



# Housing

## Spring 2024 Progress Report

Every Child Thrives is a collaborative network of 60+ active and engaged community partners, whose vision is to ensure every child has the opportunity to thrive in health, learning and life. Every Child Thrives aligns the work and resources of many organizations (including Foundation strategic investments) to support three priority areas: Strong Families, Kindergarten Readiness and School Success.

**PRIORITY:**

Strong Families

**STRATEGY:**

Weave a web of support for young children and their families

**WHY INVEST?**

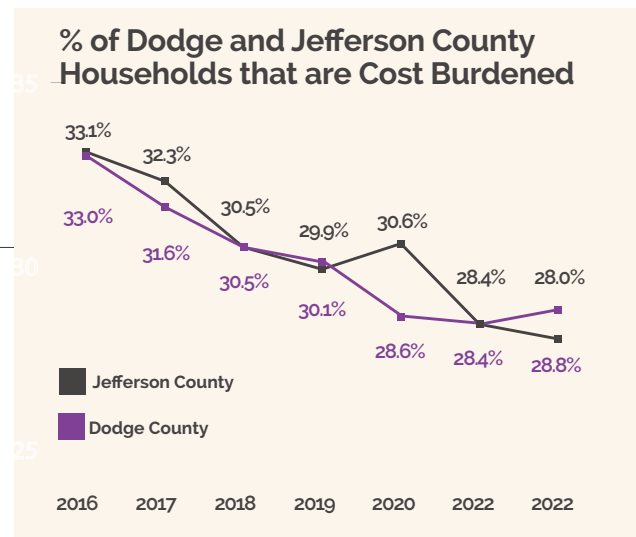
All families need access to safe and affordable housing. "Lack of safe, affordable housing has been linked to poor economic, health, and socio-economic outcomes, as well as negative academic and behavioral outcomes for children." - Why Housing Matters for Upward Mobility

Across Jefferson and Dodge Counties, housing is neither available nor affordable. Our vision: Everyone who works in or contributes to our communities should be able to live here.

**INDICATOR**

Households are considered "cost burdened" if they spend more than 30% of their income on housing. Cost-burdened households have little left over each month to spend on other necessities such as food, clothing, utilities, and health care.

- » Local home sale prices were up 44% in 2022.
- » At the current rate of growth, our region will be short 4,000 housing units by 2030.
- » 30% of regional families are housing cost burdened, meaning housing expenses equal more than 30% of their annual income.



## **Provided a \$2.5M low-interest loan to Dodge County Housing Authority to support creation of 40 additional housing units in Juneau and Reeseville.**

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This project was made possible only through regional collaboration:

- » \$10M+ in state funding
- » Grant from Dodge County
- » Land donation from Greater Watertown Community Health Foundation and Specialty Cheese
- » Incentives from communities of Juneau and Reeseville
- » Low-interest loan from the Foundation

## **Invested \$2M in Jefferson County “Live Local Fund” - a revolving loan fund to provide gap financing to attract developers, creating an additional 500 new housing units.**

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### **Supporting ThriveED’s capacity as Jefferson County’s housing champion.**

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In this role, ThriveED will:

- » Provide technical assistance, education and advocacy for municipalities,
- » Lead developer outreach, and
- » Offer home buyer counseling and education for buyers/owners at or below 80% Area Median Income.

### **Partnering with the City of Watertown to develop 700+ housing units on the former Watertown Bethesda campus.**

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Planning is underway for Phase I of a housing development on 48 acres of the property closest to the Rock River. The City unanimously approved a vision for a model neighborhood that provides a full continuum of housing to bring people at all stages of life together in one thriving community that is walkable, promotes

connectedness, and highlights the scenic beauty of our area.

The Foundation owns the land and is actively engaging with the community, decision-makers, and developers.

## **Building regional capacity to advocate for policies and financing resources that support rural housing development. Initiate additional housing partnerships as opportunities arise.**

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Learn more about our work on Housing at our website:

[watertownhealthfoundation.com](http://watertownhealthfoundation.com).

