

HOUSING FOR GENERATIONS

GRANDFAMILY AND KINSHIP FAMILY HOUSING

HOME FOR EVERYONE CONFERENCE

2018

PANEL

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DEFINING KINSHIP CAREGIVERS

- Grandparents or other relatives who are serving as primary caregivers of a relative's child or children as a result of the parent being absent or otherwise unable to care for the child
 - informal family arrangement
 - formalized through juvenile court, probate court, family court or an adoption
- NOT a cooperative arrangement where multiple generations of a family are living and working together to parent the children
- NOT relatives who are helping out with childcare
- Kinship Caregivers intervene to protect and care for children when the children would be at risk of abuse or neglect if left in the care of parents



PREVALENCE OF RELATIVE CAREGIVING: National Statistics

- **7.6 million children** live with a relative who is head of household
- **4.9 million children** (7%) under age 18 live in grandparent-headed households – an increase from 4.5 million 10 years ago
- **1.9 million** children (2.5%) are living in households headed by other relatives
- **2.6 million** (20%) of these children have neither parent present and the relatives are responsible for their basic needs
- Approximately **32%** of children in out of home care are placed in relative homes
- Majority of children in Kinship Care living situations are living with grandparents
 - 57% of those grandparent caregivers are working
 - 40% are over 60 years old
 - 20% live below the poverty line
 - 9% receive support through TANF funded programs
 - 25% of those grandparents have a disability
 - 42% have provided care for 5 or more years

Statistics from AARP New Census Data and Child Welfare Information Gateway

PREVALENCE OF RELATIVE CAREGIVING: Wisconsin Statistics

- **78,351 children** under age 18 live in homes where the householders are grandparents or other relatives (5.9% of the children in the state)
- **Of these - 59,346** live with grandparents who are the householders (4.4% of the children in the state) and **19,005** live with other relatives who are the householders (1.4% of the children in the state)
- **26,617 children** live in homes with grandparent householders where grandparents are responsible for them. Of these children, 10,055 have no parents present in the home.
- On December 31, 2016 **2,800** children were formally placed in out of home care in a relative home; that is 36% of children in out of home care
- 2014-2016: 28,000 children in WI in Kinship Care – roughly 2% of children in WI

Statistics from U.S. 2010 Census, DCF Out of home care report, and the Annie E Casey Foundation Kids County Data book for 2014-2016



CHALLENGES FACED BY RELATIVE CAREGIVERS

- Need arises unexpectedly - not planning for 9 months, decorating rooms, buying needed items, enjoying celebratory showers
 - Often the call comes from a child welfare agency indicating they need to pick up their relative's child right away to avoid the child being placed in foster care
- Forced to navigate unfamiliar systems to meet the many needs of the children in their care- child welfare, childcare, childcare assistance programs, schools, mental/behavioral healthcare, Foodshare, Badgercare
- Children in their care impacted by trauma- unique needs of children exposed to adverse experiences
 - May or may not know the full extent of what the children have experienced, may not understand what children exposed to trauma need from caregivers
 - May share some of the trauma experiences of the children
- Stressors in relationships with other family members; parents of the children in care, others who may agree or disagree with decision to care for the children, others whose needs are not as fully met due to new demands on time, finances and energy

CHALLENGES FACED BY RELATIVE CAREGIVERS

- Increased life stress and the impact on health issues such as HBP, diabetes. New challenges are present making it more difficult to ensure caregivers have regular access to their own medical and behavioral health care providers
- New stressors of caring for children, additional children that can contribute to
 - Social isolation
 - Guilt
 - Shame
 - Strain on marital or other significant relationships
- Finances – added cost of new household members. May be on a fixed income (retirement, SSI, SSDI) budget does not support the added cost of additional people
- Many grandparents are living in one bedroom apartments or senior housing- required to move to larger housing unit and/or a housing site that allows children. This is often an added expense.



GENERATIONS AT UNION CORNERS



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- Increasing demand
- Supply: Only 10-15 projects in U.S. specifically targeted to grandfamilies and kinship families
- Unique housing barriers
- Integrated housing and supportive services for seniors and children

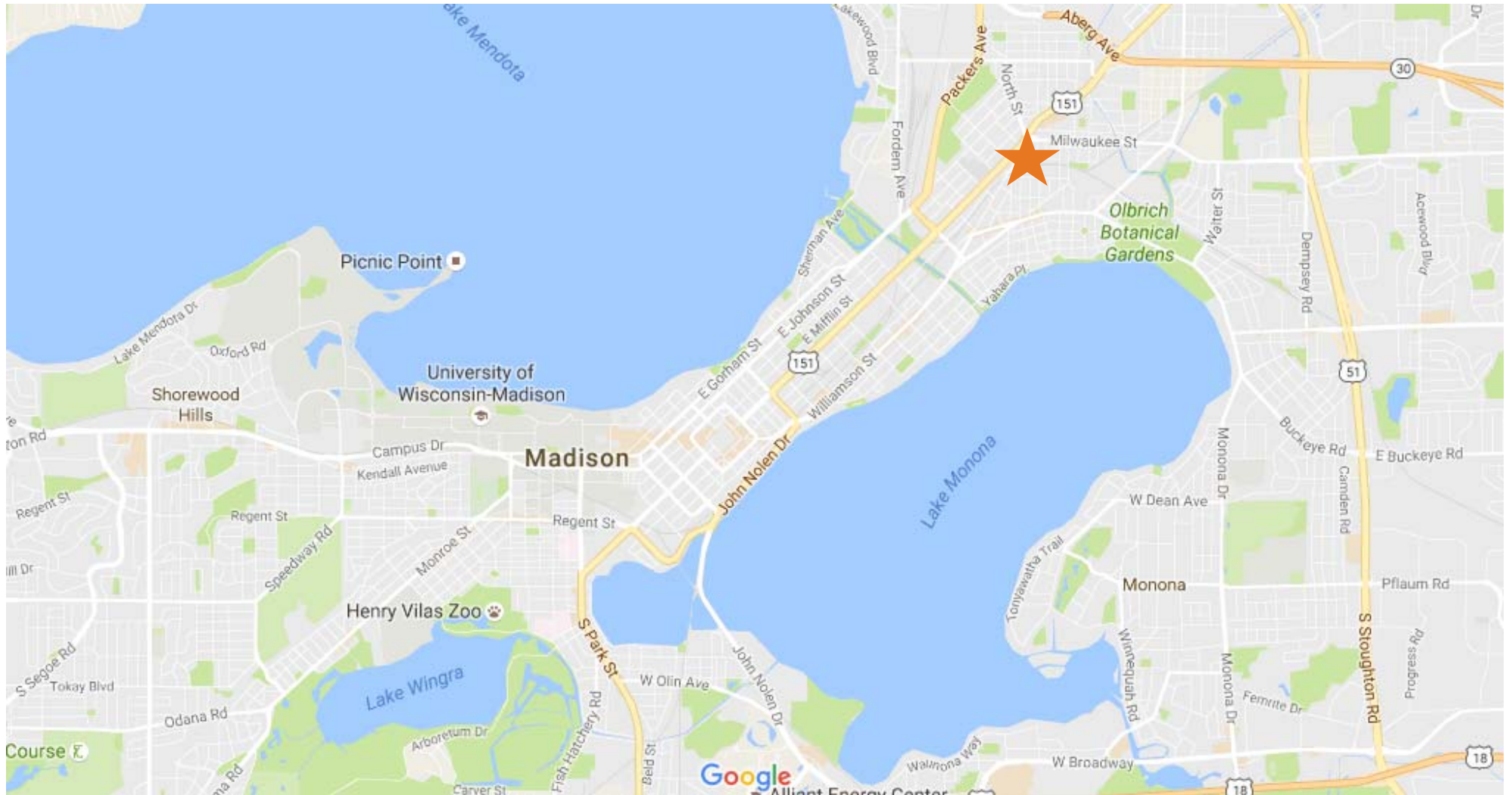
- Gorman/LSS partnership
- 2017 WHEDA 9% application

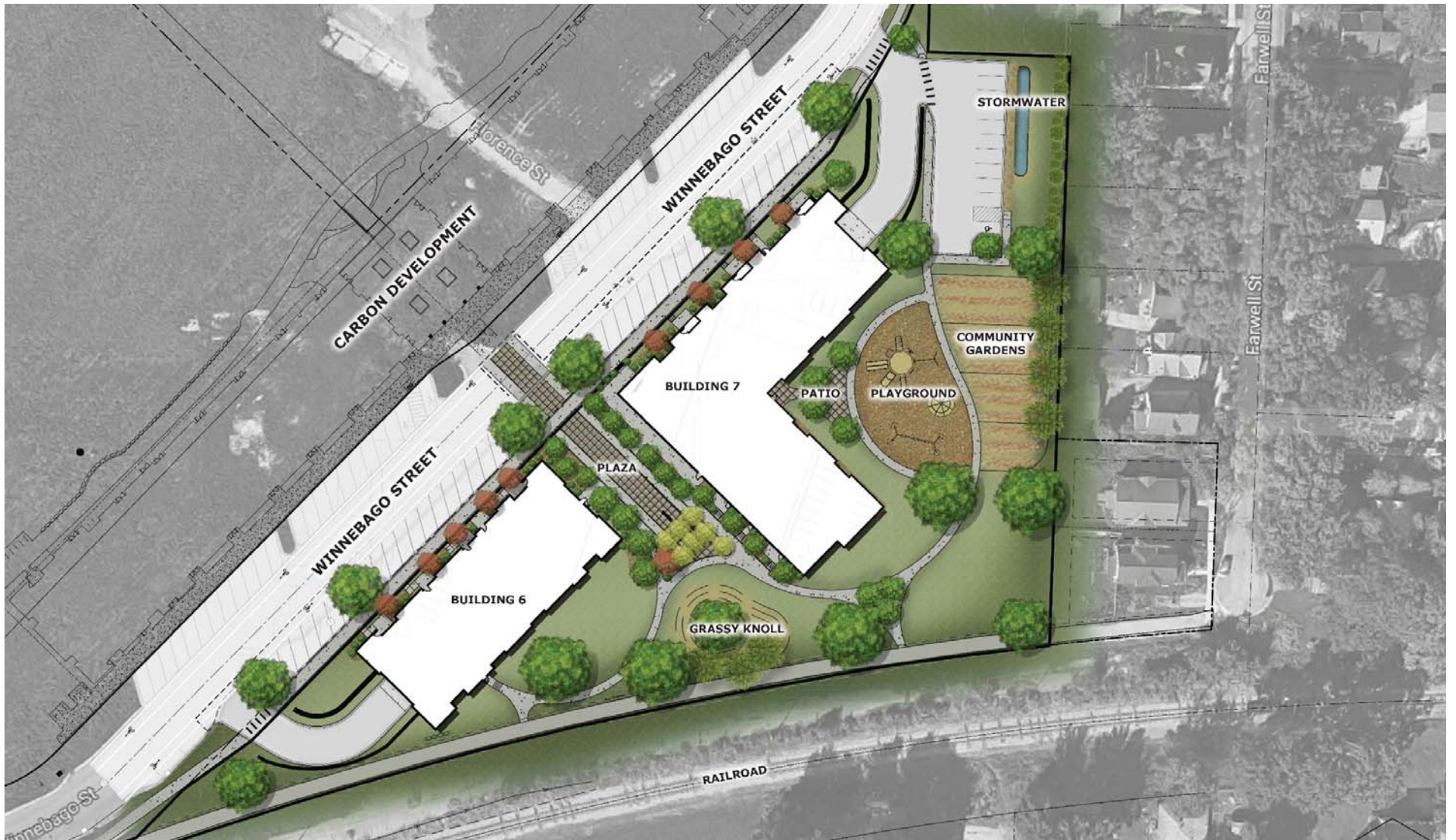


GENERATIONS AT UNION CORNERS

- 60 units: 56 affordable, 4 market rate
- All 2BR and 3BR units, including (11) 3BR @ 30% AMI
- Gap financing from City of Madison, Dane County, AHP
- Completion in late 2019
- Part of overall Union Corners master development







MASTER PLAN



THE PLAZA



GREEN SPACE





SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

- Lutheran Social Services – ownership interest and service provider
- Office space and service space on-site, in addition to management offices and community room
- Services will target the needs of children, families, and older adults, including:
 - Budgeting and financial planning
 - Employment opportunities, other vocational resources
 - Benefit eligibility
 - Parenting support
 - Physical and mental health services
 - Legal resources



SUPPORTIVE SERVICE EXPERIENCE

- Family moves into apartment
- Completion of intake assessment to identify strengths and areas of need
- Identify and build a team of natural supports
- Identify applicable on-site services and activities
- Refer to pre-existing LSS services in the Madison area
- Refer to other community agencies, programs, and support groups
- Implementation of service plan
- Schedule follow-up meeting with family to review service plan



