

**CITY OF MADISON:  
Planning and Community and  
Economic Development Dept:  
CD Division**

## Memo

To: CDBG Committee Members  
 From: Sue Wallinger, CDBG Office  
 Date: June 11, 2013  
 Re: Homelessness and Response - Comparison of Similar Sized Cities to Madison/Dane County

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At the request of the Committee, I compared Madison/Dane County with communities of similar size in an effort to see how Dane County compares in the number of homeless, shelter/housing available and dollars spent. Attached you will find a table that includes data from nine communities. Eight of the nine communities are in the Midwest. Six communities range in population from 442,000 – 544,000 and include: Toledo/Lucas County, Ohio; Ann Arbor/Washtenaw County, Michigan; Omaha, Nebraska/Council Bluffs, Iowa; St. Paul/Ramsey County, Minnesota; Madison/Dane County and Lincoln/Lancaster County, Nebraska. Three other communities also appear in the table either because of their proximity to Madison (Rockford/Winnebago/Boone Counties, Illinois and Milwaukee County, Wisconsin) or because of local interest in a specific response to their homeless issues (Eugene/Springfield/Lane County, Oregon).

Data was collected for each community on:

- Number of sheltered and unsheltered homeless families, single adults and unaccompanied youth (January 2012 Point in Time);
- Number of chronically homeless sheltered and unsheltered families and single adults (January 2012 Point in Time);
- Number of emergency shelter, transitional housing and supportive permanent housing beds/units available that serve homeless households (January 2012 HIC);
- Percent of population with income below the poverty rate (2011 data);
- Amount of CoC Homeless Assistance Grant funds allocated by HUD for housing and services (2013 awards); and
- The amount of HUD funds per each homeless individual counted in the community's PIT count.

For those Midwest communities comparable in size to Dane County:

Toledo/Lucas County, Ohio has the highest percentage of population below the poverty rate at 23.3%, while Dane County has the smallest percentage at 12.8%. While Lucas County is smaller than Dane County, Lucas County has a higher number of sheltered and unsheltered homeless counted during the January PIT. Lucas County also had more supported permanent housing units than all other Midwestern jurisdictions except for St. Paul/Ramsey County, Minnesota.

Omaha/Council Bluffs counted the most sheltered individuals during the January PIT with 1,508 compared to Dane County's 659 sheltered homeless. Omaha/Council Bluffs also had the fewest unsheltered persons reported with 22.

Ann Arbor/Washtenaw County, Michigan had the fewest number of homeless with 381; compared to the number of shelter and transitional housing beds, they were at 93% at their capacity. Madison is the only community that the number of sheltered homeless exceeded their year round capacity of shelter and transitional housing beds.

St. Paul/Ramsey County, Minnesota and Lincoln/Lancaster County, Nebraska have the next highest number of unsheltered persons on the January PIT. St. Paul had the highest number of chronically homeless persons and the highest number of supported permanent housing units with 2,106 which far exceeds Dane County's 818 units.

Omaha/Council Bluffs had the highest percentage of single adults (71%) among their sheltered and unsheltered homeless population compared to Dane County's 57% single adults.

Rockford area counted the most unaccompanied youth with 33 (22 were unsheltered) followed by Eugene with 23 (15 were unsheltered) and St. Paul with 22 unaccompanied youth all sheltered.

Eugene/Springfield/Lane County, Oregon was added to this list when Occupy Madison advocates chose Opportunity Village as a model for a program to replicate in Dane County. Opportunity Village is a collection of very small individual living spaces with congregate support structures. Comparing Eugene's homeless issues to Dane County, however, shows a very different picture. While the greater-Eugene has 130,000 fewer people, the January 2012 PIT data shows 1,406 unsheltered individuals (69 families and 1,128 single adults), compared to 77 (1 family & 68 single adults) in Madison. Eugene reported 586 chronically homeless individuals on the one day count compared to 95 in Madison. Eugene has more emergency shelter beds than Dane County, but reported 300 supportive permanent housing units for homeless compared to 818 units in Dane County.

In summary (includes all communities reviewed):

Highest Percent Below Poverty Rate	Highest Number of Total Homeless PIT	Highest Number of Unsheltered Homeless	Highest Percent Homeless Families w/ children	Largest Number of Supportive Permanent Housing Units	CoC Allocation Per Individual 2012 PIT Count
Milwaukee, WI 29.4%	Eugene, OR 2,057	Eugene, OR 1,406	St. Paul, MN 48%	St. Paul, MN 2,106	Ann Arbor, MI \$10,703
Toledo, OH 23.3%	Omaha, NE 1,530	Rockford, IL 202	Ann Arbor, MI 44%	Milwaukee, WI 1,140	St Paul, MN \$4,478
Rockford, IL 19.1%	Milwaukee, WI 1,432	Toledo, OH 137	Rockford, IL 44%	Toledo, OH 1,037	Milwaukee, WI \$7,332
St. Paul, MN 17.7%	St. Paul, MN 1,218	Lincoln, NE 125	Madison, WI 43%	Madison, WI 818	Toledo, OH \$4,329
Eugene, OR 17.4%	Lincoln, NE 981	St. Paul, MN 111	Lincoln, NE 38%	Omaha, NE 538	Madison, WI \$4,089
Madison, WI 12.8%	Madison, WI 736	Madison, WI 77	Madison, WI 43%	Madison, WI 818	Madison, WI \$4,089