

Family Keys: Housing

Local communities unlocking safe & secure futures with their neighbors



ENDING THE CYCLE, TOGETHER

What We Know

- On average, 1 in 10 children separated from their families in Wisconsin are removed with “inadequate housing” as an identified safety concern.
- Data collected following the pandemic-related eviction moratorium showed that when housing was stable, Child Protective Services removed less children for housing-related safety reasons, suggesting that with appropriate intervention, unnecessary family separations could be reduced, or even eliminated.

Shared Values

- The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families vision: All Wisconsin children and youth are safe and loved members of thriving families and communities.
- Children are safest when their parents and caregivers are stable and supported.

Community Solutions

- La Crosse, Marathon, and Wood counties partnered to find innovative solutions to fill gaps in their communities so families could stay together when experiencing a housing crisis.
- Each community developed a unique plan specific to their own needs and local resources.

Innovative Partnerships

- Teams intentionally increased the number of partners responding to family housing needs in their community.
- Some partners included: Philanthropic organizations, credit unions, local law enforcement, school districts, health departments, chambers of commerce, landlords and property management groups, as well as a variety of local non-profits and other private business partners.

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RETURN ON INNOVATION

After just one year, the Family Keys teams are proud to report the following successes:

- **More** families able to remain together.
- **Faster** reunifications for families who were separated due to housing barriers.
- Stakeholder partnerships have more than **doubled**, and landlord relationships have increased **3x**, in some counties.
- The innovative partnerships are leading to **cost savings**, as communities are finding other, less expensive ways to meet family needs.
- Over 90% of individuals served reported they felt they had a **choice** in their housing solutions.

COMING SOON...

- Long-term sustainability
- Formal outcomes reporting
- Recommendations for other communities & applications

