



ARPA Funding Hoarding Clean-Up Final Report

DECEMBER 2024

ARPA Award

- ▶ In the late fall of 2021, the WI Department of Health Services (WDHS), Office on Aging announced they would be awarding one-time American Rescue Plan Act funding to Dane County in the amount of just over \$300,000 to be spent over a period of 3 years (2022-2024).
- ▶ The purpose of the funding was to provide additional supportive services to older adults. This funding was earmarked and awarded directly to the Area Agency on Aging of Dane County.

Greatest Impact –One Time Funding

- ▶ The Dane County Department of Human Services (DCDHS) Disability and Aging Services Division sought to utilize these one-time funds in a way that would have the most impact on vulnerable older adults at risk of losing housing. A significant cause of housing loss for older adults is unsafe living in a hoarded home.
- ▶ As a result, a major hoarding clean-up initiative was launched through our Adult Protective Service's (APS) Elder Abuse and Neglect/Adults at Risk Unit, managed by LeeAnn Grimm, APS Supervisor.

Initiative Goals

- ▶ lessen the likelihood of homelessness for older adults resulting from eviction
- ▶ improved the health of highly vulnerable older adults living in unsanitary environments, and
- ▶ improve the lives of individual older adults, their concerned caregivers, emergency services personnel, and the general community so they could live in and continue to contribute to the fabric of the community.

Eligibility & Access to Funds

- ▶ Due to the source of the funding for this initiative, Older American's Act ARPA, persons served must be age 60 or older, residing in their own home or apartment (persons in assisted living, Community-based Residential Settings (CBRF's) were not eligible).
- ▶ An application was required to be submitted by a senior focal point case manager or other community-based case manager in order to be considered for the project.
- ▶ Case Manager involvement would ensure ongoing support and mental health resources would continue to work with the individual to maintain the residence once the clean-up was completed.
- ▶ As part of the application, a plan to continue assistance was required and the participant needed to be willing to accept this assistance.

Referral Sources

Referral Source by Type	2022	2023	2024	Total
▶ Adult Protective Services Investigator		2	3	5
▶ Senior Center /Community-based Case Manager	16	18	12	46
▶ Other (JMHC CM, Hosp. SW, CCS, Porchlight)	2	1	4	7

Proof of Work

- ▶ Before and after photographs of areas of each home to be cleaned were required to ensure the work was complete prior to payment of contractors willing to provide services.
- ▶ These clean-ups often required bio-hazard trained employees due to the nature of the substances being cleared, removed or cleaned.

Areas Impacted

- ▶ In total, 58 residents were served, living in 11 areas of Dane County. They were living in single family homes, condos, and apartments, both in rural and urban areas of the county.

Areas of Dane County Served	Number of projects 2022	Number of projects 2023	Number of projects 2024
Cambridge		1	
Fitchburg	2	1	1
Madison	9	10	12
Mazomanie	1		
McFarland			1
Middleton	1	1	
Monona	1		2
Mt Horeb		1	
Stoughton	3	1	1
Sun Prairie	1	3	1
Waunakee	2	2	
	Total 20	Total 19	Total 19

Presenting Issues & Attributes

- ▶ Most of the individuals reported 10 to 20 years - up to a lifetime of hoarding issues that became overwhelming and unable to control when they became frail due to aging, developed a life-altering medical/physical condition, or when they could no longer access Supportive Home Chore services during COVID.
- ▶ All individuals had a confirmed diagnosis or a suspected Mental Health Disorder, with 74% of individuals having a co-occurring diagnosis such as Physical Disability, Chronic Medical Conditions, or Dementia/Memory Impairments.
- ▶ 69% indicated the hoarding resulted in safety/health (hospital stays, rehab stays, need for medical equipment) consequences due to falls.
- ▶ 60% were facing severe health risk/bio hazards/eviction/unlivable conditions due to the hoarding.
- ▶ 33% were living in conditions where they didn't have an accessible kitchen and or working appliances.
- ▶ 24% were living without access to their bathroom.
- ▶ 21% had rampant rodent/insect infestation.
- ▶ 7% had significant mold due to water damage.
- ▶ 3% had no running water or heat in their home.

Bedroom Before and After



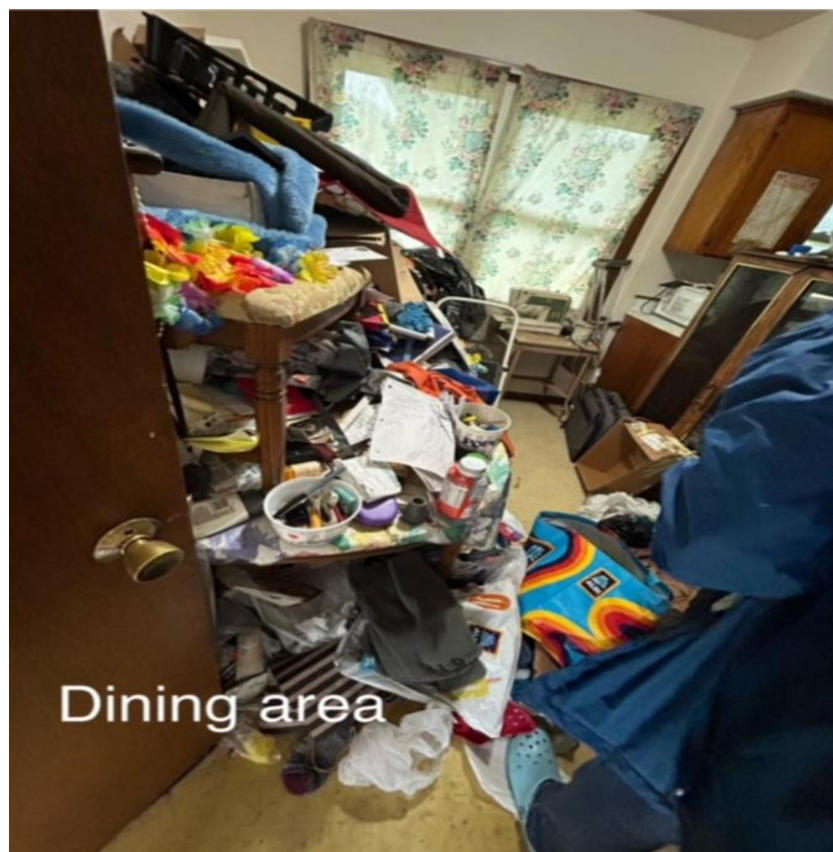
Before and After



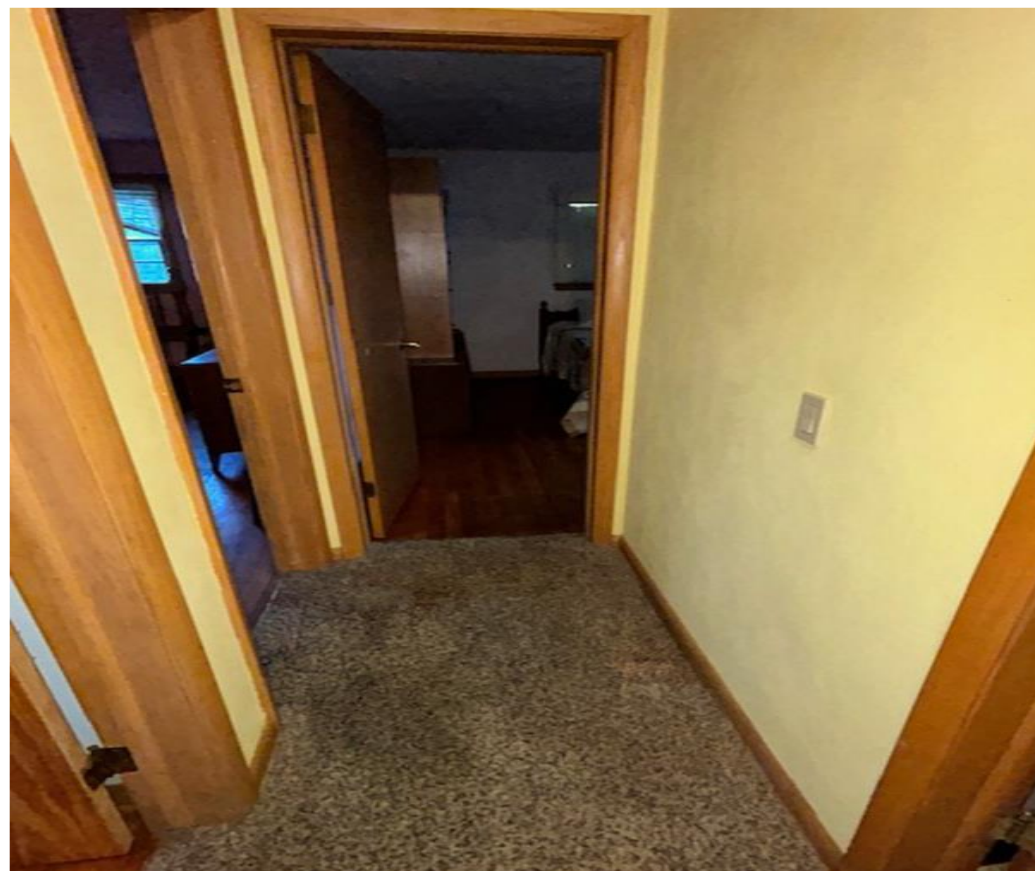
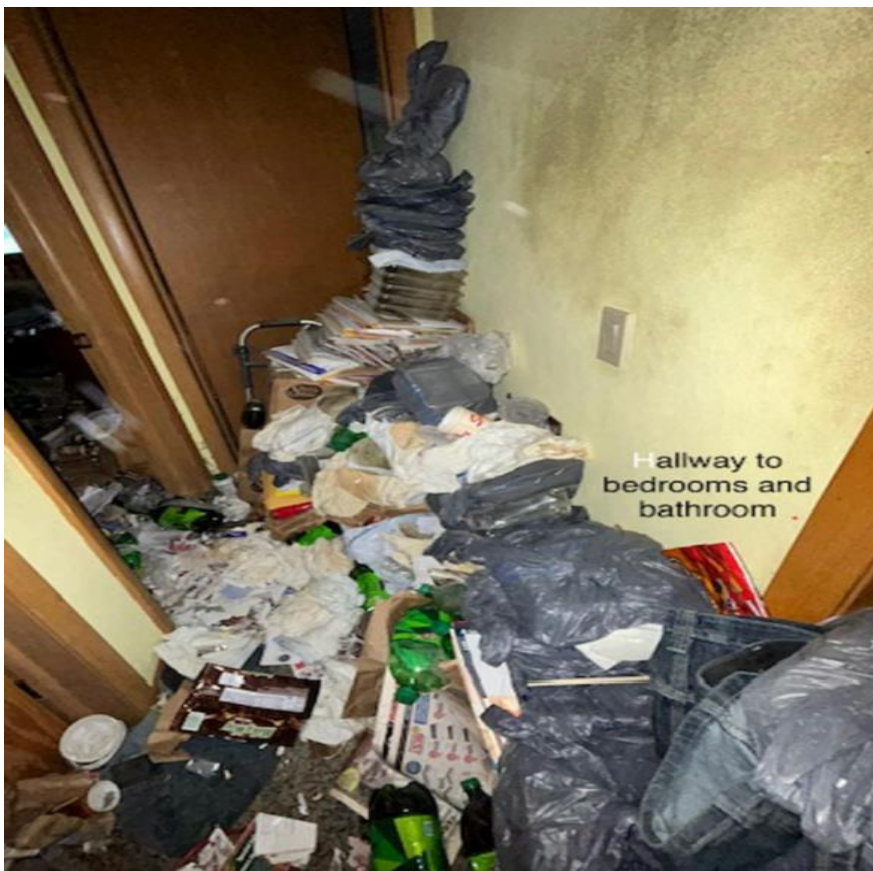
Before and After



Before and After



Before and After



Before and After



Before and After



Before and After



Outcomes & Conclusions

- ▶ In total, just over \$300,000 of the ARPA funds were spent between January 2022 and September 30, 2024 on the clean-up of 58 individual residences.
- ▶ The average cost was \$5,172 per person; however, some were minor clean-ups to avoid more dire situations, while others were far more extensive and included bio-hazards.
- ▶ When bio-hazard cleaning was required, the average cost was just over \$10,000.

Outcomes & Conclusions

- ▶ All individuals were able to continue to live in their own homes after the clean-up.
- ▶ None facing eviction were evicted, and all are now living safely in a healthy home environment.
- ▶ Each participant continues to receive support for maintaining their living space and to address any mental health issues related to the hoarding behavior.
- ▶ Several cases came to our attention due to a fall in the home precipitating the need to have repairs and cleaning done before being able to be released from the hospital. All cases could have resulted in serious injury up to and including death due to the condition of their residence.
- ▶ Further, the cost that would have been incurred if they became homeless due to eviction or placed into alternative care in lieu of returning home would have been significant to Dane County.

Considerations & Questions

- ▶ Eviction prevention is possible and less expensive than homelessness when considering older adults.
- ▶ Should funding become available in the future, investment in addressing hoarding cases should be pursued as a prevention strategy in our tool box?
- ▶ Questions?