



Dane County Homeless Services Consortium Education and Advocacy Platform

The Homeless Services Consortium Education and Advocacy Committee proposes that the Homeless Services Consortium advocate for the following to support those experiencing sheltered, unsheltered, and doubled-up homelessness, and self-paying in hotels. The Education and Advocacy Committee will review Dane Forward: A Five-Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness to determine where advocacy efforts align with listed strategies and connect with responsible parties on advocacy items.

1. Increased number of units of **affordable housing**, including supportive housing, in Dane County, especially the number of units designated for individuals at or below 30% of area median income, as well as for policies that reduce barriers and increase access to affordable housing for those experiencing homelessness.
2. Increased funding for **eviction prevention** services in Dane County.
3. Increased funding to expand and improve **shelter services**, including case management, housing navigation, and move-in assistance. Address gaps in shelter services including but not limited to shelter for families, couples without children and for parents under age 18.
4. Funding for homeless services agencies to **build capacity** within their organizations to enable them to innovate, expand, and improve efficacy.
5. Reduced carceral responses to behaviors related to homelessness, mental health symptoms and/or substance use and increased funding for **mental health and substance use treatment** options that are accessible to individuals experiencing homelessness.
6. Expanded **cross -sector partnerships** to increase and diversify funding for programs and services that will make homelessness brief, rare and non-recurring.