

Preventing Homelessness in La Crosse

A Joint Project of La Crosse County and Community Housing
Service Providers of the La Crosse Collaborative to End
Homelessness

Timeline

**November
2017 – July
2018**

- Original Request of County
- Community Providers Write Program

**August 2018
–
September
2018**

- Writing and Finalizing Contracts with Community Service Providers

**October
2018**

- Training Staff
- Begin Assessments
- Begin Case Conferencing

**November
2018 –
January
2019**

- Enrolling Clients
- Providing Assistance

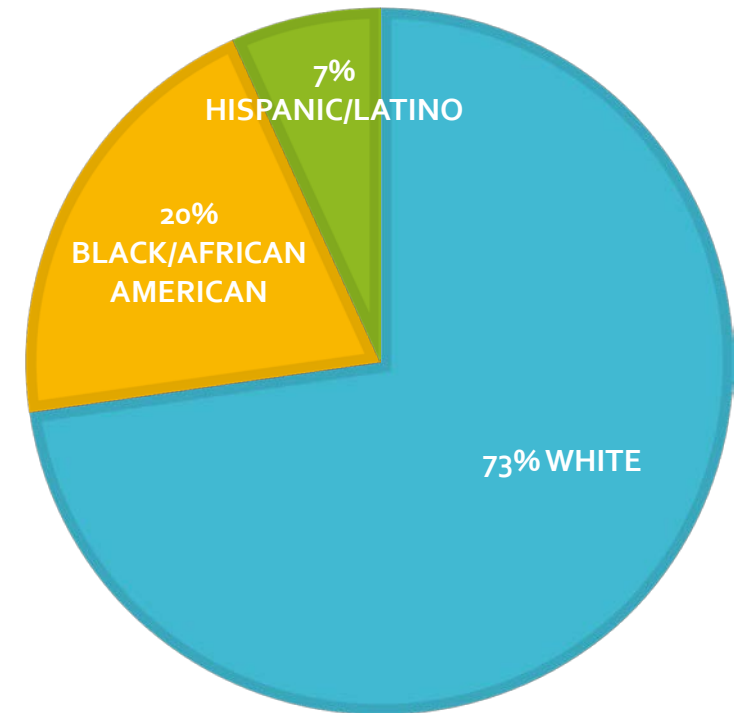
WHO WE SERVED

TOTAL NUMBER SERVED

- **43 Households**
- **105 Individuals**
 - **56 Adults/49 Children**

*33% of Households
have experienced
Domestic Violence*

RACE/ETHNICITY

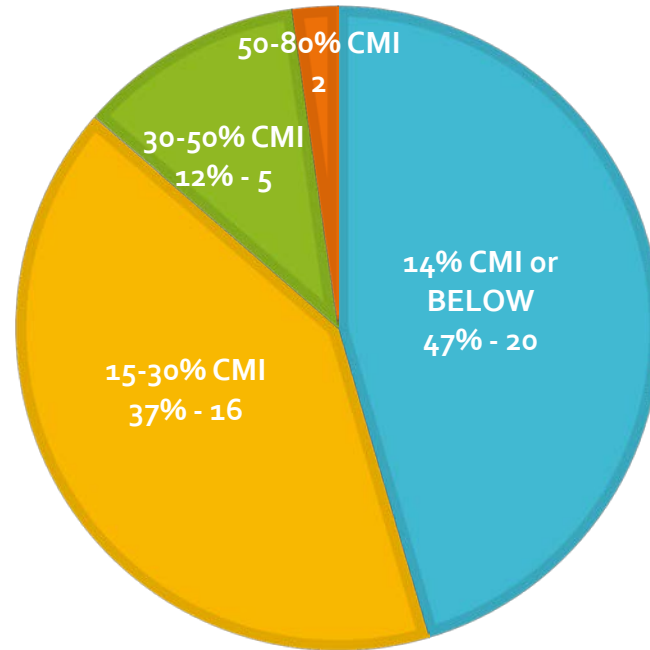
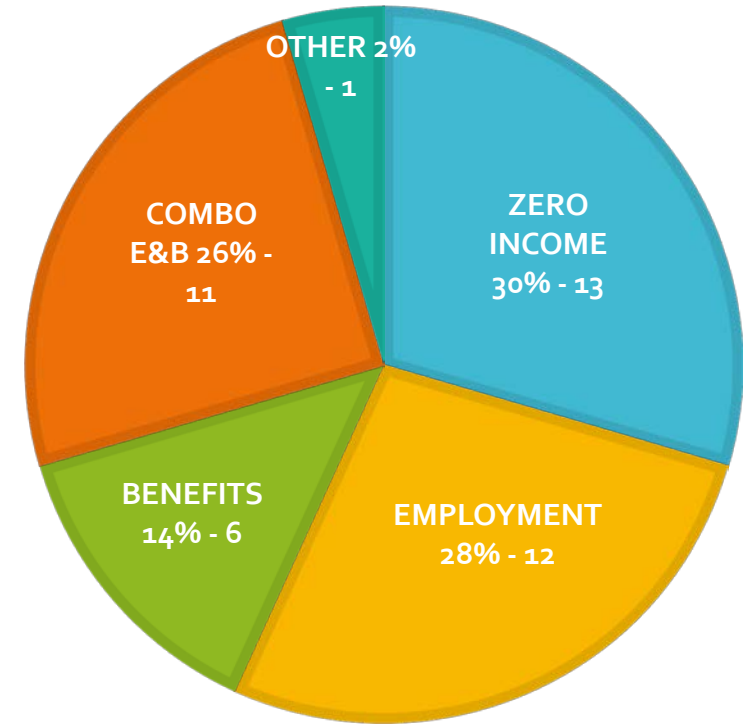


HOUSEHOLD INCOME

% COUNTY MEDIAN INCOME (CMI)

	1 Person	2 Persons	3 Persons
15% CMI	\$7,600.00	\$8,700.00	\$10,390.00
30% CMI	\$15,200.00	\$17,400.00	\$20,780.00
50% CMI	\$25,350.00	\$29,000.00	\$32,600.00

TYPE OF INCOME



WHO WE SERVED

WHO WE SERVED

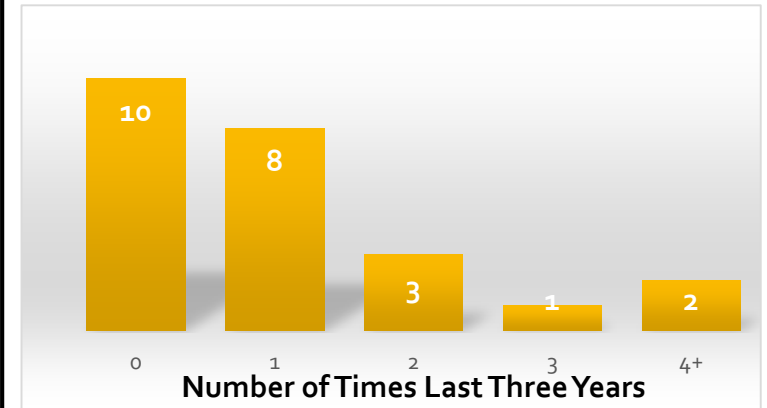
PREVIOUSLY ASSISTED

*WITH PREVENTION FUNDING
FROM ANY COMMUNITY
SOURCE*

- **17 HOUSEHOLDS**
- Self-reported as well as system checked
- Data not available from sources not reporting in WI HMIS (ServicePoint)

PREVIOUSLY HOMELESS

- **24 HOUSEHOLDS**



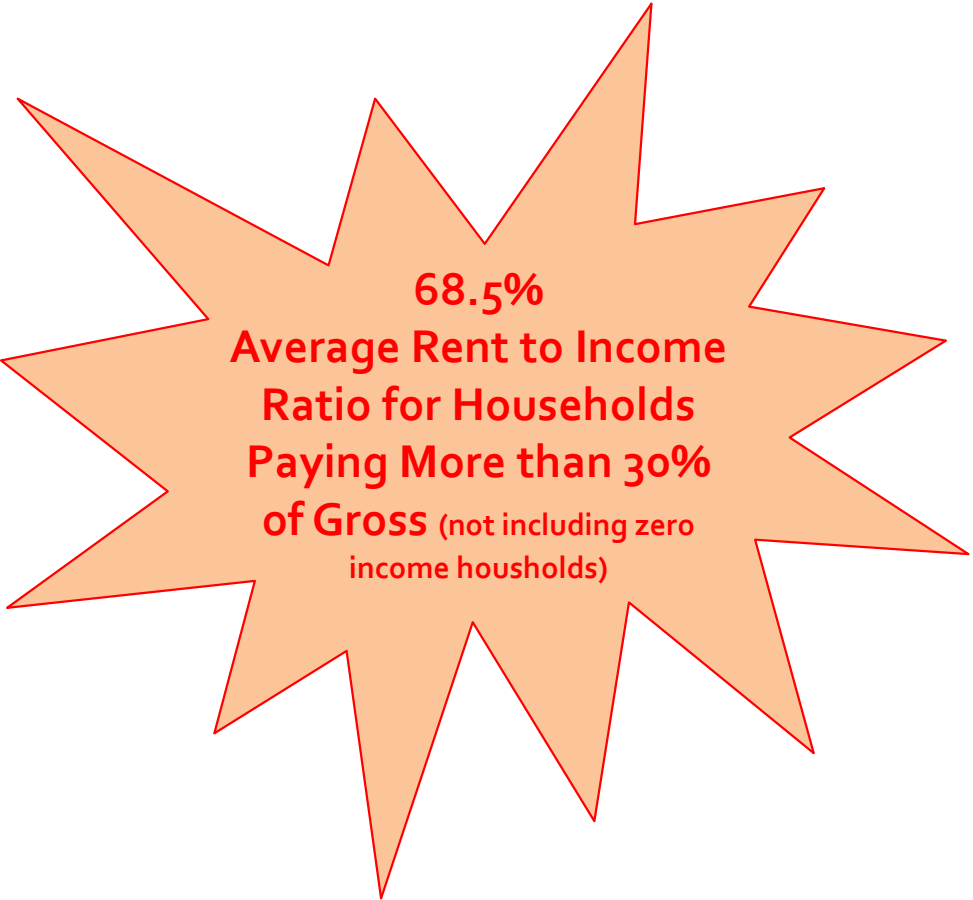
- System checked but mostly determined by self-reporting
 - Geographic limits on system checks
 - Lack of reliable data particularly households with children

WHO WE SERVED

FAIR MARKET RENT

STUDIO	ONE BEDROOM	TWO BEDROOM	THREE BEDROOM	FOUR BEDROOM
\$531	\$624	\$826	\$1140	\$1451

- Only **4/43** Households are paying ABOVE FMR
- **79%** of Households are paying MORE than 30% of their Gross Income (including zero income households)
- **49%** of Households are paying MORE than 30% of their Gross Income (NOT including zero income households)



68.5%
Average Rent to Income
Ratio for Households
Paying More than 30%
of Gross (not including zero
income households)

HOW WE SERVED

- ***FLEXIBILITY*** to meet the needs of clients
- Key Features:
 - ✓ Focus on Supportive Services based on Housing First Case Management
 - ✓ Duration of services matches needs
 - ✓ Financial assistance applied to resolve crisis and increase likelihood of sustainability

HOW WE SERVED

Assess

- Best Practice – Two Meetings
- Complete enrollment documents, obtain verification, and discuss plan
- Communicate with Landlord

Case Conference

- Review Cases and Assign Level of Service
- Review Extensions of Service
- Discuss Best Practice and Potential Modifications of Program

Serve

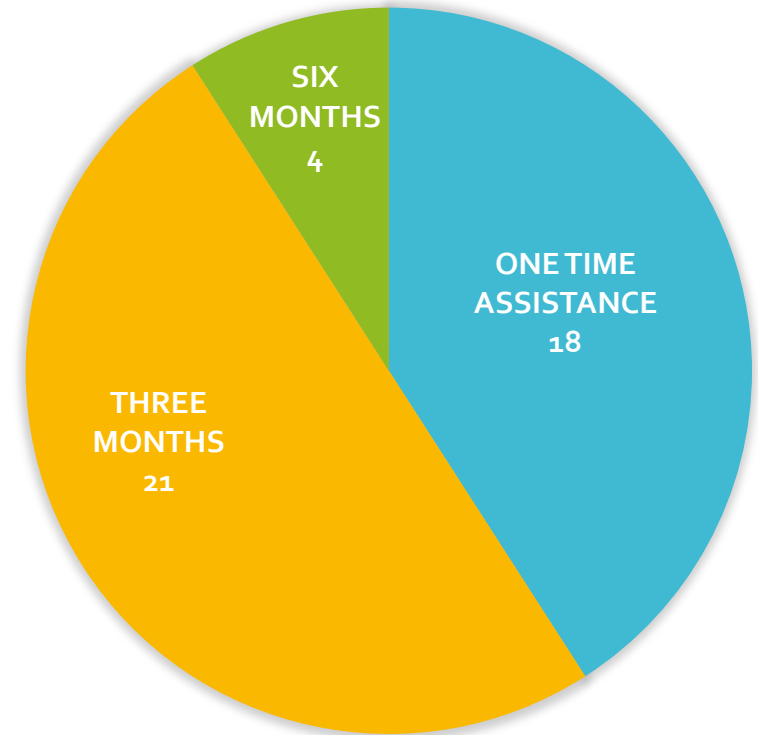
- Provide Case Management and Financial Assistance
- Follow-Up after Discharge

HOW WE SERVED

ENROLLMENT GUIDELINES

- Universal Assessment Tools
- Case Conferencing
- Best Practices
- Initial Assistance Determination
- Extension of Service

ENROLLMENT LEVELS



HOW WE SERVED

WHAT WE ACTUALLY PAID FOR

- **99.5%** RENT, ARREARS, LATE FEES
- **.5%** LEGAL FEES

WHY WAS THIS ALL WE PAID FOR?

- Community perception and knowledge of what is available
- Marketing impact
 - No marketing done to date
 - Plans to begin in 2019 with a focus on UPSTREAM prevention

HOW WE SERVED

- **GOALS**

- **23** Households are working to Increase Employment
- **17** Households are working to Access Benefits such as FoodShare, Healthcare, Unemployment Compensation, W2, Social Security

- **REFERRALS**

14	Workforce Development/DVR
10	La Crosse County Economic Support
6	La Crosse County ISRS including CCS and CSP
5	La Crosse County Human Services (other)
1	La Crosse County ADRC for Long Term Care

IMPACT

We Made a Difference



IMPACT

HUD Categories Defined

- *Category 1* – “Literally” Homeless
- *Category 2* – Imminently Homeless
 - Nighttime residence will be lost within 14 days of application for assistance verified/documented; and
 - No subsequent residence can be identified; and
 - Household lacks resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing
- *Category 3* – Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes
- *Category 4* – Fleeing Domestic Violence

IMPACT

IMPACT ON SHELTER AND HOMELESSNESS MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS BY CATEGORY

- **40** *Category 2 – At Imminent Risk of Homelessness*
- **3** *Category 3 – Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes*

FACTORS AFFECTING MEASUREMENT

- Not enough data to measure true impact on shelter/homelessness management systems
- Resiliency of clients

IMPACT

- **95%** of One Time Assistance Clients have retained housing – **SUCCESS SO FAR!**
- Too early to determine outcomes for remainder of clients



THINGS
WE'VE
LEARNED
ALONG THE
WAY...

- Refined guidelines and set best practices for enrollment
- Resolved issues with application of subsidy for households whose rent was calculated to be affordable
- Shared strategies and change in provision of service
 - ***THANK YOU*** to all participating staff and agencies

THE "LIST"

- ***WHAT IT IS***
 - HUD directed, part of Coordinated Entry System
 - Prioritizes clients based on need as determined by a universal assessment tool
 - Data Tool
- ***HOW WE CHOSE TO DO IT***
 - Due to the nature of prevention services clients were enrolled as they came through the door for the following reasons:
 - 197 Households on Prevention Prioritization List as of 10/1/18
 - Many HH's on list for more than 90 days
 - List covers four county geographic area
- ***WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE GOING FORWARD***
 - List follow-up (clean-up)
 - Work with community prevention providers to determine appropriate use of List in future

FUNDING

RECAP PRIOR TO AVAILABILITY OF COUNTY FUNDING:

Not much data available to accurately estimate total need

- Historically, minimal federal dollars received and disbursed
- Non-federal dollars not being captured in WI HMIS (ServicePoint)
- Client need not being captured when no funding was available

FUNDING

PROJECTED EXPENDITURE as of 1/31/2019

- **\$75,356.48**
- Based on amounts committed for one-time assistance plus ongoing subsidy

AVERAGE EXPENDITURE PER HOUSEHOLD

1 Person	2 Persons	3 Persons	4 Persons	5 Persons
\$1,436.43	\$2,650.33	\$1,788.20	\$1,314.98	\$2,612.35

ACTUAL EXPENDITURE as of 1/31/2019

- **\$44,622.42**
- Based on invoices submitted by agencies to La Crosse County
- Additional amounts have been spent but not yet invoiced

FUNDING

- **WHAT WE'VE DONE TO KEEP SERVING:**
 - Continued assessment, referral to list and obtaining documentation for enrollment
 - Continued provision of supportive services
 - Budget counseling
 - Employment counseling
 - Negotiation with landlords
 - Referral to other appropriate supportive services
 - Referral to legal services
 - *LCEH Steering Committee approved use of **an additional \$25k in match funding** for continued Direct Aid disbursement*

FUNDING

2018 Budget

\$50,000	La Crosse County Direct Aid
\$25,000	Catholic Charities Dedicated Staff
\$25,000	The Salvation Army Dedicated Staff
\$100,000	TOTAL

2018 Match



\$50,000 – Franciscan
Sisters of Perpetual
Adoration

FUNDING

2019 Budget and Request

\$175,000	La Crosse County Direct Aid
\$25,000	LCEH Match Direct Aid
\$150,000	Dedicated Staff
\$350,000	TOTAL

2019 Match

\$25,000	2018 Gundersen (already in use)
\$25,000	2018 Catholic Charities Staff Match
\$25,000	2018 The Salvation Army Staff Match
\$25,000	2019 Gundersen
\$75,000	2018 – 2020 Mayo
\$175,000	TOTAL



If organizations take action together
as a coordinated team, with one shared goal,
we WILL END ALL Homelessness!

