

## January 2021 Winnebago County Extension Committee Update

### Eviction Update

- There were 637 evictions filed in Winnebago County in 2020, despite various eviction moratoriums being in place for roughly six months of 2020
- Previous five years of Winnebago County filed evictions-

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
637	767	601	462	535

- For comparison, Outagamie County had 350 filed in 2020, 412 in 2019, 186 in 2018
- Outagamie County had 21,465 renter households in 2020, equals 1.63% eviction rate
- Winnebago County had 24,570 renter households in 2020, equals 2.59% eviction rate

### Rent Smart Online

- Online Rent Smart via Zoom with state financial security team
  - Six modules taught over six classes, one hour per class
- 40 Rent Smart certificates issued statewide from July, September, October, and November classes. 15 of these certificates were earned by Winnebago County residents.
- January has 49 participants registered, 12 are Winnebago County residents
- February has 25 participants registered, 6 are Winnebago County residents
- Zoom classes are scheduled for March, April, and May
- Most Winnebago County referrals are coming from Winnebago County/Oshkosh Housing Authority staff. Others come from ADVOCAP or other area agencies.
- No in-person classes yet scheduled for 2021
- Train-The-Trainer for agency professionals was presented in December. There were 169 participants from 8 different states, 145 completed both classes

### Winnebago County Eviction Prevention Task Force

- Formed by Oshkosh Area United Way, Winnebago Conflict Resolution Center, and Oshkosh Area Community Foundation. Group's focus is to address immediate eviction concerns during the pandemic and ongoing eviction problems in Winnebago County. My role is advocating for Rent Smart expansion with community groups, the court system, landlords, and tenants to prevent issues that lead to evictions.
- The taskforce has been meeting weekly since April to address urgent and emergent eviction needs. Group has selected a facilitator with TerraLuna Collaborative to help us understand the contributing factors that are causing evictions in the county.

## **CDC Eviction Moratorium**

- Initially effective September 4 through December 31, it has been extended through January 31, 2021. Tenants must self-attest to financial hardship due to COVID.
- Tenants could potentially owe five months of back rent in February 2021 after the moratorium ends on top of previous rent due. There is a potential for more Wisconsin Rental Assistance Program funding after the latest federal COVID relief bill.
- Landlords are facing issues paying for mortgages, utilities, property taxes
- 2021 eviction numbers could be unprecedented nationwide

## **Encouraging Financial Conversations**

- EFC is a recently-updated Extension financial education program for front-line agency staff working with individuals facing financial concerns
- Online classes, twice per week, one hour per class, over three weeks
- Presented in conjunction with Extension educators from Washington, Dodge, Green Lake, and Outagamie counties
- 57 professionals registered for January classes, 10 from Winnebago County

## **Youth Forward Wisconsin Children's Savings Accounts**

- CSA are long-term savings or investment accounts for children from newborn to 18
- Funds are usually reserved for postsecondary education or another asset purchase such as homeownership or entrepreneurship
- State team has begun process of planning for statewide rollout of the program in 2021/2022

## **Money Matters**

- Fox Cities Habitat for Humanity has referred another cohort of 11 homebuyer clients for Money Matters

## **Other Work**

- Attending financial coaching training through UW in February
- Attend monthly Fox Valley Housing Coalition and Winnebago Land Housing Coalition meetings to update community on Extension resources, especially Rent Smart
- OWHS personal finance class presentations