Agenda for Change

Aspirational and realistic.

Qualitatively and quantitatively different.

Students of color achieve at the same rate as white students.

Children are cared for and have fun as they become prepared for school.

People’s health issues are identified and treated early.

There is a decrease in homelessness.

Seniors and people with disabilities are able to stay in their homes.

There is a reduction in violence toward individuals and families.

Non-profit agencies and volunteers are strong partners in achieving measurable results.
Our Motivation To Seek Effective Solutions

Use of Emergency Shelter in Dane County

- Indiv in Fam
- Single Men
- Single Women
Mobilization Plans are our business plans

I. Problem Statement

II. National Research
   I. The problem
   II. Strategies

III. Local Research (includes primary research from community engagement)

IV. Hypothesis/goal (community level)

V. Our chosen strategies and resources

VI. Results and timeframe
Hypothesis/ Goal

By expanding eviction prevention strategies and providing direct access to stable housing for families facing homelessness, we will reduce our reliance on shelter as the first line of defense for these families. Our key indicator will be the number of Dane County school age children in shelter, which will decrease from 109 to 54 by 2015.

Key Strategies:

1. Landlord and tenant connections, Financial Management
2. Quality Case Management
3. Food access
4. Direct access to permanent housing (Housing First)
Analysis of rejection and eviction for 3 month period in 2005 of 200 households.

Conclusion: strong need for financial education and support and bridge builder strategy. to improve tenant-landlord connections.
Rent Increases In Dane County Exceed Wage Increases

Dane County Annual Changes
Median Wage and Rent Cost
1997 - 2008
2006: Community Tools to Respond with Financial Help Counseling

- 2-1-1, Links to Resources, more surplus food
- Links to training, Financial Education Center
- Training for Case Managers on budgeting
- Community Education and literacy events
Important Community Resources

- Special tax benefits
- For low and moderate income workers
- Taxes and credits done for free

Financial Education Center
- 2300 S. Park Street
- 1 stop shop for financial counseling and classes

Money Smart Week
- Community Events
- Every October since 2006
- Free programs

- Case managers concern about lack of follow through
- Need for more individual attention

United Way Core Values:
• Mobilization efforts to address critical issues
• Research based strategies
• Strong reliance on volunteer inspiration and engagement

Resources to apply to our key strategies:
• Funding
  – Annual Campaign, unrestricted and donor designated
  – Targeted Investments:
    – United Way of America
    – Strategic Partnerships (FINRA, AmeriCorps…)
• Volunteers
• Community Partnerships
2010 Financial Literacy Focused Investments bring in Financial Coaching

- YWCA Second Chance Financial Counseling:
- CAC Building Bridges:
- Financial Education Center EITC
- Financial Coaching thru FINRA and AmeriCorps
- Eviction Prevention at Community Agencies
- Skilled Trained Case managers in Funded Programs
- Financial Coaching part of Case Manager Team
How we measure our results

Percentage of Dane County families who:

• Are able to avoid stays in homeless shelter
• Access eligible tax credits (there was a 14% increase in 2008 from 2007)
• Evictions avoided
• Increased access to surplus food
• Increase their standard of living (measured by % of families with incomes below poverty level)
We are making progress

For every family served in shelter, we are assuring that 1.4 families are stabilized in community based housing.

896 families were stabilized in Housing in 2009 through 17 United Way funded programs.