John's Emergency Fund and other existing ministries who will use space on the first floor, and we are in conversations with more.

This project, while exciting, is not without its tears, as tearing down a building people have loved and been married, baptized, and buried in brings out all sorts of emotions. However, it's the congregation's way of putting its money where it's mouth is and **living in to its values**.

**You** as our colleagues in erasing poverty **are invited to give to the capital campaign** to make affordable housing and community space a reality.

While we've received most of the 46.5 million dollars needed for this project from WHEDA, the Dane County Affordable Housing Fund, the City of Madison Affordable Housing Fund, and other smaller funders and angel investors, there is a **3-million-dollar gap** that needs to be **covered by the More for Madison capital campaign**.

Thus far the congregation has raised \$650,000 toward the More for Madison campaign, plus donating our land to the project, and **we need your help to raise 3 million dollars and make this project a reality**. All funds received for the redevelopment will go toward this project and not any religious services. St. John's is a 501c3 and all donations are tax deductible.

Contributions may be made via check or online gift. Checks should be made out to St. John's Lutheran Church, with, "Redevelopment" in the memo line. Checks should be mailed to our PO Box:

St. John's Lutheran Church  
PO Box 260199  
Madison WI 53726

You may also give online at [www.stjohnsmadison.org/more](http://www.stjohnsmadison.org/more)

Questions, contact Peter Beeson at [peterb@stjohnsmadison.org](mailto:peterb@stjohnsmadison.org) I am in the office on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.

## **Job Opportunity**

**AARP:** [Paid Internship](#)

**Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council is hiring a [Program Services Coordinator II](#) – Madison, WI**

## **Children and Family Futures: Seeking Applicants for the Reaching Rural Initiative!**

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA); the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and the State Justice Institute (SJI), the Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR) is excited to share this solicitation for Reaching Rural: Advancing Collaborative Solutions.

## **OSAH Campaign Video**

The National Low-Income Housing Coalition just released a [campaign video](#) for Opportunity Starts at Home. Once you have completed watching the video we invite you to check out the OSAH [website](#) to find out more about the campaign and how BSHA is part of a national, multi-sector, affordable housing initiative.

## **NCAP Policy Agenda**

The National Community Action Partnership has built a comprehensive [policy agenda](#). Check it out especially their housing policies! Imagine the possibilities

## **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.

[Learn more about BSHA](#)

[Subscribe to BSHA Newsletter](#)

