



Milwaukee Health Care Partnership

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 a designated Milwaukee County Housing Services (MCHS)/Coordinated Entry social worker, or “navigator,” who helps patients secure temporary housing, provide case management, and aid in their ultimate transition to permanent housing stability. The health care navigator also provides patients with a variety of support services including, public benefits, counselling, mental health and AODA treatment, tenancy education, temporary housing subsidies, and employment counseling. The navigator works 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.**

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 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.

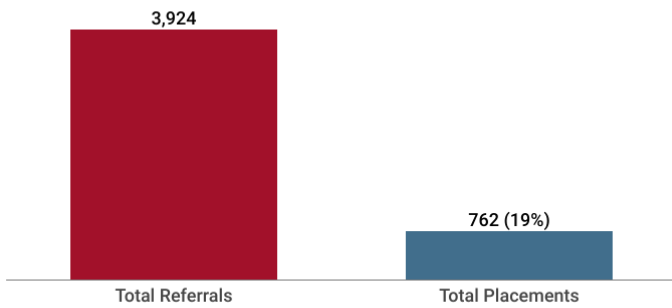
Serving Patients in Emergency, Inpatient, and Primary Care Settings

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.

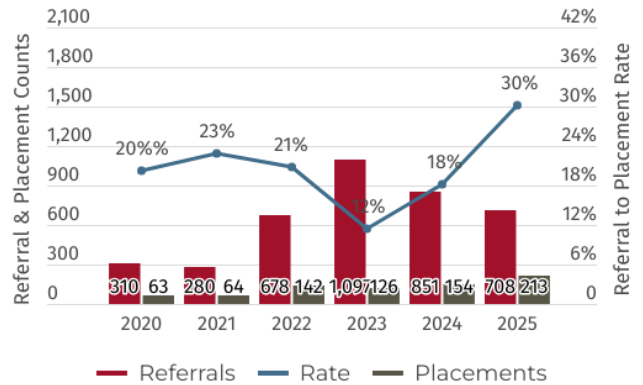
Building on the upstream success and partnership at Children’s Midtown clinic, the program has expanded to additional primary care safety-net clinics in spring of 2022, including Milwaukee’s five Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and the Bread of Healing free clinic.

Housing is Health Outcomes

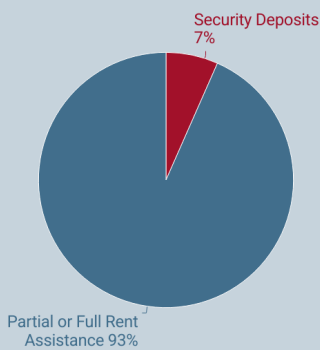
Total Housing Referrals and Placements, 2010-2025



Housing Referrals and Placements, 2020-2025



Total Flexible Housing Fund Spend by Support Type, 2025



Flexible Spending Housing Fund

In 2025, MHCP re-established a Flexible Spending Housing Fund to offer financial support, such as first month's rent, to individuals ineligible for federal programs. Rental assistance and other temporary financial support is a critical success factors in maintaining existing housing or establishing new housing for a significant number of Housing is Health Program patients and families who are precariously housed and unable to obtain support elsewhere.

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

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

Participating Organizations

Health Systems/Hospitals

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

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 Services / Coordinated Entry
- United Way Continuum of Care (CoC)