

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

YWCA Empowerment Center Services

1 in 3 people are at risk of homelessness in Clinton County due to poverty levels.

The YWCA Empowerment Center seeks to stop homelessness before it starts. We assist individuals and families in Clinton and Jackson Counties who are experiencing or on the verge of experiencing homelessness through our Homelessness and Homelessness Prevention programs. YWCA Clinton believes that safe housing is a basic human right.

YWCA Clinton operates under the Housing First Model. Housing First is an evidence-based homeless assistance approach that prioritizes providing permanent housing to people experiencing homelessness, thus ending their homelessness, and serving as a platform from which they can pursue personal goals and improve their quality of life. This approach strives to break the cycle of poverty/homelessness so that people utilizing funds are on the road to self-sufficiency.

Homelessness Prevention

Homelessness Prevention services assist community members in danger of becoming homeless within the next 14 days. YWCA Homelessness Prevention Program seeks to stop homelessness before it starts. It is a program that assists families with children and individuals who currently have housing but are at risk of becoming homeless. Homelessness Prevention provides funding for rent and utility deposits, rent and utility arrears, along with wrap around case management. Income and grant guidelines determine which clients are served first.

Rapid Re-Housing

YWCA Rapid Rehousing is a program that offers short-term financial case management services to families who are currently experiencing literal homelessness. The goal of the program is to assist in obtaining safe, affordable, permanent housing while providing families with ongoing case management services to ensure long-term success. Literal homelessness is defined as currently in a shelter, on the streets, in a car, in a tent, or living in any place not suitable for human habitation. Income levels, needs, and grant guidelines determine which clients are served first.

Supportive Housing

Permanent Supportive Housing is permanent housing in which housing assistance (long-term leasing or rental assistance) and supportive services are provided to assist people experiencing chronic homelessness in achieving housing stability. The services are designed to build independent living and tenancy skills and connect clients with community-based health care, treatment, and employment services.

Street Outreach

Street Outreach services are designed to meet the immediate needs of people experiencing homelessness in unsheltered locations by connecting them with emergency shelter, housing or critical services and providing them with urgent non-facility-based care. The program consists of engagement, case management, emergency health and mental health services, and transportation.

Emergency Shelter

Temporary emergency shelter provides shelter in emergency situations. YWCA Clinton currently has very limited funding to provide emergency shelter for people experiencing homelessness due to FEMA funding ending.

Case Management

Ongoing case management is provided for program participants to address barriers, provide stability, and set goals.

Those seeking services should call the YWCA Intake Hotline at 833-849-8976. All services are free and confidential.

The YWCA Empowerment Center provided (FY24)

2,355 “Housing Crisis Line” calls answered for people seeking services to address housing insecurity/homelessness.

110 people were able to stay in their homes/avoid homelessness through Homelessness Prevention program.

363 adults and children experiencing homelessness served in housing programs, Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing. **7,005** referrals were made to partner agencies/programs.

Over 5,505 nights of emergency shelter provided due to FEMA/COVID funding. FEMA funding ended in May of 2023.

YWCA Clinton is the “Access Point” for Homeless Services for Clinton & Jackson Counties

YWCA Clinton serves at the access point for all homeless services funded by the State of Iowa for Clinton and Jackson counties. The “coordinated entry” system was created to reduce duplication of services and prioritize people with the most barriers to housing. All people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness call the 1-800-number that is answered by our Case Managers here locally and are added to the “prioritization list”. All state-funded agencies use the “coordinated entry system” to serve people experiencing homelessness. As agencies have an opening in their programs, they pull from the top of the list during weekly pull calls for our region.

The region’s prioritization list has averaged from 100-200 applications Each application represents

1-8 people -- families, women, men, and children experiencing or at risk of homelessness. This number represents the people we unfortunately are unable to help without additional resources and services. Over 90% of those applying on our list, report their last address in the City of Clinton.

Homelessness is a “community issue” to help solve.

1 in 3 people in Clinton County live in poverty or just above

UNITED WAY ALICE REPORT: ALICE is your childcare worker, the cashier at your supermarket, your waitress, a home health aide, an office clerk. ALICE cannot always pay the bills, has little or nothing in savings, and is forced to make tough choices such as deciding between quality childcare or paying the rent. One unexpected car repair or medical bill can push these financially strapped families over the edge. The future success of our communities is directly tied to the financial stability of these fragile ALICE households. Source: <https://www.uwiowa.org/united-way-alice-report-iowa>

Point in Time Count determines “needs” of Clinton & Jackson Counties

YWCA Clinton is the lead agency for the Clinton County PIT count which reports homelessness to the State of Iowa. It is a count of homelessness for one day in time, which is done twice per year.

Additional Partnerships

Clinton County Housing Coalition – working together to prevent and end homelessness.

Sole Purpose – A YWCA program providing new shoes & socks to those experiencing homelessness.

Clinton County Resource Center - YWCA Empowerment Center staff volunteer at the Clinton County Resource Center to provide on-site, in-person access to all of the programs and services offered by the YWCA.

Low Barrier Housing – The definition of low barrier generally means that requirements for entry are minimal, and focus on harm reduction, which in turn encourages individuals who are experiencing homelessness to seek resources. In other words, accessing shelter and supportive services shouldn’t be an additional barrier. “Low Barrier” does not mean low standard – possession of drugs and weapons is prohibited, and all program participants are expected to abide by program guidelines. **“Come as you are, and we’ll meet you there. We’ll do our best to welcome you and provide you the resources to achieve your housing, health, and employment goals.”**

\$500,000+ invested back into our community In FY25, the YWCA Empowerment Center will funnel over \$500,000 in direct program costs and case management into keeping community members in their own home and securing safe housing.