

THE MILWAUKEE HEALTH CARE PARTNERSHIP

The Milwaukee Health Care Partnership (MHCP) is a leader in collaboration; serving as a convener, catalyst, clearinghouse, broker and advocate for improving health care for vulnerable populations. Each year, more than 100 health care leaders and providers participate in MHCP programs and initiatives that are improving access, reducing fragmentation, increasing accountability and transparency — and creating a healthier and more equitable future for Milwaukee.

Mission

Established in 2007, MHCP is a public/private consortium dedicated to improving health care for low-income, underserved populations in Milwaukee County with the aim of improving health outcomes, advancing health equity and lowering the total cost of care.

Goals:

- Secure and retain adequate and affordable health insurance for all
- Increase the availability, accessibility and acceptability of health care services
- Enhance care coordination/navigation within and across the delivery system
- Identify and address targeted community health needs

Who We Serve: Milwaukee's Low-Income Population

The MHCP's primary focus is improving care for low-income, medically underserved Milwaukee County residents who are uninsured or covered by public insurance programs.

Nearly 25% of Milwaukee County residents live in poverty



of residents are enrolled in Medicaid/BadgerCare programs



of children are covered by Medicaid



approximately 6-8% of the population is uninsured at any point in time

Members

Health Systems

- Ascension Wisconsin
- Aurora Health Care
- Children's Wisconsin
- Froedtert ThedaCare

Federally Qualified Health Centers

- Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center
- Milwaukee Health Services, Inc.
- Outreach Community Health Centers
- Progressive Community Health Centers
- Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers

Academic

- Medical College of Wisconsin

Public Health Agencies

- City of Milwaukee Health Department
- Milwaukee County Department of Health & Human Services
- Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Affiliates

- Wisconsin Hospital Association
- Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association

Collective Long-Term Solutions & Key Accomplishments

Care Coordination to Reduce Costs

From 2009-2025, the **Connect to Care Program** has scheduled more than **60,994 appointments at primary care clinics** for pregnant women, people with chronic conditions, and frequent ED users.

System-Level Solutions

Through the **Specialty Access for the Uninsured Program (SAUP)**, nearly **17,834 referrals for critical specialty care** have been made to Milwaukee health systems from 2012-2025.

Cross-Sector Collaboration

In 2024, the **Mental Health Emergency Center**—a joint venture between Milwaukee County and the four Milwaukee health systems—served **7,824 patients**.

Addressing Determinants of Health

From 2020-2025, the **Housing is Health Program** secured housing placements for **762 patients and families** from hospital ER and primary care settings identified as housing insecure.

Health Care Solutions within Community—Led Issues

Shared Health Advocate position provided support to **321 survivors of sexual violence** across the three adult health systems from 2023-2025.

Funding Catalyst: Mental Health Improvement Fund

The four health systems' SCIF pass-through catalyzed the founding of the MHCP / United Way Mental Health Improvement Fund, a designated giving option which raised **nearly \$350,000 in the 2024 campaign** and was granted to MHCP members and community-based organizations to support their mental health and substance use initiatives.

CORE FUNCTIONS

- Assess and build awareness of community health needs
- Implement a community wide plan and policy agenda
- Align resources/activities to reduce duplication and fragmentation efforts
- Secure public and private funding for high leverage initiatives
- Facilitate communication among stakeholders
- Measure community health improvement and outcomes
- Serve as a clearing house for existing and new initiatives

LEVELS OF ENGAGEMENT

The Milwaukee Health Care Partnership's annual plan advances its mission through:

- initiatives that it directly **sponsors** by providing strategic leadership and/or financial and operational resources to design, implement and scale solutions
- programs led by other organizations in which it actively **participates** by contributing health care sector expertise and solutions to advance shared goals, foster alignment and drive collective impact. Engagement may also include financial or in-kind support
- activities and influencing factors it **monitors** to inform current action plans to ensure alignment with emerging needs, opportunities and strategic priorities

FY25-26 PLAN PRIORITIES (Sponsor-Level)

Coverage and Access

Health Insurance Outreach and Enrollment

- Mitigate potential enrollment declines by supporting local awareness and coordinated strategies in response to potential Medicaid changes via the Milwaukee Enrollment Network (MKEN/CWI)
- Support enrollment in Marketplace and other insurance options via the Milwaukee Enrollment Network (MKEN/CWI)

Primary and Specialty Care Access

- Strengthen FQHC capacity to provide comprehensive care as a key component of the health care delivery system (WPHCA)
- Support uninsured and underinsured adults via the Free and Community Clinic Collaborative (FC3) to ensure access to primary, behavioral health and specialty care
- Continuous improvement of the Specialty Access for the Uninsured Program through enhanced referral and reporting processes, including the exploration of leveraging Epic solutions
- Support improved reliability and availability of non-acute medical transport

Mental and Behavioral Health Access

- Assess early identification and intervention opportunities to impact upstream drivers of mental health and substance use disorders
- Improve inpatient and outpatient mental health services for adults and youth
- Support awareness and optimization of the crisis delivery system and assess the impact of the joint-venture Mental Health Emergency Center (MHEC)

Care Coordination

Connection to Health Care

- Increase the number of patients connected to medical, mental health, and substance use disorder services via the Connect to Care Program
- Assess Connect to Care Program platform improvements, through Epic solutions or other, to improve referral tracking, reporting, bi-directional communication and care transitions for people with complex needs

Housing Screening and Connections

- Improve housing navigation and flexible financial resources for homeless/at-risk patients and families via the Housing is Health Program

Community Health

Community Health Needs Assessment and Planning

- Disseminate the 2024 CHNA and participate in plan alignment for collective health improvement initiatives
- Increase utilization of Health Compass Milwaukee and optimize its functionality through the inclusion of additional key community health data, such as mortality data

Community Investments

- Improve the Shared Community Investment Fund allocation strategies, investments, and impact
- Support the Mental Health Improvement Fund to facilitate increased pledges and a targeted impact (UWGMWC)