

# MHCP MENTAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT FUND

2025-2026

## BACKGROUND

The health system members of the Milwaukee Health Care Partnership (MHCP) and the United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County (United Way) came together to launch the **Mental Health Improvement Fund** (MHIF) to support organizations that provide mental and behavioral health care services for low-income, underserved people of all ages in Milwaukee County, with the **goal of increasing access to mental health care, improving mental health outcomes, and promoting health equity.**

The previous iteration of the fund, known as the MHCP Health Improvement Fund, was launched in 2012 by the health system members of the MHCP and the United Way and supported a wide array of health access priorities, including health insurance enrollment, medical, dental and mental health safety-net clinic expansion, care navigation, and community health prevention.

In 2024, the fund shifted to a narrowed mental health focus recognizing the increased need for mental health services in the community. Mental health was identified as a top need in the 2024 Shared Milwaukee County Community Health Needs Assessment and continues to be elevated as a priority across partners and community members. It also aims to **create a more targeted impact around the shared United Way and MHCP mental health priority.**

Since its inception, the Milwaukee health systems—Ascension Wisconsin, Aurora Health Care, Children’s Wisconsin, and Froedtert ThedaCare Health Inc.—have passed their MHCP Shared Community Investment Fund (SCIF) contributions through the United Way to bolster its annual campaign and sponsor the Mental Health Improvement Fund (previously HIF) challenge grant. **Health systems have committed \$2 million in 2025 and a cumulative \$39 million in SCIF pass-through dollars since 2012.**

## PLEDGES & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

MHIF pledges are received via donor designations through the United Way fall campaign. MHIF grants (based on the amount pledged) are investments to non-profit, health and human service agencies in Milwaukee County. **Grants are awarded to organizations providing mental or behavioral health services to children, adults, or families.** This could include activities such as mental health and substance use programs and services that focus on early identification and intervention, outpatient diagnostics and treatment, crisis intervention, and care coordination for people of all ages

## COLLECTIVE INVESTMENTS

Since 2012, the fund has invested **over \$4 million** in aligned programming. In 2025-2026, the MHIF is awarding **13 programs** for a **total investment of \$405,000.**

Each year, the MHIF Review Committee and the United Way invite proposals that align with United Way and MHCP mental health care access priority. Funding recommendations are then reviewed by the MHCP Behavioral Health Steering Committee. Final recommendations are advanced to the health system CEOs and the United Way board who approve strategic investments that support shared objectives.

## FY 2025-26 Awardees

- Ascension St. Ben’s Clinic
- Aurora Walker’s Point Community Clinic
- Benedict Center
- Bread of Healing Clinic
- City on a Hill, Inc.
- Jewish Family Services, Inc.
- Meta House, Inc.
- Milwaukee LGBT Community Center
- Outreach Community Health Centers
- Pathfinders
- Penfield Children’s Center
- Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers
- WellPoint Care Network