



HOUSING IS HEALTH PROGRAM

In 2019, the members of the Milwaukee Health Care Partnership (MHCP) launched the Housing is Health Program for homeless and vulnerably housed patients receiving care at Milwaukee area health systems and safety-net clinics.

The program partners MHCP member hospitals and clinics with the Milwaukee County Housing Services (MCHS) and IMPACT Coordinated Entry social workers, or “navigators,” who help patients secure temporary housing, provide case management, and aid in their ultimate transition to permanent housing stability. Navigators also provide patients with a variety of support services including, public benefits, counselling, mental health and AODA treatment, tenancy education, temporary housing subsidies, and employment counseling. Navigators work with each patient from the time of referral until the individual is considered ‘housing stable,’ a process which can extend over many months. The Housing is Health Program’s aim is to **address patient’s housing needs in order to improve health outcomes and reduce Emergency Department (ED) visits, inpatient stays, and readmissions.**

Serving Patients in Emergency, Inpatient, and Primary Care Settings

Housing is Health initially began in the Milwaukee-area health system inpatient and ED settings for ‘literally homeless’ patients but expanded in September of 2020 to patients and families ‘at risk of homelessness’ receiving care at Children’s Midtown primary care clinic.

Building on the upstream success and partnership at Children’s Midtown clinic, the program has expanded to additional primary care safety-net clinics in spring of 2022, including Milwaukee’s five Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and the Bread of Healing free clinic.

It is well established that the most significant social determinant of health is safe, affordable housing. With several thousand men, women, and children in Milwaukee County considered homeless or unstably housed at any point in time, the Milwaukee Health Care Partnership is working with the Milwaukee County Housing Services and IMPACT Inc. to create pathways for patients experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity – especially those with complex medical and behavioral health needs – secure sustainable housing and supportive services.

“I cannot commend MCHS enough for their efforts in supporting our children and families—a particular mom fleeing a traumatic situation with her five children comes to mind. MCHS’s work has allowed for a safe, fresh start for that family and many more.”

Jaqueline Whelan, MN, Director, of Care Integration, Children's Wisconsin

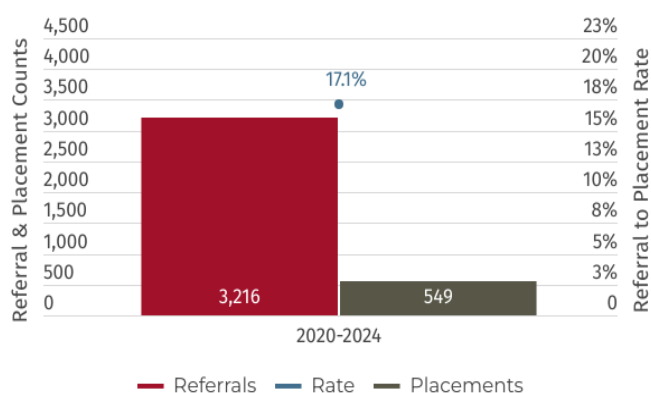
HOUSING IS HEALTH OUTCOMES

TOTAL HOUSING PLACEMENTS

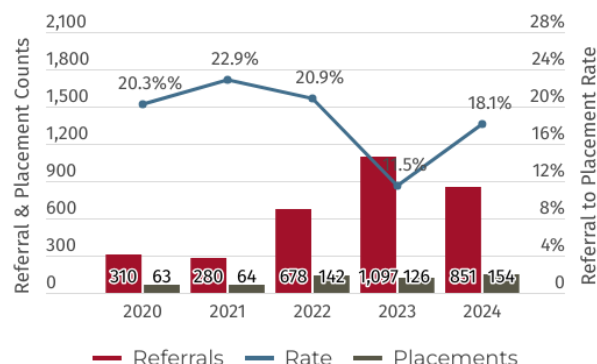
Since 2019:

549 Total temporary and permanent housing placements

3,216 TOTAL REFERRALS 2020-2024



HOUSING REFERRALS AND PLACEMENTS TREND, 2020-2024



HEALTH EQUITY

Low-income and people of color are disproportionately impacted by homelessness and housing insecurity. As such, Housing is Health is a vehicle to address racial and health equity and reduce health disparities.

TARGET POPULATIONS

Eligible patients include:

- Current inpatient, observation, or ED patients
- Primary care patients at select safety-net clinics
- Individuals who meet the HUD definition of “literally homeless” (Level 1) or are “at imminent risk of homelessness within 14 days” (Level 2)
- Patients who are frequent ED users, high risk of readmission, or at risk of excess length of stay due to homelessness are also prioritized

“Flexible housing subsidies coupled with navigation services strategically fill gaps in housing services for people who need it most. A patient who frequently used the ER was connected to temporary housing and from there graduated to permanent housing. With that stability, he was then able to address his substance use and behavioral health issues. Since housed—he has not had an inpatient or ER visit. This is success.”

Matthew Shawlin, LCSW, Social Services Manager, Froedtert Hospital

Funding

Funding for the Housing is Health Program is provided by the MHCP health systems’ Shared Community Investment Fund

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Health Systems/Hospitals

- Ascension Wisconsin
 - Columbia St. Mary’s Hospital
 - St. Joseph Hospital
 - St. Francis Hospital
- Aurora Health Care
 - St. Luke’s South Shore
 - Sinai Medical Center
 - West Allis Medical Center
- Froedtert ThedaCare Health
 - Froedtert Hospital

Safety-Net Clinics

- Bread of Healing Clinic
- Children’s Wisconsin- Midtown Clinic
- Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center, Inc.
- Milwaukee Health Services, Inc.
- Outreach Community Health Centers
- Progressive Community Health Centers
- Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers

Housing Navigation Partners

- Milwaukee County Housing Division
- IMPACT Coordinated Entry