

# HEALTH IMPROVEMENT FUND

## BACKGROUND

In 2011, United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County (United Way) and the Milwaukee Health Care Partnership (MHCP) came together to launch the **Health Improvement Fund (HIF)** to support organizations that provide health care and support services for low-income, underserved populations in Milwaukee County, with the **goal of increasing access to health care, improving health outcomes, and promoting health equity.**

Since its inception, the Milwaukee health systems—Advocate Aurora Health, Ascension Wisconsin, Children’s Wisconsin, and Froedtert Health—have passed their Shared Community Investment Fund (SCIF) contributions through the United Way to bolster its annual campaign and sponsor the HIF challenge grant. Health systems have committed **\$2 million in 2023** and a cumulative **\$18.5 million in SCIF pass-through dollars** since 2011.

HIF grants are investments to non-profit, health and human service agencies in Milwaukee County. HIF pledges are received via donor designations through the United Way fall campaign. Grants are awarded to organizations working towards one or more of the shared **MHCP and United Way priorities: COVERAGE, ACCESS, CARE COORDINATION, and COMMUNITY HEALTH.**

## HIF IMPACT

Below are a few examples of strategic HIF investments made in recent years:

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH:** Behavioral health capacity building for Federally Qualified Health Centers, free and community clinics, school-based clinics, and health system community clinics.

**MEDICAL CARE FOR THE UNINSURED:** Increased access to medical care and affordable medications for uninsured children and adults at free and community clinics.

**DENTAL CARE FOR THE UNINSURED:** Increased access to dental care for uninsured children and adults at community and school-based clinics.

**HEALTH COVERAGE OUTREACH AND EDUCATION:** Support to enroll low-income, vulnerable individuals in public and private health insurance.

2021—2022

## COLLECTIVE INVESTMENTS

Since 2011, the Health Improvement Fund has invested **over \$3.5 million** in aligned programming. In 2021-2022, the HIF is funding **eight programs for a total investment of \$264,625.**

Each year, the HIF Review Committee and the United Way invite proposals that align with United Way and MHCP health care access and community health priorities. Funding recommendations are then advanced to the health system CEOs and the United Way board who approve strategic investments that support shared objectives.

## PAST & PRESENT HIF AWARDEES

- Ascension Blanket of Love Program
- Ascension Seton Dental Clinic
- Ascension St. Ben’s Clinic
- Aurora Walker’s Point Community Clinic
- Benedict Center
- Bread of Healing Clinic
- Children’s Wisconsin Community Clinics
- Community Smiles Dental
- IMPACT 211
- Medical College of Wisconsin Periscope Project
- Milwaukee County Housing Services
- Milwaukee Health Services, Inc.
- Progressive Community Health Centers
- Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers