

Despite facing a budget shortfall of nearly \$90 million, Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's 2007 budget included a bold initiative to provide quality housing for people with mental illness. All of us involved with serving the needs of those with mental illness are pleased that the budget includes this priority.

The initiative includes a new section in county government for housing; on-site staff to supported apartments; a partnership with Continuum of Care; development of a 10-year plan; a joint inspection program with the City of Milwaukee; dedication of 50% of future CDBG funds to housing project and half of Affordable Housing Trust funds to project.

After the series on mental illness it became clear that there are still major gaps in the system. The County Executive's initiative, along with a plan proposed by the Mayor and other ideas out in the community are positive signs of progress.