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**Collaboration  
between SankofaBCH,  
OWH, TimeBank,  
Community Justice Inc,  
YWCA, and Madison  
Municipal Court since  
2015**



**HOMELESSNESS  
RESTORATIVE  
JUSTICE  
PROJECT**

SANKOFA BEHAVIORAL  
AND COMMUNITY HEALTH



Operation Welcome Home

## Our History

The Homelessness Restorative Justice Project was launched in 2015 as a pilot project geared toward breaking the cycle of tickets, arrest warrants, jail time, and resulting negative life impacts that was resulting from Madison's criminalization of homelessness.

In 2014 Municipal Judge Dan Koval expressed an interest in working with adult populations to replicate the success of Dane County TimeBank's restorative justice Youth Courts. After meeting with TimeBank staff to examine potential pilot projects, initial partners determined that applying restorative practices and informal community supports would likely be a much more effective way to help break negative cycles in the lives of people experiencing homelessness than issuing municipal tickets, some of which added up to tens of thousands of dollars owed by people with no opportunities for gainful employment.

OWH/SanofaBCH has played a major role in running the program through outreach, enrollment, circle facilitation and case management.

## To decriminalize homelessness and poverty through transformative and restorative justice practices

### VISION

- 1) For homeless and recently homeless people to have municipal tickets they cannot pay reduced or eliminated from their record through a restorative process as a way to eliminate barriers to future success.
- 2) For homeless or recently homeless people to identify and achieve goals they decide to pursue such as securing housing, sobriety, source of income, family connections or other goals to improving their life situation.
- 3) For all involved to develop policy, culture and enforcement recommendations to shift away from the criminalization of homelessness.

### ELIGIBILITY

- 1) currently homeless, or 2) who have been homeless and have recently gained access to transitional housing or permanent housing.
- The candidate must be ready to get support for improving their situation.
- Tickets more than 12 months old

### ENROLLMENT

- After screening for eligibility, receive confirmation of tickets from Madison Municipal Court and City Attorneys. HRJ Coordinator will contact you.
- Completing intake and first Restorative Justice Circle
- Meeting with City Attorneys

### PROCESS

- 1) Eligibility Screening
- 2) Enrollment
- 3) Limited Case Management & Community Service
- 4) Three Month or Six Month Reviews With Court
- 5) Graduation