

FAQs – WDEOC & Day Resource Center

1. What is the campaign for Western Dairyland Economic Opportunity Council and Day Resource Center?

Western Dairyland Economic Opportunity Council (WDEOC) is currently in the pre-campaign stage of a \$6.4 million initiative to remodel an existing building to house a Day Resource Center (DRC), in conjunction with its expanding Housing and Family Services programs. This total campaign amount includes the purchase and renovation of the building, as well as funding for up to the first two-and-a-half years of operations for the long-awaited DRC, which will support Eau Claire's unhoused population.

2. What does the Western Dairyland Housing Program do, and why does it need this new space?

WDEOC is the largest 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in Western Wisconsin. With primary offices in Independence and Eau Claire, WDEOC provides numerous human and economic services across Buffalo, Eau Claire, Jackson, and Trempealeau Counties, as well as select services in several surrounding counties. WDEOC has developed various programs to promote economic independence and self-reliance, implemented at the local level, including Head Start programs. Among these initiatives are programs designed to help families and individuals remain in their homes and reduce homelessness.

The nature of the work is at the individual level, sometimes making it hard to see. Collectively, these efforts prepare our youngest citizens for success in school, keep youth and adults from living on the streets and set them on a path to stable housing, warm the homes of senior citizens during the cold winter months, provide low-income families with food, clothing, transportation, and access to education and training to prepare them for meaningful work, and so much more. WDEOC elevates the communities where we live, work, and play.

3. What is a Day Resource Center?

A DRC not only provides safe shelter from inclement weather, but as the name implies, it also has daytime hours, offering a one-stop shop of services, opportunities, and case management for those seeking to transition from homelessness to more stable and productive lives. The DRC will be co-located in the same building as WDEOC's Housing and Family Services programs, and about 20 staff members will assist clients in need of housing support to help them maintain their current housing or move into stable, permanent housing.

4. What is the mission and vision of the DRC?

Hope Gospel Mission (HGM) will operate the proposed DRC. HGM has a proven client care model and expertise in assisting individuals on their journey toward wellness.

Mission: People experiencing homelessness have safe shelter and access to supportive services to help them move toward wellness, employment, housing, and stability.

Vision: The vision will be achieved by providing a safe, day-shelter space, coordinated access to local resources, advocacy, and case management through collaboration with other agencies while valuing non-duplication of services.

5. Who is the DRC meant to serve: single adults, minors, families with children, or high-need people?

The DRC will have a low barrier to entry to provide access to most adults seeking its services. A "low barrier" means an individual will have limited expectations for entry and use of services. While they will be asked to identify themselves, there are no background checks. Because of this, children will not be allowed in the DRC section of the building. Families and children experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity will have

access to the full array of services provided by WDEOC without entering the DRC. Each operation will have its own, distinct front entrance, and clients will not have direct access to move between the services.

Adults with minor children are welcome to visit the DRC and utilize its services when the children are in school. When not in school, there are numerous supportive programs available to children, including Head Start, Summer School, and Boys and Girls Club, among many. WDEOC operates under a “child-first” philosophy that ensures a child’s needs are addressed.

6. How much will it cost, and who will operate the center?

The total cost is \$6.4M, which includes \$5.4M for purchasing and remodeling an existing building, financing, and professional services, along with \$1M in startup costs distributed on a sliding scale over three years for the DRC. Besides the DRC, the building will accommodate WDEOC’s Housing and Family Services programs, other necessary WDEOC programs, and a variety of flexible meeting and office spaces for partner agencies that address client needs. WDEOC will operate and maintain the building, while HGM will manage the DRC, to be named Community Haven House.

7. Given that its Housing & Family Services programs will be located in the facility, how much will WDEOC contribute to the campaign?

WDEOC will support the campaign with a minimum of \$200,000 towards the goal and will fund ongoing annual operations. Due to its heavy reliance on federal and state grants to deliver programming, WDEOC has little discretionary income for non-program expenses. WDEOC will secure the necessary financing to fund the construction as campaign pledges are paid throughout the campaign. The agency will finance ongoing facility operations, and HGM will make modest lease payments.

8. Why does WDEOC need the space if it already has a building?

Due to the increasing number of clients experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity in the Eau Claire area, WDEOC has outgrown its current location at 418 Wisconsin Street, Eau Claire, where it has operated since the early 2000s. This location presents several challenges in meeting client needs privately and with dignity. Parking, entrances, and spaces are not accessible. Overcrowded staff offices result in client meetings often taking place in public areas, where others may overhear conversations or witness the emotional distress of a client. Aging plumbing requires upgrading. Unfortunately, any renovation necessitates asbestos abatement, making such a project cost-prohibitive. WDEOC will continue to own this building and house staff delivering its other programs and services.

9. Where will the DRC be located?

Over the past three years, more than 50 locations have been examined. Considering the various concerns and hopes expressed during the feasibility study, WDEOC has a signed purchase agreement for an existing building at 610 Gibson Street, Eau Claire. The location is ideally situated on the fringe of the Barstow downtown retail corridor, within walking distance of Community Table, and other supportive organizations. It requires minimal demolition, includes a kitchen, and has two distinct entrances. The most significant remodeling involves the addition of individual, unisex bathrooms, showers, and laundry facilities.

10. What are the benefits of the proposed center?

Numerous parties have engaged to address the challenges surrounding housing and homelessness, including the City of Eau Claire, the Chamber of Commerce, faith communities, the unhoused population, and organizations such as Hope Gospel Mission, Community Haven House, and Catholic Charities. Co-locating services will enable collaboration among interested parties and combine the functions of a resource center while meeting the immediate need for unhoused individuals to have a safe, comfortable place to stay during the day when overnight shelters are closed. This approach will alleviate the burden on overused public spaces

downtown while providing amenities like showers, laundry facilities, and protection from inclement and dangerous weather.

11. How is HGM involved?

While WDEOC will own the building for its Housing and Family Services programs, HGM will provide daytime resources for Eau Claire's unhoused, similar to 70 percent of rescue missions across the United States. First-year operational expenses are projected to cost \$440,000. The campaign will generate operating funds for HGM to run the program for up to the first two-and-a-half years of operation as it develops a plan for securing annual, ongoing operations.

12. Has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) been established between the partners?

Yes. WDEOC and Hope Gospel Mission have signed a memorandum of understanding outlining the shared expectations of how the two organizations will work together in the shared space.

13. What services will the DRC provide?

The following services will be provided to adults experiencing homelessness:

- A heated/cooled, safe indoor space for people experiencing homelessness with a goal of being open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week, year-round.
- Food. The plan is to use existing meal services such as Community Table. When Community Table does not provide lunch, HGM will provide bagged lunches from its other sites. There will be no on-site meal preparation. Healthy snacks will be available daily.
- Showers, washing machines, dryers.
- Secured, short-term storage where people can temporarily store important documents or items.
- An address for receiving mail.
- Access to hygiene items and connection to resources for clothing and food. The DRC will not duplicate existing food pantries or clothing distribution. Instead, it will collaborate with existing services as a resource.
- Access to tenant/landlord resources.
- Space for community agencies and groups that offer services to meet with people in need at the DRC such as the YMCA, Eau Claire Tenant-Landlord Resource Center, city and county services, health care organizations, probation, and parole, to name a few.
- Access to as many agencies as we can collaborate with to be on-site to help the clients connect with potential opportunities, including the possibility of on-site 12-step meetings.
- Staff to meet with each client regularly and help them with basic case management and access to available resources.
- Optional enrichment activities throughout the day for clients to take part in, helping them grow and learn. This will give them more options than just a TV to watch.
- Access to non-mandatory religious opportunities for those interested.

14. What is the planned capacity (number of guests accommodated)?

It is anticipated that approximately 60 unique guests (adults) will be served by the DRC in some capacity throughout the day. However, there is room to accommodate more, as volume tends to fluctuate with the weather and seasons. During the winter of 2024-25, Community Haven House served over 80 clients in a single day. The new DRC would easily accommodate this number. Additionally, WDEOC Housing & Family Services will serve even more clients throughout the business day.

15. Will it be open during the hours that Sojourner House is not?

The DRC plans to operate seven days a week, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Currently, Sojourner House is open from 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. daily. This hour gap allows for staff preparation during clients' transitions between

Sojourner House and the DRC. WDEOC and HGM will collaborate with Sojourner House to address the impact any changes in its operations may have on those using its services.

Questions About Operations

16. What is the campaign cost breakdown?

The following is the breakdown of expected costs:

\$3,577,000	Building Cost
\$1,000,000	DRC operating budget for up to three years
\$1,000,000	Remodeling costs
\$95,000	Fixtures, Furniture, Equipment
\$428,000	Professional Services
\$300,000	Financing
\$6,400,000	Total Campaign Costs

17. Why has the goal increased from the original number of \$5.725M?

After careful review, the Campaign Steering Committee increased the goal by \$675,000 to accommodate the increase in construction and building costs for the facility.

18. Will the City of Eau Claire help with any ongoing operations after the first three years?

The City of Eau Claire is contributing \$500,000 to the overall capital campaign goal. Currently, the city does not have the capacity to provide ongoing support.

19. How will the DRC's annual operating cost be funded going forward?

The campaign goal includes the first two-and-a-half years of DRC operations, after which Hope Gospel Mission will cover operations. HGM will integrate ongoing operations for the center into its operating budget. Hope Gospel Mission, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 1998, will raise the necessary long-term support for the DRC. WDEOC will provide funding to maintain the facility, staff for its programs, parking, security, and grounds.

20. How will WDEOC and HGM ensure sustainable funding?

Each organization raises funds to meet its annual operating budget. The Boards of Directors of both organizations are committed to sustaining the facility, HGM for operating the DRC, and WDEOC for maintaining and overseeing the entire building. HGM has an annual budget of \$7 million, while WDEOC's annual budget is \$18.6 million. Both organizations are fiscally responsible, stable, and secure.

21. What if HGM is unable to fund the annual operations of the DRC or decides not to?

In the unlikely event that this occurs, WDEOC will first seek to collaborate with another partner agency to deliver services. If that fails, WDEOC will step in to fundraise for the necessary operations.

22. What is the timeline for raising funds and opening the building?

Pre-campaign planning started in January 2025 and will take approximately one year to raise the goal in outright gifts and pledges. WDEOC will finance the purchase price of the building, renovations, and ongoing operations. The center is projected to open by late 2025.

23. What is the operating budget for the DRC?

An expanded business plan is in the case statement and on the WDEOC and HGM websites. This project's income will come from a combination of private donors and grants. Agencies sharing the space are not expected to be charged any fees.

First-year Operating Expenses*

Food Costs	\$5,000
Janitorial Supplies	\$10,000
Insurance	\$10,000
Vehicle Expense & Gasoline	\$10,000
Utilities	\$25,000
Lease Expense	\$45,000
Contingency Allowance	\$15,000
Miscellaneous Supplies	\$15,000
Payroll	\$275,000
Administrative & Fundraising Expense	\$30,000
Total	\$440,000

*Based on anticipated operating hours of 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., seven days a week, 365 days a year

24. How well are we coordinating the opportunities for people to get help? Will all the resources help people?

For over a decade, organizations like Community Haven House have led an effort to provide enhanced and expanded resources for Eau Claire's unhoused. WDEOC and HGM believe they have developed a strong strategy to meet this need and are dedicated to making it a reality. HGM has experienced advocates and experts who work with this population. With their skills in this area and the involvement of WDEOC, the organizations involved are confident they can better address the needs of those seeking greater stability in their lives.

25. How is the center different from the current Community Haven House?

Community Haven House has addressed a significant need within the community for years. However, its resources are limited regarding operational hours and types of assistance provided. It serves as a temporary day shelter funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and will not receive funding beyond May 2026. The current building cannot accommodate the space or amenities that this project proposes, and engineers have concluded that it cannot support remodeling or expansion. On April 1st of 2025, Hope Gospel Mission assumed operations of Community Haven House and is scaling up the project by making it into the DRC, which will continue to hold the name Community Haven House.

In 2018, the City of Eau Claire engaged Erin Healy Consulting to explore establishing a collaborative effort to end homelessness in the area. The study revealed that day services were a critical need for the city's unhoused population, with the pandemic years from 2020 to 2022 only worsening these needs. Community

agencies working with the homeless, particularly Community Haven House and HGM, examined the idea of a comprehensive resource center that would operate during daytime hours. HGM developed the initial proposal for such a facility in partnership with Community Haven House. Since then, that proposal has transformed into the one presented here, integrating HGM's successful programmatic foundation and WDEOC's experience and program support. Community Haven House backs this project, and their significant contribution to this proposal is appreciated and acknowledged.

26. Will this building have a meal capacity?

Snacks and beverages will be available, but meals will not be prepared on-site. The Community Table and other organizations will remain the primary sources of meals, and on days when they do not serve midday meals, HGM will provide lunch that is prepared off-site.

27. Is this an existing model we are proposing, or are we inventing something?

Green Bay, Appleton, and Madison have successfully operated centers like this for many years, and similar services are also provided effectively in other cities around the country. A team of interested parties visited these successful day resource centers and others in Muskegon, MI, Fort Wayne, IN, Joliet, IL, Rochester, MN, and St. Paul, MN. Pages of notes were taken to bring back and review with the advisory and planning teams. In addition to previous research, the DRC will start with several years of wisdom garnered and shared by organizations with a successful track record of operating DRCs.

28. Will it have storage for the homeless, a computer lab, and a space for people to sleep during the day?

Temporary and secure storage will be available for day use. There will be some long-term storage available for important documents. This allows clients to come and go throughout the day without having to carry their belongings. Sleeping will not be encouraged during the day. Computer resources will be available in the community area for client use.

29. Will each client be offered a case worker?

Yes, every client will be offered the opportunity to work with a case manager to assist them in achieving a better future. Case managers will be employed by HGM and will have appropriate training and licensure to work with this population.

30. How are you going to help the small businesses downtown by keeping the unhoused in that area?

When researching possible locations, planners listened to the business community and selected an existing building that is on the perimeter, not directly within the Barstow Business District. WDEOC leadership presented the site to the North Barstow Business owners, who reacted favorably to the site. Additionally, WDEOC leadership contacted residential units, both rental and owner-occupied, in proximity to the location, all of whom have not reacted negatively. To help people increase their stability and move towards a place of security and hope, the DRC and its services should alleviate the burden on downtown business owners caused by individuals who overuse public spaces and have nowhere else to go. HGM will collaborate with the city's planned Street Ambassador program to further support downtown businesses facing undue pressure.

31. What will be done to ensure the safety of both the unhoused utilizing this facility and the foot traffic of business patrons and others nearby?

Safety will not be compromised. Lighting and cameras will be installed both inside and outside to enhance security. Guests must access the outdoor deck through the DRC. The deck will have an emergency exit-only gate preventing people from accessing the deck directly from the outside. The interior will feature a quiet area and an active space with ample room for guests, as crowding can lead to security and morale issues. Additionally, the center will be designed to avoid secluded or hidden areas that could be dangerous. A sufficient number of staff and volunteers will always be present when the center is open to ensure safe

operations. Access between WDEOC's Housing and Family Services and the DRC will be restricted, allowing only staff to move between these spaces.

The DRC will foster a culture of respect, hospitality, trauma sensitivity, and recognition of the needs of individuals facing mental illness. However, a minimum code of conduct or standard of behavior will be established and enforced to ensure the facility is safe physically, mentally, and emotionally. The intent is to serve anyone in need without compromising safety. Each individual will understand the expectations and will have the autonomy to help maintain a safe environment or seek alternative resources if necessary.

32. Will this project take local tax dollars?

No, the City of Eau Claire is not planning to provide ongoing funding. WDEOC and HGM are nonprofit organizations primarily funded by grants and private donations. Each will be responsible for their own agency's operating expenses.

33. How much are taxpayers paying per sheltered person?

This is not a taxpayer-funded program.

34. Has there been discussion and engagement with Sojourner House?

WDEOC and HGM have involved Sojourner House in discussions about this facility, and Catholic Charities backs this plan. WDEOC and HGM are working with Sojourner House to help address the impact that any changes in its operations may have on those using its services.

35. What happens if Sojourner House can no longer provide services for the unhoused? Does this project move forward?

WDEOC and HGM are collaborating with Catholic Charities and community members to explore options for ongoing operations. However, this project does not depend on Sojourner House's activities. In fact, if Sojourner needs to limit or reduce its operations, this project and its services will become even more crucial in assisting those who are unhoused or at risk of becoming unhoused.

36. What is the plan between the current Community Haven House closing and the DRC opening?

The owner of the building that Community Haven House currently occupies has extended the lease so services can continue until the new resource center opens. Hope Gospel Mission has stepped in to continue operations in the space until the new DRC is open.

37. Is there a connection between Say Yes Ministries and HGM, Community Haven House, or WDEOC?

No. Say Yes Ministries is a separate organization that has no connection or affiliation to HGM, Community Haven House, WDEOC, or this project.

38. Are you including other collaborators?

Yes. The list of partnering agencies continues to grow. Current collaborators, both formal and informal, include:

- Apple Pregnancy Care Center
- Chippewa Valley Technical College Barber School
- Bolton Refuge House, Inc.
- Catholic Charities - Sojourner House
- Chippewa Valley Free Clinic
- City of Altoona
- City of Eau Claire
- City of Eau Claire - Housing Department
- Criminal justice system – probation and parole
- Day Resource Center Community Group
- Eau Claire Chamber of Commerce
- Eau Claire Community Foundation
- Eau Claire County Health and Human Services Department
- Eau Claire Police Department
- Eau Claire Tenant Landlord Resource Center
- Family Promise of the Chippewa Valley
- Home for Good
- Hope Gospel Mission
- L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library
- Marshfield Medical Center - Eau Claire
- Mayo Clinic Health Systems, Inc. - Eau Claire

- Multiple Elected Officials
- South Barstow Business District
- Street Ambassadors Program
- Workforce Resource, Inc.
- YMCA

39. What about the possibility that unhoused individuals will not access the available resources?

Planners understand that some individuals may not access the services for various reasons, including challenges related to substance abuse or mental illness. Eau Claire Street Ambassadors will connect with and encourage individuals to seek services and provide a warm handoff to the appropriate agency best able to address the individual's needs. Although all are encouraged to utilize the services and are welcome to do so, people cannot be compelled to seek assistance.

40. Who will provide security and maintain the expectations of zero drug use within the facility, no violence or crime, and no vandalism in the center?

HGM staff and WDEOC will establish rules and expectations for guests and ensure their enforcement. HGM will address these issues when a client is in the DRC.

41. Will there be requirements placed on DRC guests not to use drugs/drink alcohol?

While on-site use will not be permitted, HGM will provide inclusive and accessible day shelter services for everyone in need. Absolute sobriety will not be required; however, all clients on-site must take care of themselves and adhere to a code of conduct. The consumption or use of substances on-site will not be permitted.

42. Will there be a fence at the DRC?

Yes, there will be a beautiful fenced-in patio area for guests to enjoy at the DRC. The patio will have an exit, but for safety and security of the guests, they will not be able to enter through the patio—they will still need to check in at the front desk to access it. There will not be a fence on the WDEOC side of the building. All clients of HGM abide by a "Good Neighbor Policy," which has been successfully implemented by HGM at Community Haven House and embraced by their clients. This includes not loitering or smoking on the walking areas outside of the DRC. Additionally, WDEOC is having conversations with the City of Eau Claire to ensure the trail on the opposite side of the building remains safe and accessible for all members of the community.

Questions About the Unhoused

43. Which homelessness support agencies have put their support in writing?

WDEOC and HGM will provide the crucial collaboration. Other entities will be involved only in a supportive role and are not being asked to sign Memorandums of Understanding at this time.

44. How will it help reduce the homeless/unhoused population?

The Day Resource Center plays a critical role in a larger, ongoing effort to prevent and end homelessness. By providing shelter, a safe place for personal belongings, showers, and laundry, it addresses basic needs. This will alleviate stress in daily lives. With less time focused on survival, individuals will be better positioned to take advantage of the wrap-around services offered within the DRC, which include WDEOC's Housing and Family Services along with partner agencies.

45. Where are they (the homeless) coming from?

The unhoused consist of individuals from Eau Claire, those who have joined the community over the years, and residents from nearby small towns with limited resources. When agencies distribute bus vouchers to individuals experiencing homelessness, one of the questions asked is, "Where did you reside prior to

becoming homeless?” With the vouchers distributed in 2023, 51.1% indicated Eau Claire, 36.6% noted other Wisconsin communities, and 12.4% came from other states.

46. Do we know the number of people needing to be served?

Professionals working with the homeless in Eau Claire estimate that about 100 to 200 individuals are unhoused on any given night, with about 80% of these being adults. The semi-annual Point In Time (PIT) Count is an attempt to count those who are unhoused on one specific night. The larger estimate takes into account those who may be jailed, “couch surfing,” or in similar circumstances.

Eau Claire Point in Time Count: 2019 - 2024

	Total Households w/Children	Total Households w/o Children x
January 2020	3	9
July 2020	0	7
January 2021	0	7
July 2021	0	36
January 2022	0	26
July 2022	4	32
January 2023	0	30
July 2023	9	44
January 2024	10	42
July 2024	33	71

The average household size with children is 3.15, and the average household size without children is 2.65, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

47. Could we do housing and a DRC?

Undoubtedly, the lack of affordable housing is part of the problem in Eau Claire. Providing the DRC is one aspect of the solution. Other agencies are focused on and continue to work to increase the number of available affordable housing units in the future.

48. Is there data on whether unhoused people are going to utilize the space?

Similar programs in other areas, including Wisconsin, demonstrate significant engagement by the target population. Representatives from WDEOC and HGM visited facilities in Muskegon, MI, Fort Wayne, IN, Joliet, IL, Madison, WI, Rochester, MN, and St. Paul, MN, where they noted considerable participation in programs and services.

49. How does this avoid attracting more of the same population?

Despite public fears, data indicates that unhoused individuals are not particularly mobile; they typically stay in the area where they lived when they became homeless. Exceptions typically involve those who left their homes earlier and chose to return.

50. Is there going to be a religious element to programming at the DRC?

No, there will be no requirement to participate in religious conversations or include a religious component in any treatment plan. HGM will offer a spirituality element as part of a menu of options clients can choose from, but there will be no mandate or pressure. As with all agency collaborators, HGM will provide information about its supportive programming, including its long-term Hope Renewed Program.

51. How would this differ from what HGM currently does?

HGM staff possess experience and training in assisting individuals facing challenges with addictions and homelessness. Currently, Hope Gospel Mission offers a long-term, comprehensive, and holistic program for men and women who are striving to improve their well-being. Their Renewed Hope Program is an on-site, residential-style initiative lasting over a year and supports individuals in achieving expected outcomes and goals across various dimensions of wellness, including academics, addictions, finances, life skills, mental health, nutrition and fitness, parenting, spirituality, and employment readiness training. Hope Gospel Mission's Day resource center project will not be a residential, long-term program; instead, it will focus on creating a safe space for people experiencing homelessness to gather and access case management services that will help them progress toward their wellness goals.

52. Will HGM have enough staff to support the mission?

HGM's operating budget for the DRC allocates enough staffing to support the center for years to come. HGM's operational support, which includes staffing, is projected to cost \$440,000 each year.

53. Were the unhoused consulted regarding this project?

Yes, many different voices were consulted about this project, including the unhoused population. They participated in listening sessions and educational forums, served on the Community Haven House advisory committee, and provided feedback through Q&A sessions at the library and via questionnaires. Additionally, members of the unhoused community serve on the Campaign Planning Committees for the DRC.

Questions about WDEOC

54. How many programs does WDEOC provide?

WDEOC offers 12 main programs and other key services to help bring people up and out of poverty.

- Homeless Services
- Head Start & Early Head Start
- Business Development
- WHEAP Energy Assistance
- Weatherization
- Transportation Programs
- Child Care Partnership
- Home Ownership Programs
- Fresh Start
- Continuing Education Programs
- RSVP Volunteer Program

55. How many staff does WDEOC have, and where are its offices located?

WDEOC is the largest 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in Western Wisconsin, employing 170 people both full-time and part-time. With its primary offices located in Independence and Eau Claire, WDEOC provides a

wide range of human and economic services across Buffalo, Eau Claire, Jackson, and Trempealeau Counties, operating at 15 sites and offering select services in several neighboring counties.

56. Is WDEOC charging the City of Eau Claire to use the offices and resources?

No. If the City of Eau Claire has resource officers in the DRC, they will be treated like other nonprofit service providers using the space and will not be charged.

57. How will this campaign promote awareness of WDEOC and its impact in Western Wisconsin?

The campaign necessitates a strong communications effort. A communications and marketing plan will be created to enhance awareness of WDEOC's regional mission and achievements. The agency is devoted to enhancing its communication with other regional organizations and philanthropic entities.

58. Why should the community fund new offices for Western Dairyland? Is WDEOC a government organization?

WDEOC is neither part of the state nor the federal government. It is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was established as a community action agency, deriving its funding from federal, county, and state government grants. Additionally, WDEOC receives charitable contributions from private foundations and individuals.

Because WDEOC has historically been primarily funded by grants rather than direct donation appeals, it cannot use programmatic grant funds for operating and capital needs outside those specific grant agreements. This project cannot proceed without private donations. WDEOC is doing what every other nonprofit service agency does to survive, provide, and expand services.

59. Is WDEOC at risk of losing federal funding?

While federal grants play a vital part of the overall funding for WDEOC, it is ever-adapting and can seek a blend of new and existing funding streams should federal grant programs change—including foundational and corporate grants, local community support, and partnerships, separate from the base federal funding. Although it is possible that funding could be reduced for specific services or programs, a reduction in federal funding would not lead to a complete shutdown of WDEOC. Additionally, the DRC will be operated by HGM, which does not rely on federal funding. This strategic separation ensures that the Day Resource Center is sustained through a broader, more diverse financial plan.

Questions about the Capital Campaign

60. What is the timeline for the campaign?

The pre-campaign planning involving four to five volunteer committees commenced in January 2025 and will conclude in January 2026, once the cash and pledges totaling \$6.4M are secured.

61. Why aren't we just investing more in the services that exist?

That is the intent. This proposal consolidates resources, expands and enhances amenities, and allows more individuals to access them. Experienced local agencies will collaborate to manage the project. Community Haven House is losing federal funding, and its building was intended to be temporary. It is undersized and not well-suited for the vision of this project. Something must replace the current facility.

62. Where would the funding come from?

Funds will be sought from private individuals, corporations, regional businesses, private foundations, and grants will be written to the state and federal governments.

63. Can some money be raised to be incorporated into an endowment to help with ongoing operations?

The majority of the funds should be allocated to establish the center initially. Once the building is established, both WDEOC and HGM can generate opportunities for endowments to support future operations.

64. What grant money is available for this project?

The issue of homelessness and housing insecurity is significant in the United States. Private foundations, as well as state and federal grants, will be pursued from various sources.

65. What is Eau Claire County doing to offer its support?

Eau Claire County may be asked to consider financial support.

66. Who are the local volunteers you need to run the campaign?

Volunteers will come from across the community. Some commitments will be brief, while others will last for the duration of the campaign. Members of the volunteer committee will be dedicated to improving the lives of Eau Claire's homeless population.

67. Can we reuse some fixtures, furnishings, and equipment at Community Haven House?

The operating costs are mainly for staffing rather than equipment, materials, or furniture. Every effort will be made to control costs as efficiently and effectively as possible.

68. How will gifts be accounted for and stewarded?

The Eau Claire Community Foundation (ECCF) will act as the fiscal sponsor for the campaign. In this role, it will receive and manage contributions while providing acknowledgment for them. ECCF is a trusted community agency equipped to accept and hold the funds, and it will acknowledge all contributions using the appropriate IRS tax receipt language. Additionally, ECCF can receive appreciated assets such as stocks, mutual funds, or real estate.

69. How will donors be recognized?

All contributions of \$1,000 or more will be permanently recognized on a donor wall. Gifts of \$500 or more will be publicly acknowledged during the campaign without identification of amounts. All gift and pledge amounts are confidential. A donor may choose to remain anonymous. Donors may choose to make gifts in honor or memory, in recognition of specific events or accomplishments, or have their names or others engraved on the plaques.

70. How can I stay informed about updates and progress on the project?

Community members can stay informed on the project by visiting www.westerndairyland.org

71. Can we reuse some fixtures, furnishings, and equipment at Community Haven House?

The operating costs are mainly for staffing rather than equipment, materials, or furniture. Every effort will be made to control costs as efficiently and effectively as possible.

72. How can I get involved?

When someone asks you to be involved in the campaign, please say, "Yes!" Please consider giving generously to support this project. If you are interested in volunteering, there are many ways to become involved - please contact Dale Karls, WDEOC Communications Coordinator, at Dale.Karls@wdeoc.org.