Welcome

our MICAH Northeast Policy Breakfast Meeting will begin at 8am

Please enter your name in the chat, along with any congregation, organizational affiliation, or elected office

https://www.micah.org/donate
Welcome to the MICAH Northeast Chapter 2023 Policy Breakfast

Welcome:
Janet Urbanowicz,
White Bear Unitarian Universalist
MICAH Northeast Chapter
2023 Legislative Breakfast

Faith Reflection:
?

Introduction to MICAH:
Janet Urbanowicz, White Bear Unitarian Universalist
A New Dawn of Abundance at the Capitol
Lead Safe Homes Bill

State Representative
Peter Fischer (44A)
Chair, Human Services Policy
A New Dawn of Abundance at the Capitol: New Perspectives, New Energy

Representative Brion Curran (36B)  
Vice Chair  
Sustainable Infrastructure Policy
Lived experience:
From New Orleans Hurricanes to Minnesota Snowfall

John Bradley
Freedom from the Streets
No More Streets
2023 MICAH Policy Agenda

Sue Watlov Phillips
MICAH Executive Director
MICAH's 2023 Policy Priorities:

1. Ensure the voice and power of people who have experienced homelessness and/or housing crises are at every decision make table, design, implementation, evaluation of homeless programs and housing.

2. Work with families impacted by Lead Poisoning on Lead Safe Homes Bill, to protect our children from lead poisoning.

3. Racial Equity and protection of Civil Rights in all Homeless and Housing Programs and support systems.

4. Preserve and create safe, decent, accessible, affordable housing (rental & homeownership) for people with incomes under 30% median income.

5. Support livable incomes for people who are employed, unemployed, and on public assistance.

6. Ensure we are a welcoming community in creating housing opportunities that provide second chances and mercy for those who have struggled with addiction, mental and/or physical health, criminal, and/or rental issues.

7. MICAH will be actively involved with Homes For All process in developing and implementing the 2023 Session priorities.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE
$17.6 Billion in abundance and $1.2 Billion in American Rescue Funds (ARP)
Homes for All’s 2023 Policy Agenda

1. Acquisition and rehab of Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing
2. Funding to build more
3. Bring It Home
4. Changes to 4d tax class rate
5. FHPAP for ERA
6. Down Payment Assistance
7. Housing Constitutional Amendment
8. Housing Support Income Modifications
9. Pre-Eviction Notice & Eviction Expungement
10. Source of Income Protection

Support Agenda items include:

Lead Safe Homes Bill and income disregard for lived experience expertise payments.
Policy Makers: WWYD?

What will YOU do to increase affordable housing and homeless resources this year? (2 minutes)
Questions From the Audience
Ramsey County – 2021 – Three simple facts

Fact 1: Rents went up, wages went down.

RENTER HOUSEHOLDS
84,789 | 41% of all households

- Median rent, 2000: $897
- Median rent, 2019: $1,007 (rent up 12%)
- Renter income, 2000: $40,477
- Renter income, 2019: $38,891 (income down -4%)

Fact 2: Huge racial inequality in homeownership.

Homeownership in Ramsey County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BIPOC Homeowners</th>
<th>19,214</th>
<th>15%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White Homeowners</td>
<td>105,040</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fact 3: Need 18,000+ AH units.

- Number of extremely low income households: 28,070
- Units affordable to extremely low income households: 9,775
- Gap between ELI households and units in Ramsey county: 18,295

Source: Minnesota Housing Partnership County Profile
WASHINGTON COUNTY – 2021 – Three simple facts

Fact 1: Housing costs have gone up far faster than incomes

Number of households paying more than 30% of their income toward housing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RENTERS</th>
<th>OWNERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8,437</td>
<td>12,396</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fact 2: 20,000 households are in housing they cannot afford.

Fact 3: 1 out of 4 renters is paying over half their income in rent.

(The federal government says you should not pay more than 30% of your income on housing, so you can pay for medical, food, family needs, etc. Cost burden is more than 30% spent. Severe cost burden is more than 50% spent.)

Source: Minnesota Housing Partnership
Washington County Emergency Housing Update

John Hodler
Homeless Strategy Advocacy Team
Trinity Lutheran
WASHINGTON COUNTY EMERGENCY HOUSING PROJECT

Community report from HSAT
Emergency Housing Project need/funds

✓ April 2020 thru 2022 – limited number hotel rooms available
  • Served 217 people from 176 households
  • Rooms: 35-45 thru Feb. 2023, 20 currently - need not met

✓ Washington County Commissioners approval - 2021
  • American Rescue Plan Act approved money to purchase & remodel facility
  • Team: Washington County Community Services (Washington County and Community Development Agency (CDA) staff)
Shelter Demographics Snap-Shot

All Shelter Households by Type:
- Single Adult: 75%
- Couples: 14%
- Families with minor children: 11%

All Shelter Households by Age:
- 35-44: 20%
- 45-54: 15%
- 55-64: 16%
- 18-24: 8%
- 0-17: 14%
- 65+: 8%

Head of Household by Race:
- White: 85%
- Black: 8%
- Hispanic: 2%
- Asian: 1%
- Native American: 4%
Emergency Housing Project team’s work

• Team: Washington County Community Services (Washington County and Community Development Agency (CDA) staff)

• Due Diligence – I.D. hotel property, Stillwater, MN

• CDA – Purchase agreement with contingencies

• Project briefing – City Council, City Administrator, Staff

• January – City Staff notified a zoning change request would be coming in late February 2023
Project Approval Status – Next Steps

✓ Stillwater City Council: Interim ordinance prohibiting development
  • Feb. 7, 2023: One year moratorium on new requests
  • Public comment re: zoning fit with City’s 2040 Comprehensive Plan

✓ Emergency Housing project support
  • St. Croix Ministerium
  • Metropolitan Interfaith Council for Affordable Housing (MICAH)
  • Non-profits
  • Housing Advocates – Homeless Strategy & Advocacy Team (HSAT)
"Please support and hold a hearing on the Lead Safe Homes Bill."

Senator Lindsey Port
Chair, Housing and Homelessness Prevention Comm.
651-296-5975
E-mail: sen.lindsey.port@senate.mn

Rep. Michael Howard
Chair Housing Finance and Policy Comm.
651-296-7158
Email: rep.michael.howard@house.mn.gov

"Please use the Minnesota budget abundance (surplus) and American Rescue Plan dollars to increase affordable housing and homeless resource opportunities."

Senator Kari Dziedzic
Majority Leader
651-296-7809
E-mail: sen.kari.dziedzic@senate.mn

Rep. Melissa Hortman
Speaker of the House
651-296-4280
E-mail: rep.melissa.hortman@house.mn.gov
Faith in Action

The great orator, Frederick Douglass, tells us—“Power concedes nothing without a demand.”

We demand all our systems and organizations do what is needed to guarantee everyone, without exception, a safe, decent, accessible, and affordable home.
Opportunities for Change:

Northeast Chapter Meetings – 2nd Tuesdays, 8:00am (March 14)

MICAH Policy Breakfasts & Luncheon

Friday, February 24, 8-9:30a - South Chapter (Dakota County)
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkcO-vrjliH9c7vzt8hlr06JALTJhizHZh

Friday, March 3, 8-9:30a - Anoka County Chapter
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIodu6upzorGdKcnfg8B6fGNn0KTyRUQtfP

Monday, March 6, 1:30p - Minneapolis Chapter/Freedom From the Streets Policy Lunch
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYsdeuvqT0tHNAUW54zsBN9J1FpDjyLUwdx

Friday, March 10, 8-9:30a - Housing for All (Hennepin County)
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMk-6qqD4tEtVGQvoGFL1tXwhdKuD6r41w

Foster Child and Youth Day on the Hill – Monday, March 6, 9:00a

Homeless Day on the Hill – Wednesday, March 8, 8:00a to 3:00p

Second Chance Day On the Hill – March 8, Press Conference 9:30a

MN Coalition for the Homeless Day on the Hill - Wednesday, March 8, 8:00a – 3:00p
Registration details & preparatory workshops at https://secure.everyaction.com/ug1Hz4sWak2r-9IOUiB-jQ2
Thank you to our individual, congregational, and organizational members and:

- Hugh J. Andersen Foundation
- Christian Sharing Fund
- St. Paul Foundation
- Opportunity Starts at Home MN
- MN Dept of Health - Trusted Messengers Program
- MN Dept of Health - Excellence Program
- The Alliance – Blue Line Coalition