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Sarah Godlewski
State Treasurer

Tomah to Receive \$180,000 for Homeless Veterans from Board of Commissioners of Public Lands

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 a 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."

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The BCPL operates entirely on program revenue, without taxpayer money, and distributes more than 96 cents of every dollar of interest earned on BCPL State Trust Fund investments to Wisconsin's public schools. The 2018 earnings of \$35.7 million provide the sole source of state funding for K-12 public school library materials.

A list of 2018 library aid received by each public school district is available at:

<https://bcpl.wisconsin.gov/Shared%20Documents/Agency%20Info/Library%20Aid%20Distribution%202018.pdf>

Established in 1848 by the State Constitution, the BCPL consists of Board Chair and State Treasurer Sarah Godlewski, Secretary of State Doug La Follette, and Attorney General Josh Kaul. The BCPL manages the [Common School Fund](#), which was created in Article X of Wisconsin's Constitution, as a permanent endowment to benefit public education.

To learn more about the agency, visit bcpl.wisconsin.gov.

For press inquiries or interviews, please contact Sarah Smith at sarah.smith@wi.gov or call us at 608-266-1417.