



HOUSING

GRANDPARENTS/RELATIVES

RAISING

AND

NURTURING

DEPENDENT CHILDREN

Milwaukee County Resource Guide



Housing



For information on :

See Question Number:

Housing Assistance.....	1, 2, 3, 4
Landlord Notification.....	5, 6
Federal Fair Housing Laws.....	5
Wisconsin HUD.....	5, 6
Senior Citizen Housing.....	6
Housing Limits.....	7
Loans.....	8, 9, 10, 13
Safety Concerns.....	11
Foster Care.....	12
Resource List.....	Following the Q&A



Housing



The resource section at the end of this chapter gives you the locations, phone numbers, and/or Web sites of agencies where you can find help. For access to computers and assistance in reaching the information on Web sites, contact your local public libraries, senior centers, community centers, or family resource centers.



When grandparents raising grandchildren take on the responsibility for their grandchildren, there may be problems with their current housing situation. Can they stay in their home? Does their current home meet the requirements for having their grandchildren live with them? Is there enough room for everyone? Where can they go to find help to make any changes that are needed so that their grandchildren can live with them? These questions and other concerns are answered in this section on housing issues that may affect grandparents raising grandchildren.

1. Now that my grandchildren are living with me, I need help with housing expenses. What kinds of housing assistance are available?

There are several kinds of housing assistance available. In many communities there are publicly owned housing units for families and older adults. In some cases, the rents are set at about 30% of a household's income. There is other housing that is privately owned, but whose owners have agreed to keep rents at lower levels and to rent to low income households in return for federal government loans or tax breaks.

There are also housing choice vouchers, which a household can use to pay part of its monthly rent. With a voucher, the household pays 30% of its income for rent, and the government pays the rest. This program, also known as Section 8, can be used for any kind of housing if the owner agrees to accept the voucher and the rent is kept below a certain limits. You do not have to have legal custody of your grandchildren to apply for vouchers. You simply apply as a family and receive a voucher to meet the size of your family's needs.

2. What are the income limits for these assistance programs?

A local housing authority should be able to help you find out if you qualify for these assistance programs. Most assistance is for people with what the U.S. Department of Housing and Economic Development (HUD) calls "low income" or "very low income," based on the "area median income." Low income is defined as 80% or less of the area median income. Very low income is defined as 50% or less of the area median income. You can find the housing authority

serving your area by looking in the government listing in the phone book for your city or county. Look under housing authority, housing operations of community development authority. (See the answer to the next question for more information.)

3. How do I find out if there is any housing assistance in my community?

A good place to start is with the local public housing authority. Many Wisconsin communities have housing authorities, as do some counties. The housing authority may be listed separately in the government section of the phone book or it may be under the community development authority. A list of all housing authorities can be found on the Internet at http://www.wheda.com/WIFrontDoor/WIFrontDoor_Renters.asp Often there are long waiting lists in some areas.

Housing authorities aren't the only place to go that offer assisted housing. Many housing developments are owned and run privately. The owners agree to keep the rent low because they have received government help to pay for the cost of building the housing. The community action agency that serves your area may have a listing of assisted housing.

4. Do I qualify for any government housing assistance?

The only way to know for sure whether you qualify is to talk with housing authority staff. They may be able to give you a quick answer, but they probably will ask you to fill out an application. Along with income limits, you may need to meet other conditions to qualify for housing assistance.

5. Can a landlord refuse to rent to me because my grandchildren live with me?

According to federal fair housing laws, a landlord cannot refuse to rent to a household just because it includes children. However, your grandchildren must be under 18 years old.

This law usually does not cover housing meant just for seniors. Normally, owners of private senior-only housing do not allow children as residents. However, some federally financed housing for seniors does let minor grandchildren live there. To find out more about your fair housing rights, call the Wisconsin office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at 414-297-3214, Extension 8300, or visit its Web site <http://www.hud.gov/offices/fheo/> to see the "Fair Housing and Equal Opportunities Division."

6. I currently live in senior citizen housing. Will I have to move if my grandchildren live with me?

As a rule, children cannot live in senior citizen housing and you may be asked to leave if they move in with you. Check your lease to be sure. Low-income public housing is different. Residents can take in their minor grandchildren if the number of people living in each unit does not go over limit.

7. Is there a certain size my apartment needs to be if my grandchildren are living with me?

In most cases, landlords can set a limit on the number of people in an apartment to just two sharing a bedroom. In some cases, they may limit how many people can live in an apartment based on the amount of livable space in the apartment. This usually lets more people live in the apartment. If a landlord sets a rule—such as one person per bedroom—the landlord may be trying to avoid renting to families. If this is the case, you may want to check with your local housing authority.

8. I need a loan to fix up my home so my grandchildren can live with me. Are there any government programs to help me?

If you are talking about basic repairs, many communities have low interest loan programs to help homeowners keep up their homes. Check with your local community development office or with the city or village clerk’s office to see if your community has a program to help you. If you are in a rural area, the Rural Housing Service of the US Department of Agriculture has a program that can help you with the cost of repairs. Look in the phone book under the US government listings for the phone number of the office in your area.

The Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) also offers home improvement loans. For information contact WHEDA at 1-800-362-2761 or visit its Web site at www.wheda.com

Another place to check is with the Community Action Agency in your area. Many run home repair programs and special programs that help with making energy improvements for low-income housing.

9. I have heard I can borrow against the value of my home to help with the extra expenses of raising my grandchildren. Is this a good idea?

There are several kinds of loans that allow you to do this. The most common and easiest is known as a “home equity loan.” Another kind of loan that is available in some areas is a “reverse equity mortgage,” which is available just to senior citizens. If you have owned your home for many years and it has grown in value, it may be worth thinking about a loan. The problem with either of these loans is that you are using your home to guarantee that you will pay off the loan. Many financial advisors say that it is a good idea to take out such loans only for emergency expenses, such as major home repair or medical bills. They do not advise these loans as a way to add to your monthly income.

10. I keep getting offers for home equity loans in the mail and sure could use some extra cash. Are these loans a good idea?

Since you are a homeowner, many businesses will be happy to give you a loan. In return, they will take a mortgage on your home. This means it is easy to get the loan, the interest they charge at first may be low, and it may not cost a lot to get the loan. However, if you can't make the payments, you could lose your home. Some businesses that advertise low rates and payments may have fine print that says rates will go up after the first year or that payments may not cover all the interest that is being charged. This could mean that payments could go up or that the amount you owe on the loan keeps getting higher. Either of these situations could cause problems for you in the future. It's better to read the fine print of the loan application carefully or to borrow from a bank or credit union where you already do business.

11. Are there any special safety concerns that I should know about now that I have my grandchildren living with me?

- Hot water temperature: If your grandchildren are preschoolers, check the temperature setting on the hot water heater. Make sure the temperature is set low enough so that the water won't burn them. The recommended level to prevent burns and save energy is about 120 degrees. You can check the temperature by running the hot water into a glass with a food thermometer in it. Keep it there until the temperature stops rising.
- Smoke detectors: Check your smoke detectors often and change the batteries every year. Smoke detectors can wear out; if yours are more ten years old, consider replacing them.
- Carbon monoxide detectors: Carbon monoxide detectors sound the alarm if your furnace or other combustion appliance is not working properly so that it is giving off carbon monoxide. If you don't have a carbon monoxide detector, consider buying one.
- Mold/humidity: If you see mold or smell musty odors, there may be humidity problems that you should try to fix. Childhood asthma is on the rise, and mold and other microbes that grow in high humidity can trigger childhood asthma.
- Lead paint: If your home was built before 1978, you may have lead paint on some surfaces. Lead-based paint is especially dangerous to preschool children. Check with your local public health or University of Wisconsin–Extension office for information about the dangers of lead paint and how to deal with them.
- Tobacco smoke: Research shows that smoking cigarettes around young

children may cause them to have health problems. If your guests must smoke, ask them to smoke outside.

12. If I become the foster care provider for my grandchildren, will my home have to meet special standards?

There is a special foster care program for those who agree to care for children of relatives. The program is called Kinship Care. If you are accepted in Kinship Care, there are no licensing and no special standards to meet for your home. To find out if you qualify for Kinship Care, contact your local human service agency. Look in the city or county listings of the phone book under human services or social services.

If you do not qualify for Kinship Care, then you must be licensed as a foster care provider and get your home approved if you wish to receive financial support. To find out the standards needed for foster care homes, contact your local human services department. The rules are likely to include having separate beds for each child, separate bedrooms for girls and boys, and set minimum amounts of living space for each child.

13. My grandchildren have come to live with me, but I cannot afford to buy new furniture for them. Where can I borrow or buy low-cost used furniture?

There are a number of places you can go to find second-hand furniture, many of them nonprofit organizations such as St. Vincent de Paul, the Salvation Army, and Good Will. The Yellow Pages will list stores that sell used furniture (look under Furniture-Used). You could also check with local churches, synagogues, or mosques for help or information on how to find free used furniture. The list at the end of this chapter gives contact numbers for places in your area that may be able to help you. There often are waiting lists for the limited supplies of free and used furniture.



The information in this chapter has been developed by John Merrill, Professor/Extension Housing Specialist, School of Human Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

This chapter has been reviewed by Wendy Fearnside, Program and Planning Analyst, Bureau of Aging and Long Term Care Resources, Division of Supportive Living, Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services; Sandra L. Rubins, HUD; and Tony Perez, Director, City of Milwaukee Housing Authority.

This chapter is one of eight chapters included in the *Grandparents/Relatives Raising And Nurturing Dependent Children (GRAND) Resource Guide*. Other topics addressed in the resource guide include Child Care, Counseling, Education, Financial Assistance, Health, Legal, and Parenting issues. They can be found on the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Web site at:
<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/grandparent/grand.pdf>

The University of Wisconsin-Extension presents the information in the *Grandparents/Relative Raising And Nurturing Grandchildren (GRAND) Resource Guide* as a service to those who are raising grandchildren or other kin or to those who are working with them. Although every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and reliability, UW-Extension and contributors to this resource guide make no warranty or guarantee concerning the accuracy or reliability of the content in the resource guide.



Housing Resources



This resource section lists various types of housing resources; it begins with a description of the types of resources you will find on the list.

Home Purchase Loans [*Purchase*] – Programs that provide loans for people who want to buy their own homes.

Home Rehabilitation / Repair [*Repair*] – Programs that provide assistance in the form of labor and supplies for people who need to make necessary repairs to their homes to get rid of health or safety hazards. Qualifications for this service are based on income, age or disability.

Homeless Families or Individuals [*Homeless*] – Families made up of two parents and their children, but also including single-parent families, extended families (parents, their children, and other relatives) and nontraditional family groups, or individuals who may be living in their cars, on the street, or in some other temporary living location.

Housing Search Assistance [*Search*] – Programs that assign a staff member to help people who need housing to look at the available homes and to help them make and get the best home for their needs.

Rent Assistance [*Rent*] – Programs that pay the rent for people who do not have the money to make the payments themselves, who may be evicted if they don't get help with their rent, and who qualify for this service on the basis of income or need. This help is usually in the form of Section 8 Rental Certificates, a federally assisted housing program administered by local housing authorities. The program provides rental certificates and vouchers that make it possible for families who qualify to find and rent approved privately owned housing where the landlord has agreed to a contract with the housing authority. In this program, households pay approximately 30% of their income for rent, and the housing authority helps pay the balance.

Security Deposit Assistance [*Deposit*] – Programs that provide cash grants or loans for people who are in the process of finding rental housing and who can make the monthly rental payments, but who can't pay the first and last month's rent and the security deposits that have to be made before they can move in.

Tenant Rights Counseling [*Tenant*] – Programs that give advice and help to tenants who need to know their rights and responsibilities about leases and rental agreements, deposits, legal eviction procedures, ways to protect themselves from unlawful or retaliatory evictions, rent withholding rights, rent

control requirements, privacy rights and other issues that may be of special interest to tenants. Tenant rights counseling may also include help in completing forms, advice about a particular disagreement, and communication with landlords to notify them that they are not meeting landlord/tenant laws.

Homeless

Acall
302-6633

Telephone intervention and assessment of housing crisis that may lead to homelessness. Offers counseling and referrals, contacts to outreach workers, and, if needed, emergency shelter to homeless families and single women. Telephone intervention is available to all. ACALL is operated by IMPACT, Inc. under a grant from HUD to Milwaukee County.

Tenant

Centro Legal
1711 S. 11th St.
Milwaukee
WI 53204
384-7900
<http://www.centrolegalwisconsin.org/>

Centro Legal offers legal representation those with limited resources. Centro Legal gives legal advice, referral and services at a reasonable price in family law, tenant rights, municipal court violations, criminal and civil defense, immigration, administrative law, and other areas. The majority of Centro Legal's clients have an income below 125% of the federally determined poverty line.

Homeless

- **Prevention**

Community Advocates
4906 W Fond du Lac Ave
53216
449-4777

Provides advocacy for low income persons needing help with housing, utilities, welfare, health care, financing, and emergency shelter. Specific housing-related programs include the following:

- Shelter Prevention Program-provides case management and payee services for habitually homeless families who are moving back into permanent housing.
- Homeless Family Advocacy-provides short-term case management for homeless families moving back into permanent housing.
- Tenant/Landlord Counseling Program-answers questions about rental rights for tenant and landlords.

- Relocation Program- helps families and individuals at risk of becoming homeless to find housing they can afford.
- Building Inspection Liaison Program- helps tenants living in sub-standard housing negotiate for repairs or rent reimbursement according to Wisconsin statutes.
- Tenant Training Seminar-a seminar on the rights and responsibilities of renters meant to promote good rental practices.
- Security Deposit Guarantee Program-allows families to pay off their security deposit in installments along with their rent.
- Early Identification Utility Program- helps customers referred from the gas, electric and telephone companies make reasonable payment agreements.

Referrals for free or low-cost used furniture and appliances **Community Information Line**
773-0211

Call for information on where to find free or low-cost used furniture, household good, beds and bedding and appliances.

Rent
• **Older adults** **Council for the Spanish Speaking**
614 W National Ave
53204
384-3700
<http://www.councilforthespanishspeakingmilw.org/>

Provides the Guadalupe Center, subsidized rental housing for elderly.

Rent **Housing Authority - City of Milwaukee**
809 N Broadway St
Milwaukee, WI 53202
286-5678
<http://www.hacm.org>

This Section 8 Program is a federally funded program administered by the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee. The Section 8 Program often referred to as the Rent Assistance Program (RAP) is designed to help low and moderate income families rent privately owned housing. The rental subsidy known as a housing assistance payment is paid directly to the property owner or designated payee each month. This program is available to a limited number of families and allows them to pay approximately 30% to 40% of their income towards their monthly rent. The program pays the balance of the rent directly to the landlord in the form of a monthly check.

Rent

- **Low income families**

Purchase

- **Low income families**

Repair

- **Home improvement loans**

Tenant

- **Fair housing rights**

Milwaukee Field Office

310 West Wisconsin Avenue

Room 1380

Milwaukee, WI 53203-2289

297-3214

<http://www.hud.gov/index.html>

HUD is the federal agency that works to help the nation's communities meet their housing needs, spur economic growth in distressed neighborhoods, provide housing assistance for the poor, help rehabilitate and develop moderate and low-cost housing, and enforce the nation's fair housing laws.

Field Policy and Management

Every HUD office has a staff of Community Builders who can answer your questions and work with you in any aspect of HUD's mission. Community Builders can help communities solve problems and they can help individuals understand how to get an FHA mortgage or become a neighborhood organizer.

Community Planning and Development

The Department's community development programs support a broad range of local projects in the state through a variety of partnerships involving government agencies at all levels, non-profit organizations, private investors, and community groups. These programs aid low and moderate income persons by revitalizing neighborhoods, rehabilitating and developing housing, improving public facilities, providing necessary public services, and creating jobs.

Housing

HUD housing programs are used to encourage the development and rehabilitation of housing in addition to providing Federal Housing Administration (FHA) mortgage insurance for homebuyers throughout Wisconsin.

Single Family Housing - The popular FHA mortgage insurance program has helped homebuyers since 1934. By insuring lenders against loss, the FHA program encourages them to make mortgage loans to people who cannot afford the larger down payment required in the conventional loan market.

To further help not only HUD-insured homeowners, but all mortgagors (those who mortgage property), HUD is working with Housing Counseling Agencies throughout the state to give help in rental, first-time home buying, budgeting, and default counseling.

Multifamily Housing - HUD also provide FHA mortgage insurance and programs that develop multifamily housing designed for the elderly, persons with disabilities and families under various programs.

Home Improvements

HUD provides Section 203(k) insurance, which enables homebuyers and homeowners to finance either the purchase (or refinancing) of a house and the cost of its rehabilitation through a single mortgage—or to finance the rehabilitation of their existing home. The Title I program insures loans to finance the light or moderate rehabilitation of properties, as well as the construction of nonresidential buildings on the property.

Public Housing

PIH is responsible for administering and managing a range of programs authorized and funded by Congress under the basic provisions of the U.S. Housing, Act of 1937. The Act created the public and Indian housing program, which now provides affordable housing to over 1.3 million households nationwide.

Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity

The Program Operations and Compliance Center helps individuals who feel that they have been discriminated against in housing because of their race, color, religion, national origin, gender, familial status (family with children under 18 years), or disability. The Center investigates housing and program discrimination complaints and monitors selected HUD-funded programs to make sure that equal opportunity requirements are met.

**Purchase
Search
Disabled**

IndependenceFirst
600 W Virginia 4th Floor
53204
291-7520
<http://www.independencefirst.org/>

IndependenceFirst offers a wide range of services designed to help persons with disabilities to live independently in the community. In collaboration with lenders, IndependenceFirst offers a housing program for persons with disabilities or households that include an adult or child with a disability. The goal is to serve persons with a disability become homeowners by making use of down payment assistance from various grant and forgivable loan sources.

Credit management counseling, first-time home buying classes, and homeowner education are a few examples of resources available to IndependenceFirst consumers. Housing services also assist consumers in finding affordable, accessible housing and providing technical assistance to builders and landlords.

Rent

- **Disabled**

Living Options Program

600 W Virginia St #300
53204
291-7500

A service of Interfaith Older Adult Programs, Inc., the Living Options Program provides information about retirement communities, retirement apartments, assisted living facilities, subsidized apartments, nursing homes, results of annual inspections, respite care and adult day care for Milwaukee, Kenosha, Waukesha, Ozaukee, Racine, Washington and Walworth counties.

Rent

- **Disabled**
- **Low income**
- **Older Adults**

Metropolitan Associates

1123 N Astor St
53202
276-1515

For low-income families, senior citizens and the mobility impaired, including sight and hearing impaired. Metropolitan Associates manages apartment communities in the Greater Milwaukee area as well as southeastern Wisconsin.

**Purchase
Repair**

Milwaukee - Department of City Development
809 N Broadway St
53202
286-3504

The Department of City Development is a department of the City of Milwaukee. Services include areas of neighborhood development, housing and business loans, business development how-to's, city planning, a business development center, employment and labor force statistics, the Graffiti hotline, historic preservation, home rehabilitation loans, homes for sale, housing resources, and industrial land for sale.

Repair

**Milwaukee (City) – Department of City
Development
Neighborhood Improvement Program –
Direct Services**
286-5900 – Main Administrative Number
<http://www.mkedcd.org/>

**Neighborhood Improvement Programs:
Downtown/Central:
Harabee Ombudsman Home Repair**
335 W Wright St (53212)
264-7822

**Ventures in Community Improvement
(VICI-OIC)**
3064 N Martin Luther King Dr (53212)
908-3272

**YMCA Community Development
Corporation NIP**
1350 West North Avenue, 53206
374-9441

Repair (continued)

Southeast:
Milwaukee Christian Center NIP
1223 South 23rd Street, 53204
643-7704

West:
West End Development Corporation NIP
3034 West Wisconsin Avenue, 53208
933-2080

The Department of City Development Neighborhood Improvement Program provides low income homeowners with financial assistance to repair code violations on their homes. Eligible work may include roofing, gutters, painting, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, heating repairs, and other code violations. A staff specialist helps the homeowner with putting together a list of how much work needs to be done and in getting bids from private contractors. The Direct Service program helps eligible homeowners with home maintenance while working to strengthen and to preserve the neighborhoods. All repairs are based on code violations and are authorized by the Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS). DNS refers work for plumbing, electrical, heating, masonry and all other rehabilitation to the NIP'S.

Repair

**Milwaukee (City) – Department of City
Development:**
Home Rehabilitation Loan Program
286-5618
<http://www.mkedcd.org/>

The Home Rehabilitation Program makes low interest loans to homeowners who live in eligible neighborhoods in Milwaukee. Homeowners may use these funds for code repairs, energy conservation, roofs, siding, kitchen and

bathroom remodeling, and other projects. Properties must be code compliant when the rehab work is complete. Homeowners can receive below market rate loans based on household income and family size. Special terms are available for low income senior citizens over 62 years of age.

Rent **Milwaukee (City) – Department of City Development**
Rent Assistance
286-5650
<http://www.hacm.org/>

The Rent Assistance Program subsidizes rents in privately-owned homes for low and moderate income families and elderly, handicapped and disabled persons. Landlords may list available properties with the program and receive referrals of potential renter. To receive an owner's packet that contains complete information about landlord participation in the program, please call the number listed.

Repair **Milwaukee (City) – Department of City Development**
Rental Rehabilitation
Phone: 286-5618
<http://www.mkedcd.org/housing/nidc.html#RentalRehab>

The Rental Rehabilitation Program makes forgivable loans to people who own investment property in eligible Milwaukee neighborhoods. Landlords may use these funds for code repairs, energy conservation, roofs, siding, kitchen and bathroom remodeling, and other projects. Property owners may receive forgivable loans for up to half the cost of rehabilitation. Properties must meet codes when the rehabilitation is complete, and they must be made available for rental to low and moderate income families.

Graffiti **Milwaukee (City) - Anti-Graffiti Hotline**
286-8715
<http://www.city.milwaukee.gov/display/router.asp?docid=2363>

The City of Milwaukee Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS) operates an Anti-Graffiti Hotline. Citizens can call and report locations of graffiti. DNS will try to contact owners, advise them of any options, and hopefully the owners will remove the graffiti quickly. If the owner fails to remove the graffiti, an order will be issued. In some cases the City will do the work and charge the costs to the owner. The most effective weapon against graffiti is its quick removal. The longer it is up, the greater the chances of its return. Call the City of Milwaukee Anti-Graffiti hotline at -286-8715 to report graffiti. If you see

someone in the act of graffiti vandalism, call the police at 911. If you are the owner of property that has graffiti, you should report it to the police non-emergency number of 933-4444.

Purchase

Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity

2233 N 30th St
53208
562-6100

Part of national and international movement that is trying to improve the quality of life for low income persons by giving them the chance to own their own home. Work mostly takes place in the neighborhood bounded by Lisbon and North Avenues, and 31st and 36th Streets, so that the homes being worked on are close together. In this way, not only is decent, affordable housing made available for low income families, but there also is a chance to renew the neighborhood. Works primarily with volunteers and the homesteader families themselves. Families are chosen who are low income, presently living in poor housing conditions, and willing to work with Habitat in the rehabilitation of building of their home.

Purchase

South Community Organization (Southeast)

1635 S 8th St
Milwaukee, WI 53204
643-7913

South Community Organization is involved with housing rehabilitation and making homes available for cooperative living via the Southside Housing Co-op or for single family dwellings for homeowner occupants. Also offers a self-help housing program, counseling for first-time home buyers, low interest home improvement loan program, and sponsors summer day camp at Manitoba Park.

**Purchase
Repair
Subsidized**

**Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development
Authority (WHEDA)**

101 W Pleasant St Suite 100
53212
227-4039

(800) 334-6873 – Toll Free – statewide

Email: info@wheda.com

www.wheda.com

Rental Housing in Milwaukee County:

<http://www.wheda.com/rental%20housing.asp>

The HOME program offers a mortgage loan with a low, fixed interest rate to help low-and moderate-income individuals and families buy a home. Serves

first-time home buyers or persons who have not owned a home for over three years or who live within a targeted area within the City of Milwaukee. The Home Improvement Loan Program (HILP) offers affordable home improvement loans of up to \$17,500 that are available to low-and moderate-income Wisconsin home owners. This loan may be used for non-luxury repairs including, but not limited to, repair of roof or foundation, replacing windows, updating plumbing or wiring, replacing a furnace, and removal of lead paint.

An inventory of federally assisted housing project has been prepared by the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority as part of the Authority's continuing commitment to provide information to aid in the development of low-income housing. Its purpose is to catalog the location, management agency, number of units, and type of subsidized households in the State of Wisconsin.

Low Income Heating Assistance Program (*Liheap*)

Energy Assistance

The Energy Assistance Bureau

1-866-HEATWIS (432-8947).

<http://www.homeenergyplus.wi.gov/>

The Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) administers the federally funded Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Public Benefits Energy Assistance Program. LIHEAP and its related services help over 100,000 Wisconsin households annually

For assistance in finding home & community-based services:

Information & Referral Older Adults

ElderLink – Aging Resource Center
289-6874

ElderLink is the Information and Assistance Call Center Unit of the Milwaukee County Department on Aging Resource Center. ElderLink provides a single point of access to information, services, and programs that can help people 60 years of age and older remain active and independent. At ElderLink your questions and concerns will be addressed by social workers who can link you with up-to-date information about the wide array of resources available to meet long-term care needs. ElderLink staff can also make referrals related to Transportation, Home Delivered Meals and Long Term Support Programs such as providing assessments for Family Care, Elder Abuse Investigations, Caregiver Respite. Elderlink also operates a 24 Hour Program with on call social workers who can assist older adults who may be experiencing a non-medical crisis after normal business hours and on weekends.

