



Dear Neighbor,

Where will you sleep tonight?

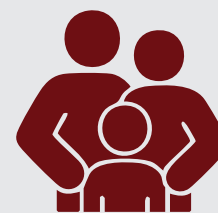
For over 400 people last year in Wabash County, over 100 of whom were children, there was no easy answer to that question. The answer may have been to sleep in their cars, in abandoned buildings, or under bridges. Others know where they will sleep tonight, but will be evicted and out on the street at the end of the week because they can't make their rent payment. These people found themselves homeless for a wide variety of reasons; job loss, fleeing an abusive situation with their children, mental or physical disability, increase in rent beyond their means, coming out of incarceration or rehabilitation, or perhaps their home burned and was underinsured.

What does it mean to be homeless?

- Can only own what you can carry and protect
- Must rely on public facilities for personal care and hygiene
- Against the law to loiter without a visible means of support
- Need an address to escape homelessness
 - To fill out a job application
 - To apply for rent
 - To register children for school
 - To receive mail and packages

Housing insecurity is a Wabash County problem.

In 2021, many households in Wabash County struggled with housing insecurity including 1,630 below the federal poverty line, and 3,125 more were ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households.* These are households where folks were employed, but in an insecure housing situation. They are often one crisis (injury, illness, fire, car breakdown, etc.) away from homelessness. The median wage in the County was not quite enough to afford a two-bedroom apartment. The situation for renters is even more dire. It would take three average renters wages, working full-time, to afford an average two-bedroom apartment.



400

People in Wabash county, including 100 children, were homeless at some point in 2023.



Income Needed:
\$60,360/yr

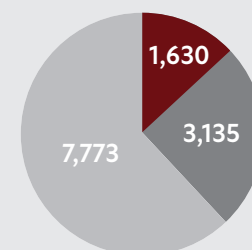
Median Income:
\$59,611/yr

The average household cannot afford a two-bedroom apartment in Wabash County.

*According to the Out of Reach Report

38%

of Wabash County Households struggle with housing insecurity.



- Poverty
- ALICE
- Above

*According to the 2023 ALICE Report

Glimmers of hope.

Housing Action of Wabash County (HAWC) is a consortium of Wabash County nonprofits, government agencies, and churches whose missions and clientele bring them into contact with homeless and other low income families and individuals. After meeting informally for more than 10 years, HAWC recently incorporated to bring focus to this problem by advocating for the housing insecure, applying for corporate and government grants, and appealing to the good people of Wabash County. We have recently made some important strides.

- **Emergency Shelter:** In cooperation with the City of Wabash and Advantage Housing, HAWC now provides emergency short term housing to homeless individuals and families through an agreement for reduced rates at a local motel. Although funding currently limits us to providing emergency housing for only three rooms, well below the level of need of 10 - 12 rooms, it is a hopeful start for a county that has had no emergency shelter in the past.
- **Housing Helpline:** We have established a Housing Helpline that will connect those in Wabash County needing housing assistance to a Navigator who will review their current situation and direct them to available community resources.
- **Monthly Community Partners Meeting:** This monthly meeting is designed for all of the community to come together once a month to collaborate and discuss housing needs, to share success stories, and bring awareness to upcoming events that organizations are providing in the community. Networking is a critical tool used to connect the individual in need with the correct service to aid them in their crisis.

You can help.

HAWC was started by a few people who saw the widespread housing insecurity in Wabash County and felt compelled to do something about it. But the job is too big for just a few people. Won't you join us to strengthen our community by making a tax deductible gift to Housing Action of Wabash County?

DONATE BY MAIL:

Please mail checks to HAWC
123 Canal Street Suite 2
Wabash, IN 46992

DONATE ONLINE:

Please visit hawc85.org
and follow the link to donate.

Thank you again for your support and generosity.



James R. Gaier, Board President
Housing Action of Wabash County, Inc.

STEPS TO HOUSING SECURITY

STEP 1 Emergency Housing

Goal: Get people off of the street and into a safe and secure environment as quickly as possible

Resources Provided: HAWC provides a needs assessment and referral services to community resources.

STEP 2 Transitional Housing

Goal: Equip people with the skills they need to be successful by creating a long-term housing plan

Resources Provided: HAWC provides mandatory housing counseling to help overcome the housing barriers unique to each guest.

STEP 3 Permanent Housing

Goal: Long-term housing that is safe, healthy, and affordable

Resources Provided: HAWC partners have connections with community landlords who are willing to work with this population. HAWC and its partners provide home start-up materials such as beds (Sleep Solutions), housewares, and furniture.