

+ 2024 Update: Lived Experience Council of Dane County +

Presented to the City Council Homeless Issues Committee

10/7/2024

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Introduction to the Lived Experience Council (LEC)

- **Mission:** The Lived Experience Council (LEC) is committed to ensuring that individuals who have experienced homelessness are actively included in decision-making processes. We work to remove barriers to inclusion by advocating for equity within the Dane County Homeless Services Consortium and the Continuum of Care. Through collaboration and a focus on racial equity, we aim to reshape policies and programs to better serve marginalized communities and eliminate barriers to accessing homeless services.

"Nothing about us without us!"

Lived Experience Council Leadership & Engagement

Development & Rewriting:

Redesigning case management engagement strategies as part of rewriting the written standards.

Training Facilitation:

Supporting and facilitating in-person training sessions for case managers.

Re-imagining Coordinated Entry:

Facilitating small group discussions to innovate and improve the coordinated entry process.

Board Nomination:

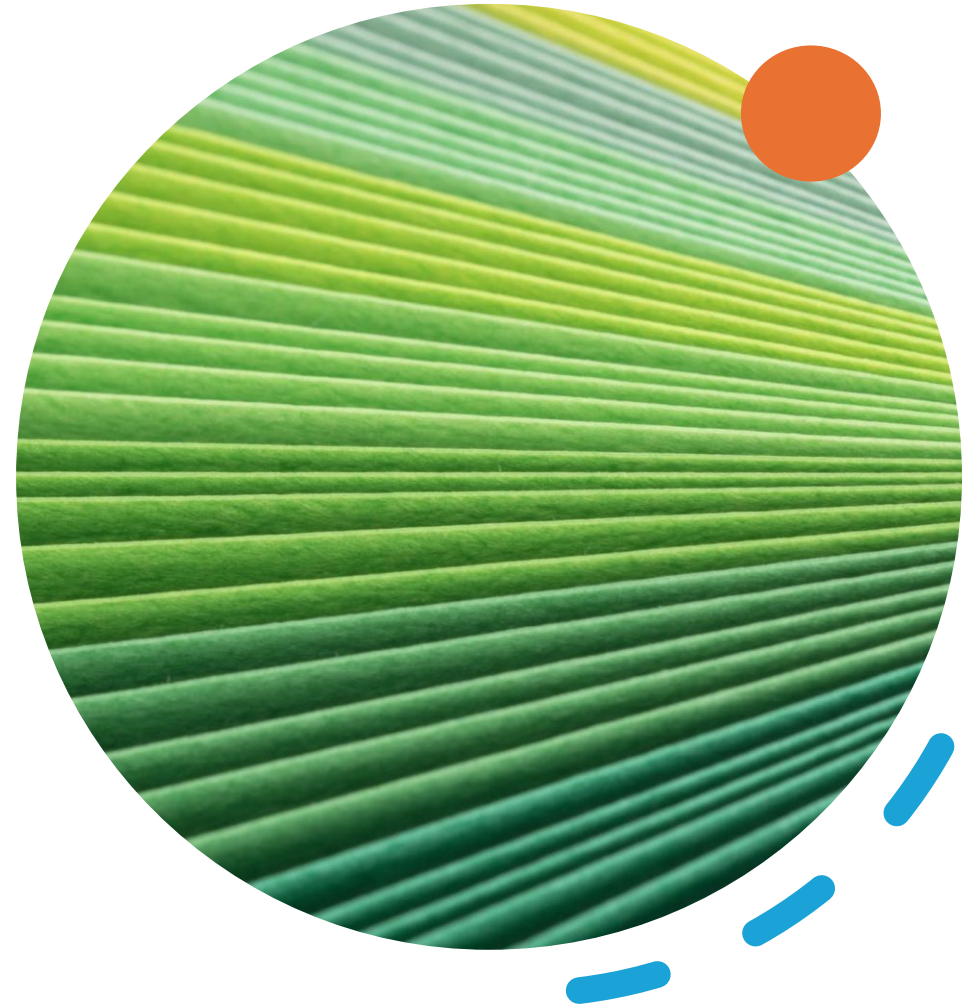
Soliciting and recommending new board members.

CoC Funding Review:

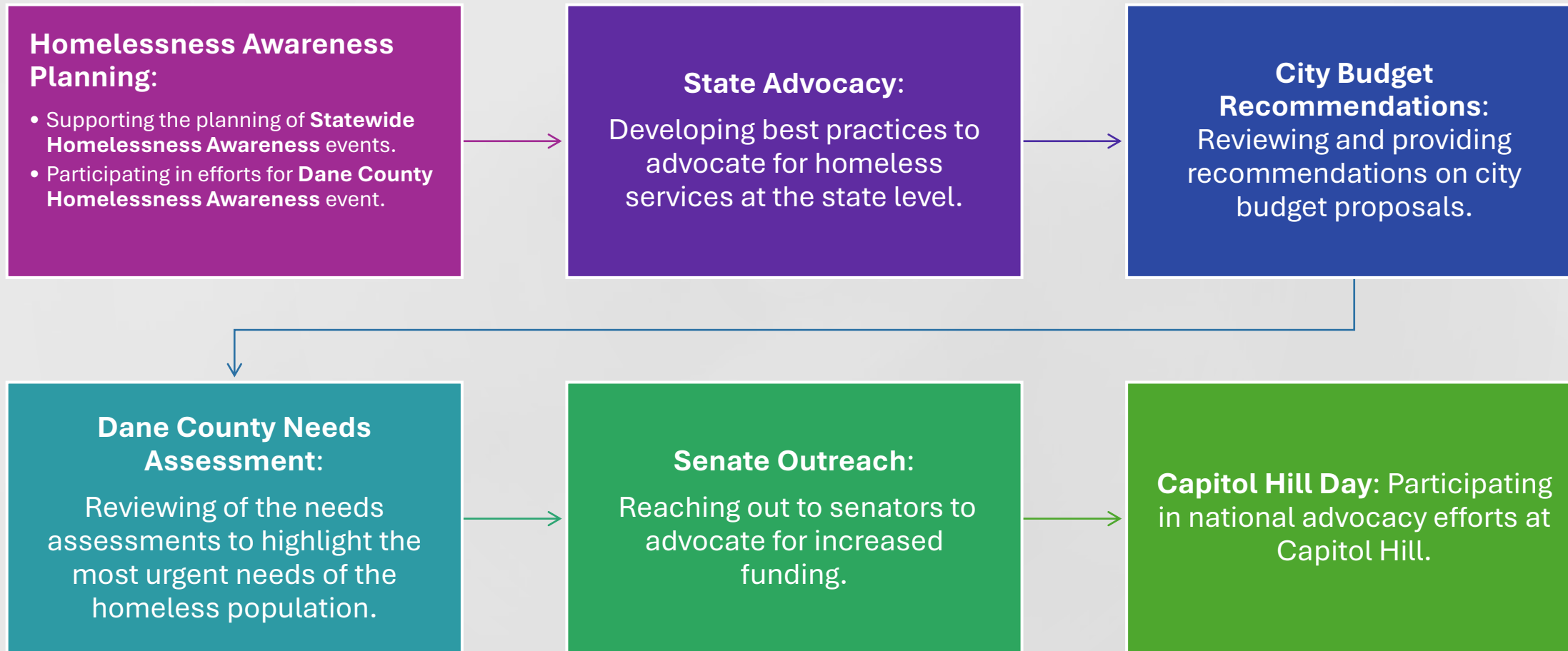
Reviewing, scoring, and interviewing agencies with lived experience-specific questions in the CoC funding competition.

CoC Review Committee:

Participating in funding decisions that impact homelessness services in the community.



Advocacy & Community Engagement



Challenges and Barriers Faced by the LEC

Funding Issues/Compensation Delays:
The Lived Experience Council (LEC) has **not received compensation since February 2024.**

Compensation Gap & Volunteer Burnout:

7+ months without compensation has led to exhaustion among members, many of whom have been volunteering **extensive time** without any financial support.

Limited Resources & Administrative Support:

The lack of **administrative funding** has created barriers to accessing tools, software, and resources needed to efficiently carry out the council's mission.

Scaling projects and coordinating actions has become increasingly difficult without **adequate operational support.**

Strain on Project Growth:

The potential for **scaling** impactful projects like case management engagement strategies or homelessness awareness campaigns has been **severely limited** without proper financial backing.

Impact of Lack of Funding on LEC's Work

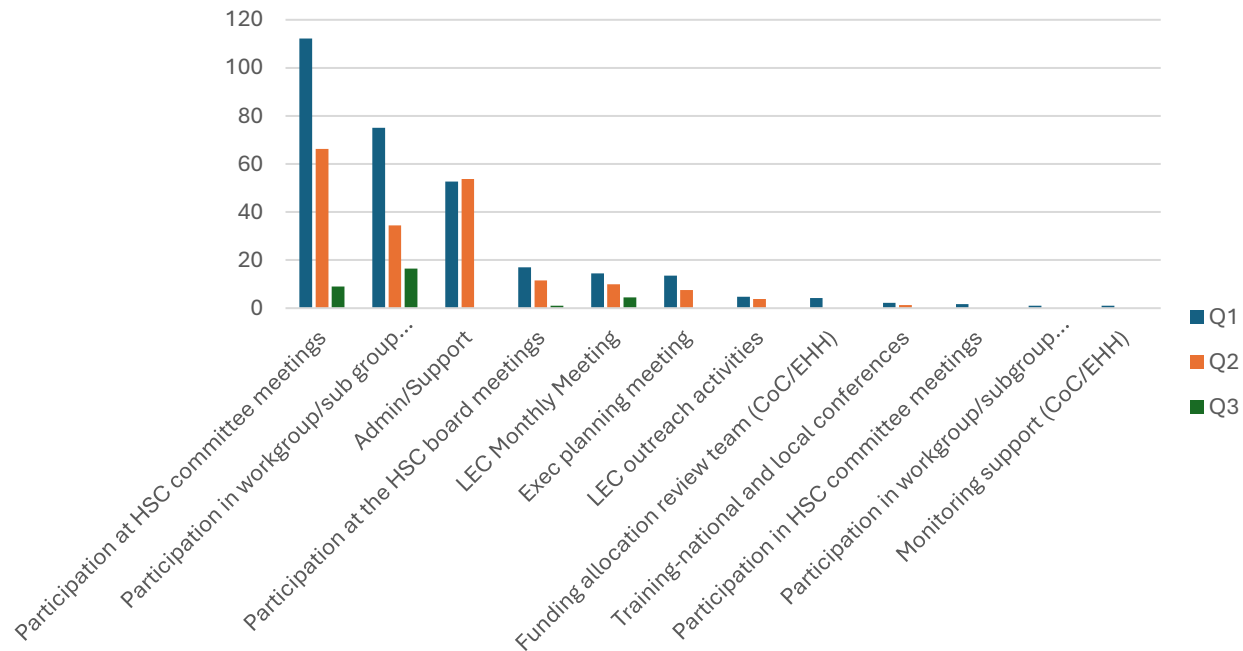


Reduction in
Activities

Member
Retention

Future
Projects on
Hold

Sum of Hours Spent	Jan -Mar	Apr-June	July-Sept	
Activity	Q1	Q2	Q3	Grand Total
Participation at HSC committee meetings	112.25	66.25	9	187.5
Participation in workgroup/sub group committee meetings	75	34.5	16.5	126
Admin/Support	52.75	53.75		106.5
Participation at the HSC board meetings	17	11.5	1	29.5
LEC Monthly Meeting	14.5	10	4.5	29
Exec planning meeting	13.5	7.5		21
LEC outreach activities	4.75	3.75		8.5
Funding allocation review team (CoC/EHH)	4.25			4.25
Training-national and local conferences	2.25	1.25		3.5
Participation in HSC committee meetings	1.75			1.75
Participation in workgroup/subgroup committee	1			1
Monitoring support (CoC/EHH)	1			1
Grand Total	300	188.5	31	519.5



***Hrs recorded through 8.13.24

Immediate Funding

To sustain the Lived Experience Council (LEC), we require a minimum of \$40,000.

This would allow us to properly compensate members and fund ongoing projects that contribute to the council's mission and community impact.

Long-Term Support & Sustainable Funding Streams

Propose that the board considers adjusting the Treasurer's Role or adding a new seat responsible for consulting with C4CS to apply for and oversee grant opportunities.

This role would ensure sustainable funding for both the LEC and the Homeless Services Consortium (HSC) as a whole.

Sponsorship Opportunity or Participant Sponsorship Program:

I have currently been seeking agency sponsorships for current or former participants to join HSC committees or the board, and asking agencies if they will be willing to compensate them for their involvement.

Funds would go directly to the participants to support 1-2 hours of their time for meaningful engagement in a committee of the participant choosing.

Partnerships for Funding:

We aim to develop partnerships with **local businesses**, **government grants**, and **other nonprofits** to create diverse funding sources and have been leaning on the BOD for this support.

The Road Home has partnered with the Lived Experience Council (LEC) by allocating a percentage of their donations to directly support the LEC. This partnership serves as a model, and we are actively encouraging more agencies to adopt similar approaches to help sustain and expand our efforts.

Call to Action and Support Needed



We strongly urge the Homeless Issues Committee to prioritize funding the LEC. Your support is crucial to ensure that individuals with lived experience continue to have a meaningful voice in shaping solutions and policies around

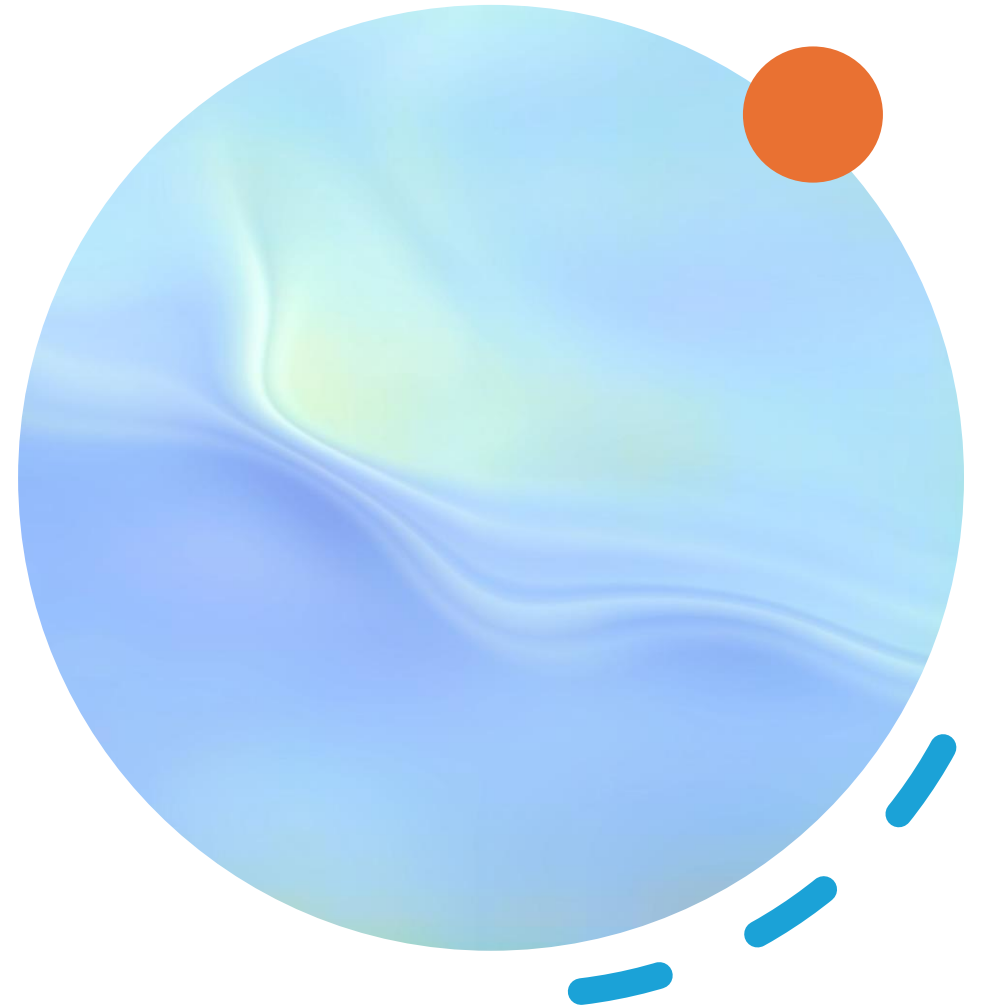


Without funding, the LEC is at risk of losing momentum. The council's ability to sustain projects and engage members is severely compromised by the lack of compensation and resources.



Immediate funding of **\$40,000** is required to:

Compensate members for their contributions.
Support ongoing projects that directly impact the homelessness crisis



Conclusion

Summary: LEC members have dedicated hundreds of volunteer hours since compensation ceased in February 2024.

Each member has spent countless hours on meetings, engagement strategies, community outreach, and planning sessions.

Significant work has been done on: Case Management Engagement Strategies.

Re-imagining Coordinated Entry.

Participating in Homelessness Awareness Campaigns at both the state and county level.

Supporting Dane County Needs Assessment and advocating for city budget recommendations.

Q&A

