

State Treasurer Godlewski: Tomah to receive \$180,000 for homeless veterans from Board of Commissioners of Public Lands

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BCPL Chair, State Treasurer Sarah Godlewski, says local veterans need critical housing assistance

MADISON- This week, the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) provided financing for the Veteran's Assistance Foundation (VAF) to address veteran homelessness in Tomah, Wisconsin. The \$180,000 will allow the VAF to renovate 4 new apartments to provide transitional housing, rapid re-housing, and homelessness prevention for veterans and their families in the Tomah area.

Board chair, Treasurer Sarah Godlewski, said, "Veterans have made incredible sacrifices for our nation, and yet despite their service, they sometimes fall through the cracks and need our support. I am proud we can serve this important community."

According to the Department of Veterans' Affairs, nearly 80,000 veterans are homeless on any given night. While only 7% of the general population can claim veteran status, nearly 13% of the homeless adult population are veterans.

A veteran who had experienced incarceration and chronic illness stated, "The VAF gave me the opportunity to freely open myself up to choices for personal growth and accept responsibility for my continued recovery. Physically, mentally, and spiritually I have made an amazing recovery. I have come full circle and

transformed into balanced person.”

In addition to VAF, the BCPL Board approved \$1.07 million loan for the city of Tomah to support small businesses and increase economic development.

Board chair, Treasurer Sarah Godlewski, said, “The BCPL is providing critical financing that is making a difference across Wisconsin. I am glad we can play a role in helping communities like Tomah thrive in today’s economy.”