

Ending Homelessness in La Crosse

Update on City / County Discussions



June 6th, 2023



Purpose of Tonight's Presentation

- Provide an **update** on City / County discussions on efforts to end homelessness
- Describe some **next steps** as we proceed differently in how we work together to address homelessness

Homelessness in our Community

Status

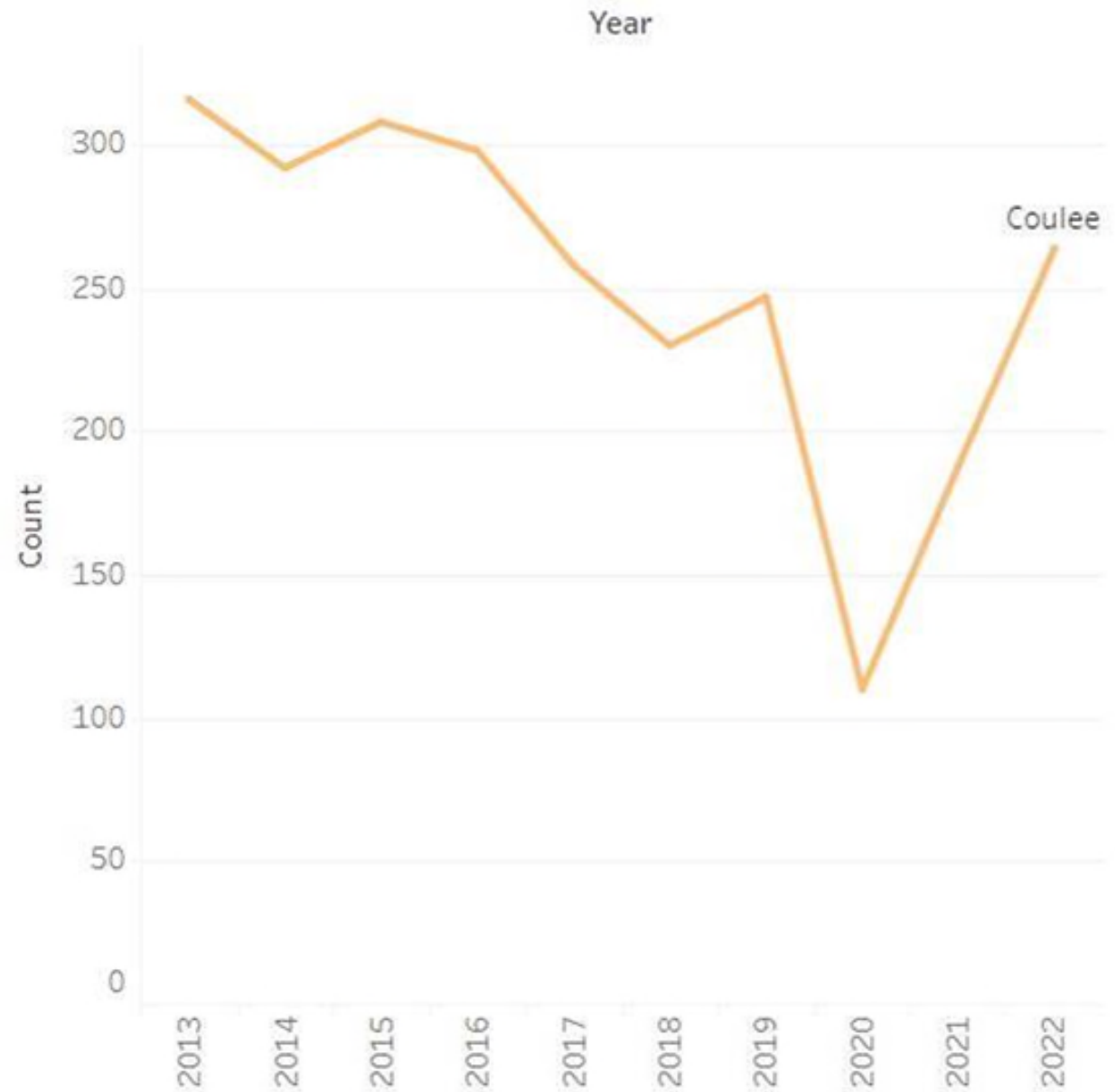
- 0** Shelter openings
- 288** Individuals and Families on the Coordinated Entry list
- 80** Total unsheltered population (estimate)

Cost

- Mounting Frustration*** Public and downtown businesses
- \$3.3 million** Estimated annual unrecognized community cost*

**Based on National Alliance to End Homelessness (\$35,578 per individual)*

Point In Time Data



I. Doing Better

- *What's Missing from Current Efforts*
- *Unrealized Potential*



A. Effective Homeless Response

System Components

PREVENTION

Housing Assistance
Affordable Housing Supply

INFLOW

SERVICES:
Outreach
Case Management
Wrap-Around Services

HOUSING CONTINUUM:
Shelter
Emergency
Supportive Housing

OUTFLOW

Permanent Housing

Coordinated Elements

UNIFIED PLAN

Approach
Goals & Objectives

La Crosse Gap

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

La Crosse Gap

B. Potential of an Effective Homeless Response

1. Rockford, Illinois

- *In January of 2017, became the first community in the United States to end both chronic and veteran homelessness*

2. The Coulee Collaborative to End Homelessness (La Crosse)

- *In December of 2016, following a 100-day effort, housed all homeless veterans in the City of La Crosse*

3. Emergency Family Shelter Plan (La Crosse)

- *During this past winter (2022-23), coordinated a system response that provided emergency shelter, resource connections and / or case management to 86 families*

II. Doing Different

- *Historical Role*
- *Doing Different*





Ending Homelessness in La Crosse
Doing Different

A. **Historical role** of City / County in addressing homelessness

- Participants and supporters of community-led efforts
- Not the driver, convener or plan administrator
- A recent more active role in short-term emergency responses



Ending Homelessness in La Crosse

Doing Different

B. *What's changing* going forward

- *The City of La Crosse and La Crosse County will be a unified, aligned and pro-active coordinator of local homeless response*
- *This transition will begin with the development of a 5-year Homelessness Response Plan covering the City of La Crosse*
- *Less effort and resources toward sporadic short-term “fixes” as the homeless response system becomes more stable and effective at delivering results*



Ending Homelessness in La Crosse
Doing Different

C. *Why* the change

- **Alignment** is needed across multiple stakeholders and agencies for an effective homelessness response
- *A larger and more stable coordinating organization (“**backbone**”) is necessary to sustain a successful collective approach*
- *Increased investments by the City and County bring more **responsibility** to ensure funding is spent effectively*
- *Growing **public demand** for solutions*

III. Next Steps





A. Plan Development

1. *Working together with housing agencies and other stakeholders* to develop a five-year City / County plan (to be completed later this year)
2. *Resourcing and financing* plan that will include maximizing existing resources, financial asks to community foundations and leveraging new state and federal funding opportunities



B. What to Expect as Part of a Plan

1. An aligned goal: achieve ***“functional zero”***
2. Using a ***“Housing First-Plus”*** approach with highly coordinated:
 - Street outreach
 - Case management
 - Supportive Services
3. Exploring ***city-held leases*** to create additional capacity
4. ***Funding*** from the City / County supporting community housing agencies will be coordinated to support a unified plan
5. Improved use of ***data*** and ***evidence-based approaches***



Recap: Key Takeaways

- The City and County will be moving forward in a more aligned and out-front way in coordinating local homeless response efforts
- While ultimate impact will depend on a variety of factors, enhanced coordination will improve our community's homelessness response
- A 5-year plan will be completed later this year, with implementation expected in early 2024

Thank you!

