

TWO YEAR UPDATE:

Pathways Home.

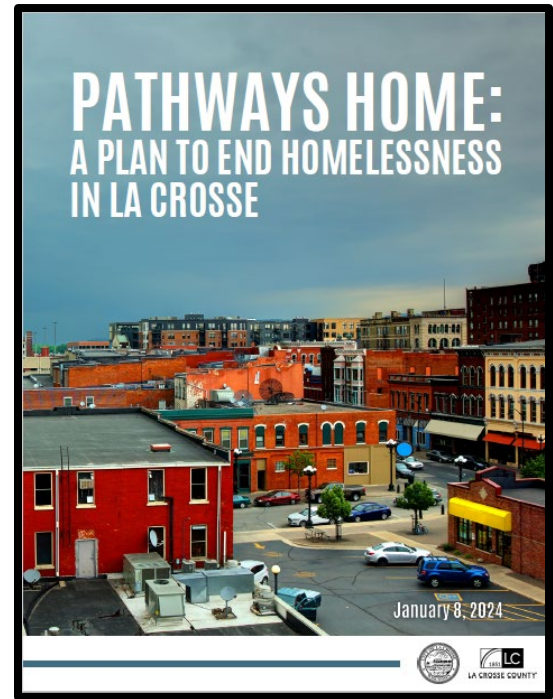
Building a system to end the City of La Crosse's homelessness crisis



La Crosse County Board & City of La Crosse Common Council
January 5th, 2026

Pathways Home Summary

- ***Five-year plan*** to end homelessness as we know it in the City of La Crosse that launched in January of 2024
- The initiative is ***led by the City of La Crosse and La Crosse County*** and includes a comprehensive and collaborative effort involving many community stakeholders
- The partnership between the City and County is ***co-equal*** with a focus on ***sustainability***



We are not in this work alone!!!

Catholic Charities

City of La Crosse Fire Dept

City of La Crosse Police Dept

Couleecap

Coulee Tenants United

emplify HEALTH

Family & Children's Center

First Free Church

Great Rivers 211

Independent Living Resources

Karuna

La Crosse County Health Dept

La Crosse County Veterans
Services

La Crosse County Zoning,
Planning & Information

Landlord

Legal Action

Lived Experience Individuals

Lutheran Social Services

Mayo Clinic Health System

Next Chapter

New Horizons

New Beginnings Christian
Fellowship

RHYMES

Salvation Army

School District of La Crosse

State of Wisconsin Balance of
State Continuum of Care

Viterbo University

Vivent Health

YMCA

YWCA

PATHWAYS HOME: A PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS IN LA CROSSE



January 8, 2024



Concrete Goals:

- Zero individuals living on the street
- Homelessness functional zero

Key Elements:

- Local government coordination
- Resource & policy alignment
- Shift to indoor service orientation
 - Outdoor living is not an option
 - Laws on the books are enforced
 - Local resources preserved for local residents



PROJECT PHASES



PHASE #1
(2024-2025)

ALIGN THE SYSTEM

- *All the community's resources are working together to support individuals obtain and keep housing*

PHASE #2
(2025-2028)

BUILD THE CAPACITY

(Create Shelter & Housing Capacity)

- *End outdoor living by assuring everyone has an option for either shelter or housing*

PHASE #3
(2029+)

SUSTAIN THE GAINS

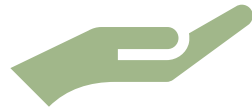
- *Complete and sustain the shift to serving people indoors by continuing to increase housing capacity while strengthening prevention and enforcing community norms*



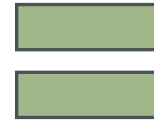
Housing First Plus



Housing



Support



Housing First



Housing First Plus



Not Housing “Only”



**Rules and
Expectations**



**90% housing
retention rate**



**Requires entire
community buy-in**

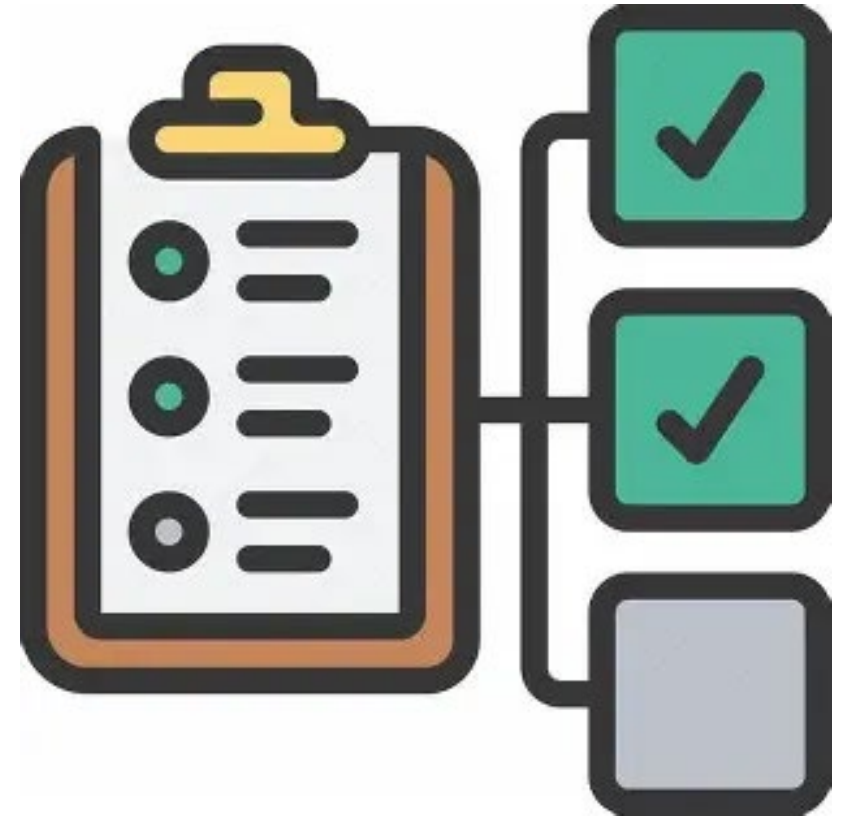


**“Housing Ends
Homelessness”**



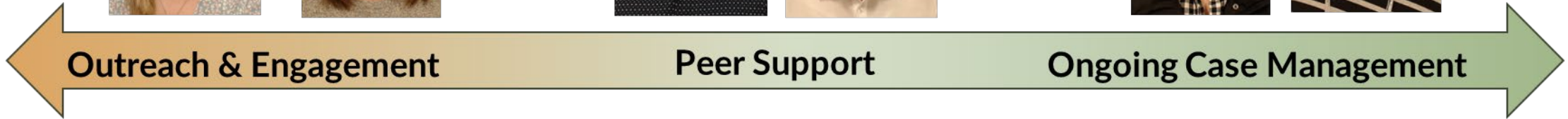
*Pathways
Home*

I. Status of Project Deliverables





Pathways Specialized Unit: Supportive Services



Clinical Therapist/Clinical Supervisor



Program Supervisor



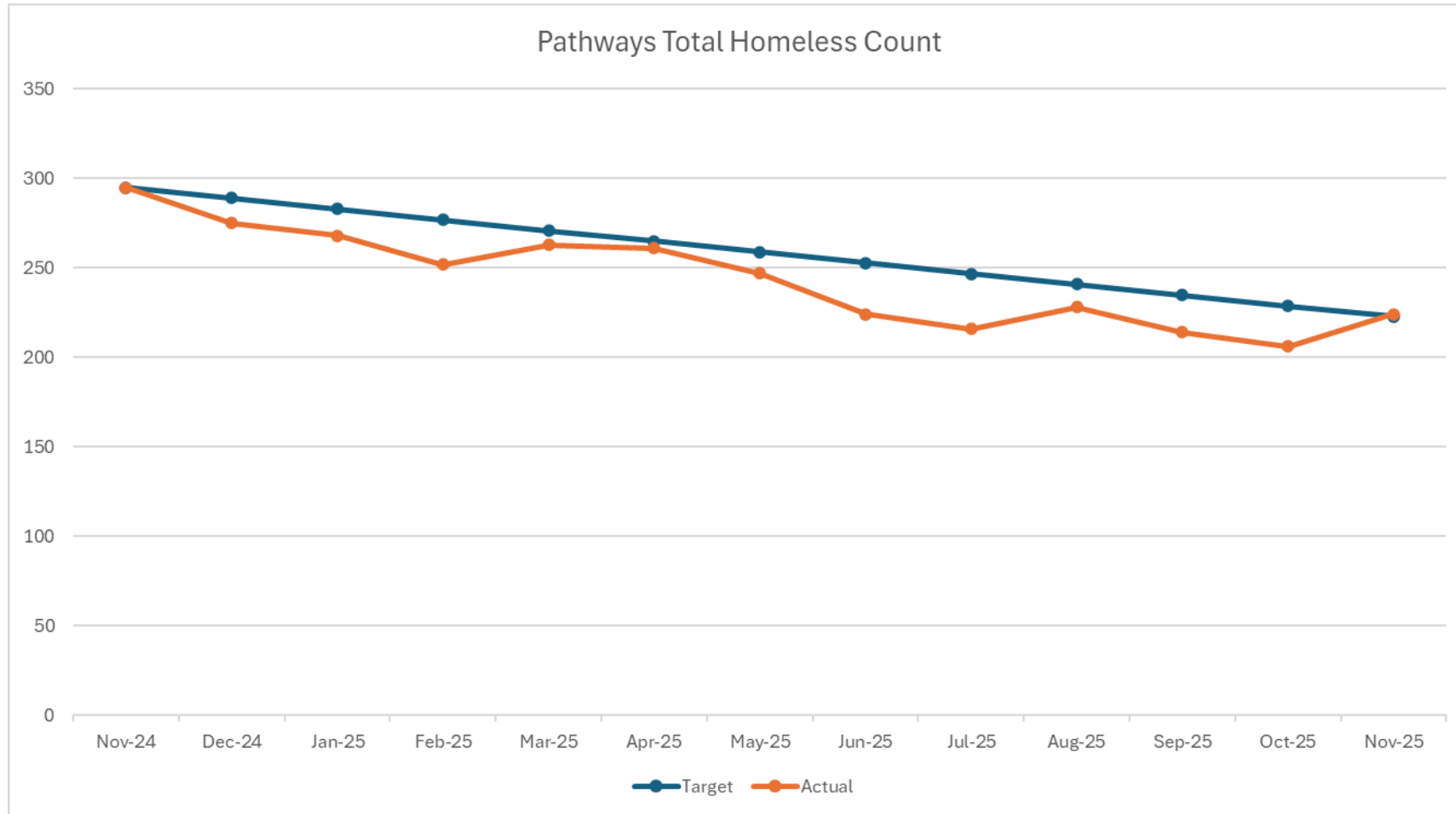
Specialized Housing Units Added

Housing Added	Number of Units
The Collective	13
Park Lane Studios (Hillview)	10
Karuna	8
Couleecap	10-15
Pathways-Held Leases	5-10



Monthly Dashboard

<https://lacrossecounty.org/pathwayshome>





Challenges for Pathways Home

Not enough housing available to this population


Barriers to temporarily expanding shelter capacity

Funding for rent support & eviction prevention

More supportive services needed, especially for those with higher needs

September 2025

PATHWAYS HOME SPECIALIZED HOUSING PLAN



Pathways Home Specialized Housing Plan

OUR GOAL

To achieve functional zero homelessness by the end of 2028 through a mix of low-barrier housing and tailored support services that meet people where they are.

We don't just need more housing — we need the right kind of housing, paired with the right level of support.

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

A full year of system-wide data shows:

- Many people transitioning from homelessness face barriers to traditional housing: limited income, rental history, mental health or substance use.
- Our forecast through 2028 combines inflow/outflow data to estimate the specialized housing capacity gap we must close to achieve functional zero.

OUR HOUSING MODEL

We've identified housing categories based on support needs, not housing type — allowing flexibility in development and partnerships. Our combined specialized housing gap to fill is projected to be **319 units** to achieve functional zero by the end of 2028.

Housing Category	In Process	Gap
Intensive Units	20	60
Moderate Units	16	156
Light Units	79	103
Total Gap		319 units

SOLUTIONS


- Partner with agencies to support expansion of intensive housing units (24/7 oversight)
- Expand pilot of Pathways held leases (light and moderate support)
- Grow landlord acceptance of vouchers and support affordable housing developments (light support)

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Pledge to be a financial supporter of Pathways Home. We're also for looking for nonprofits, housing agencies, and developers to help us partner with landlords, innovate housing solutions, and expand supportive services.

WHAT'S NEXT

We regularly update our forecast (twice a year or more) based on local trends and changes in inflow/outflow to ensure system capacity and responsiveness.



View our dashboard at lacrossecounty.org/pathwayshome



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II. Next “On Deck”





Temporary Shelter Expansion

Facilitating an opportunity to add 18 additional beds at the current Salvation Army shelter.

Pathways will coordinate housing navigation & supportive services.



Temporary Shelter Expansion

A Critical Step Toward Ending Unsheltered Homelessness in La Crosse

Community Partnership

In collaboration with The Salvation Army, this program temporarily expands shelter capacity by 18 beds. The La Crosse Area Community Foundation proudly serves as the fund administrator, ensuring donors receive accurate tax acknowledgments, and The Salvation Army receives grant funding promptly.

How it Helps People Who Are Unhoused

- Provides immediate, humane shelter with 24/7 access and supportive services.
- Increases engagement with case managers and housing navigators.
- Accelerates the path to permanent housing.

How it's Part of a Sustainable Solution

- Quickly connects newly unhoused individuals to the homelessness response system.
- Reduces long-term homelessness by intervening early.
- Unlocks \$2,000 in Medicaid Housing Supportive Services for eligible individuals.

How You Can Help

Every contribution can be the difference of someone having a warm place to stay. Give a gift today by scanning the QR code or sending a check to La Crosse Area Community Foundation (601 7th St. N Suite 203 La Crosse, WI 54601) with "Temporary Shelter Expansion Fund" in the memo line.

Donation	Impact
\$31	One person's shelter bed & meals for a day
\$216	One person for a week
\$557	18 people for a day
\$928	One person for a month
\$3,897	18 people for a week
\$16,700	18 people for a month
\$300,000	Full program cost for 18 months

Scan to Donate!
Temporary Shelter
Expansion Fund at La
Crosse Area Community
Foundation



Supporting Pathways Home

The temporary surge shelter is a key component of the five-year Pathways Home plan to end long-term homelessness in La Crosse.

View our dashboard at lacrossecounty.org/pathwayshome



HOME ARP Request for Proposals

Funding Details: The City of La Crosse received \$1,097,432 in HOME-ARP Funding. Of this funding, the approved uses are as follows:

\$658,459 to increase the amount of affordable and attainable housing options (development projects).

\$329,230 in Supportive Services

RFP Schedule

Activity	Date
RFP Launched	December 10, 2025
Proposals DUE	January 16, 2026
Proposal Presentations at ECDC (3:00 PM)	January 28, 2026
Proposal Decisions at ECDC (3:00 PM)	February 25, 2026



LA CROSSE AREA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Collaboration with La Crosse Area Community Foundation



Collaborating to end La Crosse's
homelessness crisis **for good**

- A Pathways community fund has been established, hosted by the La Crosse Area Community Foundation
- The funds will support temporarily expanding our shelter capacity & for investments in specialized housing that are aligned with the Pathways Home plan



Strengthen Prevention Services

- Use Housing Stability Tracker with regular status check-ins to identify those placed in housing with higher risk of eviction
- Better coordinate eviction prevention and eviction deflection support
- Focus prevention on high-risk population





Strengthen Community Support

- Extend Medicaid Supportive Housing (1915i) Network to local agencies to grow our sustainable support network
- Launch Baskets of Belonging program with local faith community





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III. Community Status & Outcomes





Community Status & Outcomes

Noteworthy

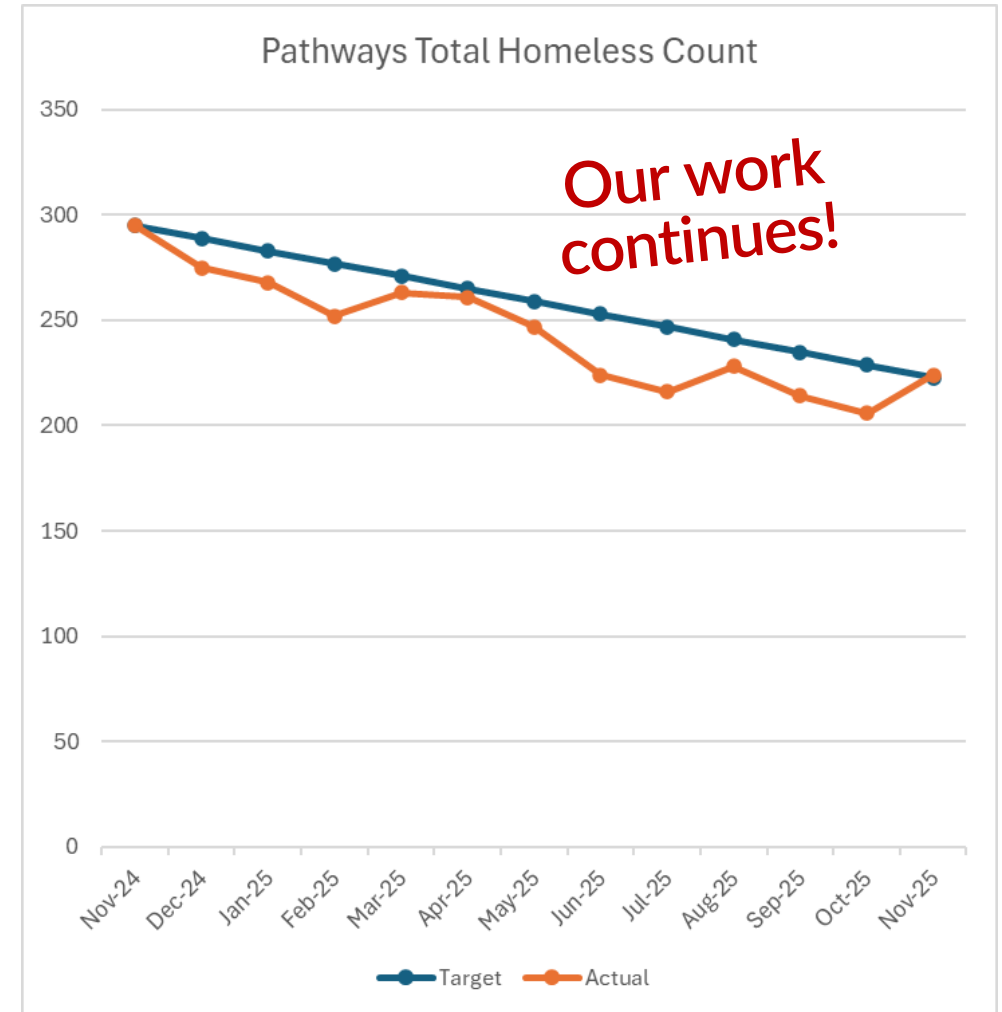
260+ households housed

50+ units added

Better aligned existing supportive services

More people housed than entering homelessness in 2025

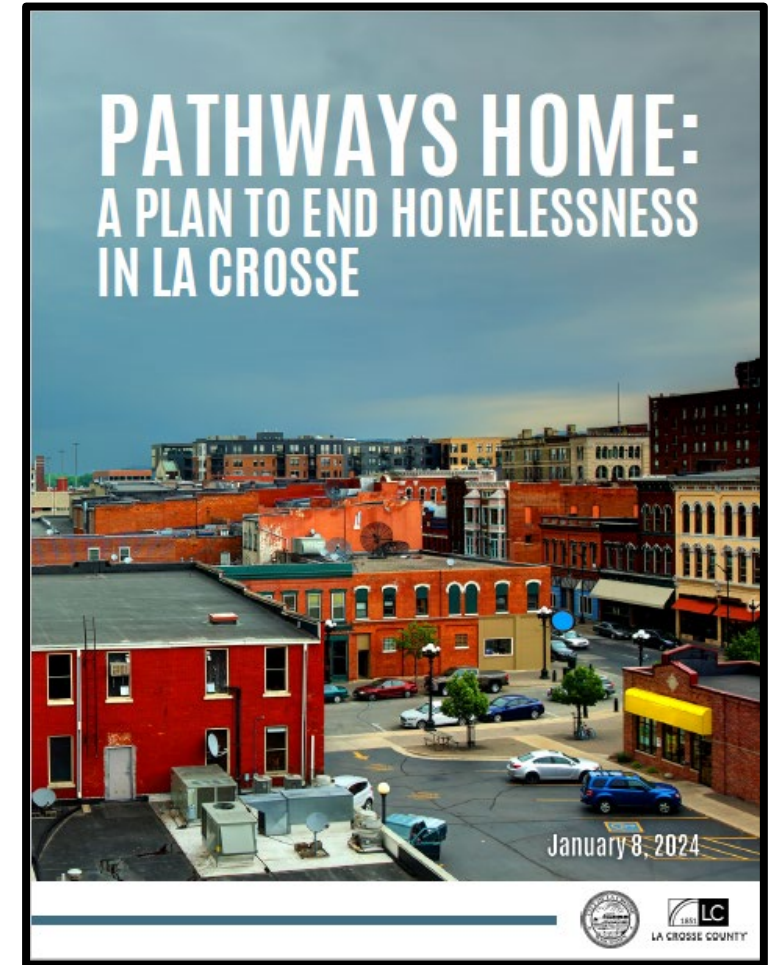
Negative inflow achieved!





Your Support Brings Results

- Help us build and grow community support for Pathways Home
- Help us get the specialized housing our system needs to achieve functional zero homelessness





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Thank You!

Follow the progress at:

Pathways Home website:

<https://lacrossecounty.org/pathwayshome>

La Crosse County newsletter:

