

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to promote and encourage public well-being; provide homeless prevention resources to those living in poverty and threatened with homelessness; to help individuals and families survive and exit homelessness; and to expand opportunities and empower people to be self-sufficient in east-central Iowa cities and counties.



OVER THE EDGE

142 vertical feet later! Thanks so much to Brock Jensen from XOP for going Over the Edge in support of CSEI & United Way!

UNITED WAY KICK OFF!

CSEI hosted a Bean Bag tournament in support of United Way. **ECIA had 100% employee participation**, meaning each employee made some form of donation to United Way, which in-turn supports CSEI programs.

Thank you ECIA Employees!



Big thanks to **Freddy's** in Dubuque for donating ice cream sandwiches to make our kick off event even better.

OUR PROGRAMS

Rapid Rehousing

Short and long-term rental assistance and case management serving individuals and families who are homeless

Homeless Prevention

Short-term assistance serving individuals and families who are in imminent risk of homelessness

Street Outreach

Outreach program with emphasis on reaching those living unsheltered and providing basic needs

Housing Helpline

Individuals facing homelessness, risk of homelessness, or other forms of housing instability in Delaware or Dubuque counties are encouraged to call the Housing Helpline to access information, referrals, and resources in their communities related to housing instability or homelessness.

"Homelessness is an injustice that should not exist in a world of abundance."

~ Unknown

Coming soon

CSEI's annual Care & Share donation collection is coming up this November. Look forward to a separate release on how you can get involved.



National Housing Trends:

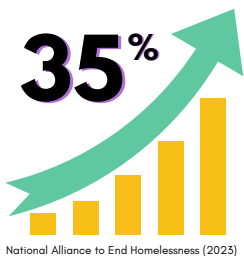
SHELTER UTILIZATION

Why Increased Shelter Capacity has not Solved the Unsheltered Homeless Problem

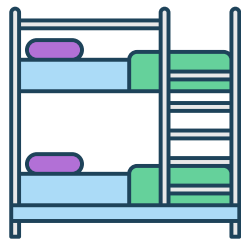


Rising Unsheltered Homelessness

Since 2015, the national unsheltered population has grown by a total of **35 percent** over the years.



Shelter Beds Added in Response



National Alliance to End Homelessness (2023)

Nationwide shelter bed numbers have increased by **7 percent** since 2019 after several years of decreasing shelter capacity.

More Beds ≠ More People in Shelter

Despite more bed availability, **fewer people are in shelter**. Occupied shelter beds have been trending downward for years.



National Alliance to End Homelessness (2023)

THE HISTORY OF SHELTER BED AVAILABILITY (OR A LACK THEREOF)

National Alliance to End Homelessness (2023)

A major contributor to unsheltered homelessness has been consistent and overwhelming shelter bed shortages since data collection began in 2007.

Today, the gap has narrowed but remains vast, largely impacting individual adults.

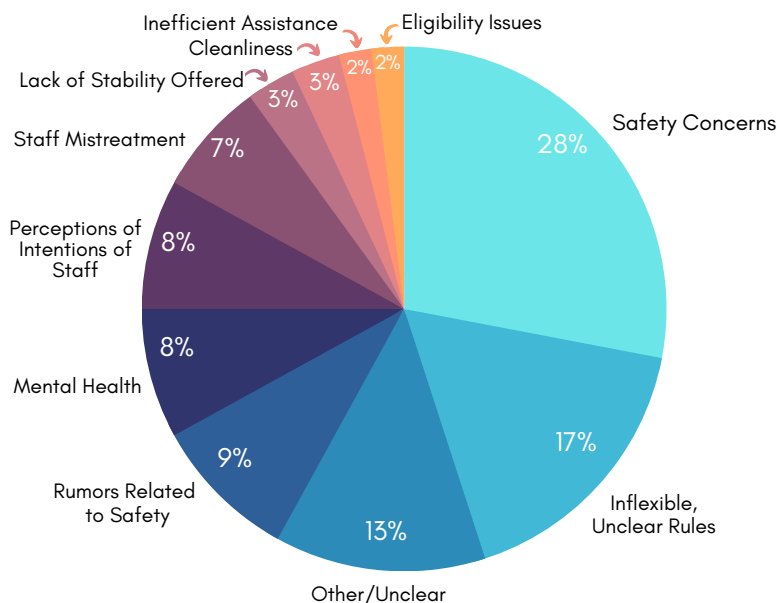
In 2022, there were only enough shelter beds to reach 55% of homeless individual adults.

However, national-level data points to a surplus of available accommodations for families with children and unaccompanied youth.



WHY ISN'T EVERYONE IN A SHELTER?

Coalition for the Homeless (2021)



Perception of Safety

- A survey conducted by the Coalition of the Homeless cited that the reason a majority of respondents rejected shelter was due to safety. The respondents claimed that incidence of theft, physical attack, or other types of violations in the shelters – whether experienced, witnessed, or simply rumored – contributed to their reasoning for sleeping outside rather than in shelter. These reasons contribute to the perception of the shelter system as chaotic and unsafe.



Strict Rules

- Rules like curfew, substance-free environments, or just a general lack of understanding or clarity regarding procedural rules for occupants.
- According to the study by the Coalition of the Homeless, "rules meant to establish order are not well communicated to the residents, and are often applied without apparent logic or consistency. This results in many residents finding the experience unpredictable and threatening."



Not Equipped To Accommodate Brain Health Disabilities

- People with severe brain health illnesses may get denied entry or are unable to be successful in shelter and are forced to leave. Shelter environments, staff, and volunteers are often not equipped to handle most brain health illnesses, and are therefore unable to help people with these conditions.



When Shelter Isn't an Option, Street Outreach Is

Street Outreach activities are designed to meet the immediate needs of people experiencing homelessness in unsheltered locations. This is done by connecting them with emergency shelter, housing, critical services, providing them with urgent, non-facility-based care, and essential supplies.

The survey conducted by The Coalition for the Homeless (2021) reflected that individuals who were served by Street Outreach programs most valued "assistance with toiletries, benefits, food, clothing – the survival goods of street livelihood." Whereas, immediate referrals and transport to shelter were less favorable.

Last year, **CSEI's Street Outreach program served 108 individuals**. Products like sleeping bags, tarps, food, water, personal hygiene items, first aid kits, hats, gloves, and other essentials were regularly supplied to participants.

SUPPORT & THE PATHWAY OUT OF HOMELESSNESS

Claire Walker's Internship Reflection



When I first started as the Coordinated Entry Housing Intern, I didn't fully understand the impact I might be able to have on my community. Over three months, I learned that a phone call can change a lot for a person or a family. One specific story that has impacted me during this internship started early in the job.

I answered the hotline, thinking it would be like other rental assistance calls, but instead, it was a mother living in a car with her five children.

During that first phone call for housing assistance, I was able to sign up the family for our Prioritization List and for the Street Outreach program. Since then, CSEI and the community have helped put the family into a home while also collecting clothes, toys, and everyday necessities for them. With this new found stability, the mother is able to look for a job, and the kids are able to attend school and have other opportunities that being homeless makes difficult. This is what made this job so special: providing people housing as the first step, so they have the chance to expand stability in other ways.

I feel fortunate to have been a part of a full-circle story during my time at ECIA/CSEI, and I also hope to hear about their progress in the future. I now understand much more closely some of the realities of homelessness and that sometimes **a path out wouldn't be possible without support** and funding. We need to continue to share how our program works and inform people about the growing homeless and low-income populations here in Dubuque and Delaware county.

Thank you to CSEI for all you have taught me, and I look forward to all CSEI will continue to teach our community about those who need this help.

Welcome

Christine E. has joined CSEI's homeless helpline team!



STORIES FROM THE STREET: DAVE

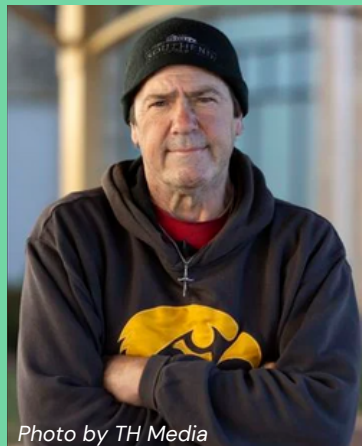


Photo by TH Media

Dave was living outside for four and a half years before moving into a place of his own. This summer, Dave was housed with the help of CSEI's Rapid Rehousing program. Dave was a long-time client of CSEI's Street Outreach Program. Staff would regularly check on him

and inquire about any needs that he had while he was living outside. Dave said "I was outside camping for 2 and a half years, you (CSEI Staff) came and checked on me, brought me water, brought me stuff I needed. It helped me out immensely." Dave recounted being helped during the annual Point In Time count, "I remember that one day you came at 4:45 in the morning. I was thinking 'they're crazy.' You could have driven your car right up to the campsite, but you walked the whole way just to bring me things I needed."

When asked about the difficulty he experienced finding a place after he was enrolled in Rapid Rehousing Dave said, "it was tough. I applied at a lot of places. I had resources, I had this housing assistance and I get disability, and I still could not get a response from the landlords or the building managers. Ashley was the person that found this place for me. It was so hard to connect with the landlords and rental agents. I thought I was going to be sleeping outside this winter again."

"Rapid rehousing was there when I needed it. It is a wonderful program. If I was left outside much longer, I'd be dead. **The Rapid Rehousing program saved my life.** I can't say enough how much I appreciate it."

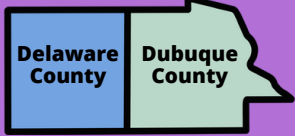
Pictured: Dave's campsite during 2023 Summer PIT



Click [here](#) to watch our impact video!

Follow us on [facebook!](#)

Coordinated Entry Housing Hotline



1.833.587.8322



JULY - SEPT. 2023



780
**HOUSING
INSTABILITY
CALLS ANSWERED**



83
**INDIVIDUALS SERVED IN
RAPID REHOUSING &
HOMELESS PREVENTION**



67
**INDIVIDUALS
SERVED THROUGH
STREET OUTREACH**

CSEI is partnering with the Dubuque Racing Association, The National Endowment for the Arts, The Iowa Arts Council, and the Dubuque Museum of Art for the creation of the

CSEI @HOME PhotoVoice

PhotoVoice puts cameras in the hands of people to explore and share their perspectives on a certain topic or subject. In the coming months, CSEI will be in search of contributors to show what **home** means to them through this unique event.



IOWA ARTS COUNCIL
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS
arts.gov



Click **HERE** to check out our Amazon Wishlist!



TOP STORY: CSEI FEATURED

TELEGRAPH HERALD

Team completes semiannual count of area homeless population

BY MAIA BOND maia.bond@thmedia.com
Jul 28, 2023 Updated Jul 28, 2023



JESSICA REILLY

"A team goes out to speak with as many homeless people as it can to gather demographic information and get an accurate count of how many homeless people are in the area...The team also offers support and gives out care packages that include items such as hygiene products and first aid kits, a list of cooling centers and bug spray.

CSEI does street outreach to provide resources to people experiencing homelessness, which has built up a level of trust that helps staff get an accurate count."

Click [here](#) to read more!

GIFTS AND GRANTS

Many thanks to our partners for making this work possible!



SISTERS OF THE PRESENTATION
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
DUBUQUE, IOWA



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IOWA FINANCE AUTHORITY



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Hotline: 1.833.587.8322

www.cseiowa.org