



COMMUNITY ADVOCATES  
Where Meeting Basic Needs Inspires Hope

## *HOUSING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES (2023)*

***City of Milwaukee Building Inspector Services*** – For residents who are renting housing units needing repair, Community Advocates' staff work with the City of Milwaukee Building Inspector's office to legally withhold rent until needed repairs are made to the rental unit. Services focus on rent withholding, rent abatement, and relocation. Please call 414-449-4777 for more information.

***Homeless Prevention & Financial Assistance Program*** – The Homeless Prevention & Financial Assistance Program assists low-income renters, and individuals and families who are at imminent risk of homelessness with assessment, rent, security deposits, rental repair issues, tenant/landlord mediation services, rental arrears assistance, rent withholding, and advocacy aimed at homeless prevention. Evictions are prevented with payment on rental arrears and mediation with landlords, and a full array of resources are used to stabilize households so that they can retain housing in the community. Please call 414-449-4777 for more information.

***Homeless Prevention and Housing Stability Case Management Program*** – The Homeless Prevention and Housing Stability Case Management Program provides mediation advocacy and rent payment assistance to households at-risk of becoming homeless, households who are facing imminent homelessness, and to victims of domestic violence. Information, referral, and mediation are provided to low-income tenants facing eviction or small claims actions related to tenancy. Evictions are prevented through the program with up to six months of rent assistance and advocacy with property owners. This program provides resources and teaches necessary skills so that these vulnerable populations are able to obtain affordable permanent housing through rapid re-housing and remain housed through homelessness prevention. Please call 414-449-4777 for more information.

***Lead Abatement Relocation Program*** – The Lead Abatement Relocation Program is a partnership with the City of Milwaukee Health Department Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program to temporarily relocate families while their property is being made lead safe if there is an increased risk of lead exposure during abatement activities. Services provided by the program include the coordination of relocation to temporary housing and facilitating the disbursement of funds to cover meals, transportation, and other incidental costs associated with relocation. Referrals accepted from the City of Milwaukee Health Department's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. Please call 414-286-3521 for information.

***Permanent Housing-Intervention / Prevention / Case Management for Homeless Families Program*** – Community Advocates' Permanent Housing-Intervention/Prevention/Case Management for Homeless Families Program provides a continuum of services for low-income households who are homeless or for whom homelessness is imminent. Participant households are offered comprehensive services – advocacy, case management, and rent payment assistance – to equip them with the resources and skills necessary to obtain affordable permanent housing through rapid re-housing and remain housed through homelessness prevention. Please call 414-449-4777 for more information.

***Rent Bridge Program*** – As a form of homeless prevention rent payment assistance, the Rent Bridge Program works to negotiate a payment plan with property owners for clients who have income, but have missed a payment. Property owners must agree to participate in the program and will agree to accept the amount owed to be paid over a six-month period. To be eligible, the tenant must have lived in the housing unit for at least one year, the amount owed must be \$400 or less, and tenants must have some form of income. Please call 414-449-4777 for more information.

***Rental Housing Resource Center*** – The Rental Housing Resource Center provides rent payment assistance, mediation, and legal services to prevent eviction filings. Experienced staff monitor incoming calls / emails and triage client needs, including temporary financial assistance, legal assistance, and mediation. Those who access the help line can also receive connections to other benefits such as Unemployment and FoodShare when applicable. Through the triage process, referrals are being made to relevant partners including Legal Aid Society, Legal Action of Wisconsin and Mediate Milwaukee, to ensure seamless connection to services. The Rent Help Line number is 414-270-4646 and email is [renthelp@communityadvocates.net](mailto:renthelp@communityadvocates.net)

***Security Deposit Guarantee Program*** – The Security Deposit Guarantee Program assists those who are homeless or who are at-risk of becoming homeless to secure housing by negotiating an agreement between the tenant and a prospective property owner to pay off their security deposit in installments along with their rent. Participants must find a property owner that agrees to take a security deposit in installments for up to a six-month period and they must have an income from employment, SSI, W2, or another source. Please call 414-449-4777 for more information.

***Siemer Family Homeless Prevention and Case Management Program*** – The Siemer Family Homeless Prevention and Case Management Program helps reduce student mobility and increase academic success by improving long-term housing and economic stability for low-income families with school-age children who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless. The goal of the program is to help families achieve financial goals and maintain a stable housing situation so that children can remain in school giving them the best chance of academic success. Please contact Maudwella Kirkendoll at 414-270-2969 or [mkirkendoll@communityadvocates.net](mailto:mkirkendoll@communityadvocates.net) for more information.

***Tenant-Landlord Mediation*** – Through this walk-in program, mediation is provided to low-income tenants facing eviction or small claims actions related to tenancy. This program offers resources that stabilize a threatened housing situation making it possible for individuals and families to retain housing in the community. Please call 414-449-4777 for more information.

***Tenant-Landlord Training*** – The Tenant-Landlord Training program is a one-hour session delivered as needed in the community, which provides information, referral, and advocacy services regarding renter's rights and responsibilities for tenants and property owners. Please call 414-449-4777 for more information.

## COMMUNITY ADVOCATES

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