

Housing in Action Mobilization Plan to Action 2018

Why It Matters

- Close to 100 families are experiencing acute homelessness (staying in emergency shelter, or in a place not meant for human habitation i.e. cars, outdoors, or abandoned buildings).
- Over 600 families are currently experiencing housing insecurity (not staying in shelter but are in temporary and uncertain living situations, i.e. doubled up with friends or self-paying at a hotel).
- Children who are homeless are twice as likely to go hungry than other children, they experience three times the rate of emotional and behavioral problems, such as anxiety, depression, sleep problems, withdrawal and aggression; are more than twice as likely as others to repeat a school grade, be expelled or suspended, or drop out of high school, and one quarter have witnessed acts of violence within their family.
- It costs 66% less (\$12,500 compared to \$36,000) to provide a family housing with services for a year compared to cost of sheltering for a year.
- Housing is considered to be unaffordable when it consumes more than 30 percent of a family budget. Many homeless families previously had been or housing insecure families currently are paying between 50% and 75% of their income in rent.
- Five of six food pantry users spend over a third of their income on rent; 90% are food insecure.
- In order to address the affordable housing gap in Dane County, 1,000 new affordable units need be built every year for the next 26 years.

Goal

Stabilize families through direct access to affordable housing and quality case management.

Promising/Best Practices and Research

- Families served by Housing First have 80% housing stability, compared to 37% of those served in shelters.
- Early identification of families at risk of becoming homeless to provide eviction prevention services or affordable housing and financial management assistance.
- Low income families with ready access to surplus food can decrease their monthly food-related costs by \$384, thereby effectively creating an informal rent subsidy.
- Increasing the supply of affordable housing.
- 2-generation strategies, those that support the parents/adults in the child's lives as well as the child's development, have substantial impact to improve children's educational outcomes, increasing the earnings of adults, and providing resources for low-income families to overcome barriers to educational and economic success.

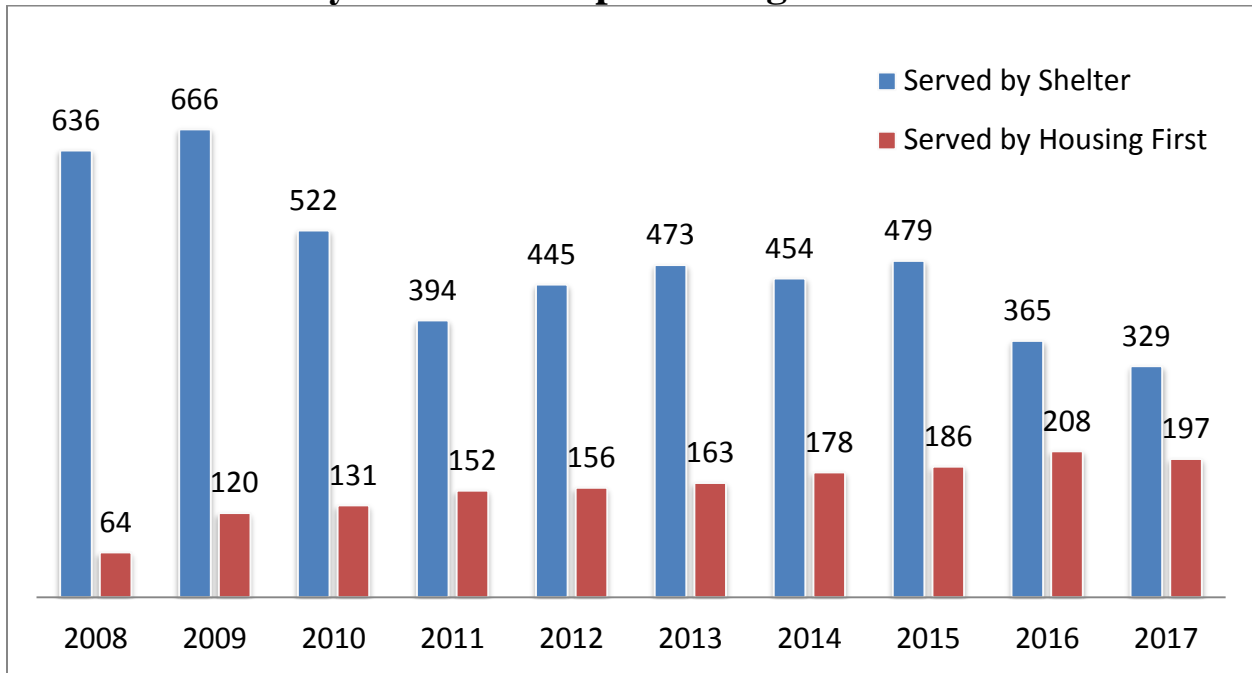
2018 Community Impact → Proposed Investment **\$2,150,805**

- Stabilize 225 families through housing programs, moving them from shelter to stable long term housing solutions.
- Serve 2,300 families with quality case management, including eviction prevention .
- Decrease school mobility through housing stability by providing 40 families (with 80 children) eviction prevention services specifically designed to keep children in their own school.
- Housing case management training for service providers will continue using nationally acclaimed best practices, with emphasis this year on progressive engagement and diversion.

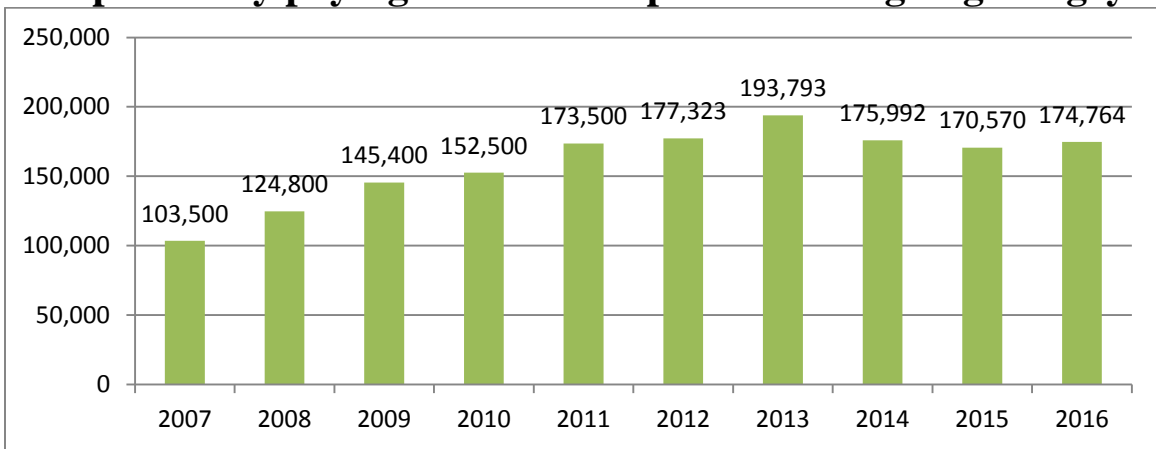
2017 Progress

- 210 families placed in Housing First (with 82% stability across all housing programs).
- 1801 families received case management to find new or stabilize in current housing, including eviction prevention.
- Increased ability to track data on serving families at risk of homelessness in the Early Childhood Zones of Leopold, North Madison and Sun Prairie.
- Increased conversation around affordable housing development and inventory in conjunction with planning phases of a United Way Affordable Housing Fund.
- Hosted case manager trainings (motivational interviewing & rapid rehousing) and community engagement events (Trauma of Homelessness in Early Childhood Event) and UW Affordable Housing "Big Event" on housing.
- Maintained all grant funding, with slight increase to Predolin (\$850,000) and steady funding for Siemer (\$50,000), Dept of Justice (\$116,667), and privately funded Housing Locator grant (\$90,000) for a total of \$1,106,667

**Housing First is stabilizing over half of
Dane County's families experiencing acute homelessness.**



Families with children are consistently visiting food pantries. Access to food can keep a family paying rent and keep them from going hungry.



In summary, by providing quality case management and direct access to affordable housing for families facing homelessness, we will stabilize families and reduce our reliance on shelter as the first line of defense.

Our key strategies to implement this plan are:

- 1. Direct access to permanent housing***
- 2. Quality case management***
- 3. Landlord and tenant connections***
- 4. Access to food***