

Strengthening the Foundations for Health

The health of a community depends on a strong and stable foundation. Income stability, housing quality and affordability, social connection and the absence of racism, access to healthcare and educational opportunities help build that foundation. Through its Community Grant Programs, the Wisconsin Partnership Program (WPP) at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health supports initiatives designed to improve health and advance health equity by building strong foundations for health.

Community Impact Grant Program

The Community Impact Grants provide up to \$1 million over five years to support large-scale, evidence-based, community-academic partnerships aimed at achieving sustainable policy, systems and/or environmental changes that will improve health, health-equity and well-being in Wisconsin. A link to the original award announcements from each year can be found below:

[2015](#)

[2016](#)

[2017](#)

[2018](#)

[2019](#)

2020 (coming)

The following is a list of grantees, categorized by year of award.

Year	Title	Primary Social Determinant of Health	Organizational Lead	Academic Partner(s)	Brief description	Media
2015	Cultivate Health Initiative: Growing the Wisconsin Garden Network	Neighborhood and Built Environment	Rooted (formerly known as Community Groundworks)	Samuel Dennis, PhD, UW-Madison School of Landscape Architecture	With this grant, Rooted aims to develop the school garden network throughout Wisconsin and train educators and administrators regarding the health and educational benefits of gardening and eating fresh produce.	Watch the Video https://www.med.wisc.edu/news-and-events/2018/february/school-garden-network-featured-on-big-ten-network/

2015	Improving Assisted Living Quality through Collaborative System Change	Health and Healthcare	Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Wisconsin Coalition for Collaborative Excellence in Assisted Living	Edmond Ramly, PhD, UW School of Medicine and Public Health, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health; Jay Ford, PhD, UW-Madison School of Pharmacy; Susan Oliviera, UW School of Medicine and Public Health, Department of Medicine	The goal for this project is to improve the quality of assisted living facilities across the state to ensure long term health of some of our most vulnerable residents.	Read the article https://www.med.wisc.edu/wisconsin-partnership-program/meet-our-partners/improving-care-for-wisconsin-seniors/
2015	Reimagining Criminal Justice to Improve the Health of Wisconsin's Families	Social and Community Context	WISDOM	Geoffrey Swain, MD, MPH, UW School of Medicine and Public Health, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health; Victoria Faust, UW School of Medicine and Public Health, Population Health Institute	The grantees hope to help improve population-level health in Wisconsin by changing re-entry processes when incarcerated individuals are re-integrated into society.	Watch the video https://www.med.wisc.edu/wisconsin-partnership-program/advancing-health-equity/#expo
2015	Advancing School-Based Mental Health	Education	Madison Metropolitan School District	Tally Moses, PhD, MSW, UW-Madison School of Social Work	The grant will be used to evaluate and refine an existing pilot model of integrated mental-health services and expand the reach of the program to other schools in Dane County with the goal of improving the well-being and school performance of students with mental health concerns.	Read the article https://madison.com/ws/news/local/health-med-fit/mental-health-programs-help-madison-area-schools-address-behavior-causes/article_4a55309a-fc7a-5132-b84b-84ee3daedb44.ht

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2016	Healthy Workers, Healthy Wisconsin	Health and Healthcare	Community Advocates Public Policy Institute	Dmitri Topitzes, PhD, UW-Milwaukee, Helen Bader School of Social Welfare; David Pate, PhD, UW-Milwaukee, Helen Bader School of Social Welfare; Joshua Mersky, PhD, UW-Milwaukee, Helen Bader School of Social Welfare	This grant is intended to facilitate access to primary and behavioral health care for job-seeking individuals in order to increase their employability, obtain health insurance, and recover from past trauma.	Read the article https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/special-reports/2018/05/02/new-jobs-program-tackles-trauma-epidemic-unorthodox-and-unprecedented-job-interview-thats-unprecedented/522533002/
2016	Legacy Community Alliance for Health	Social and Community Context	Green Tier Legacy Communities; Wisconsin Counties Association	Sara Lindberg, PhD, UW School of Medicine and Public Health, Population Health Institute	The aim of this grant is to improve health and health equity at the community level by helping local governments make gains in the areas of active transportation, local food, healthy housing and water quality to improve health determinants in their communities.	Watch the video https://www.med.wisc.edu/wisconsin-partnership-program/advancing-health-equity/#legacy

2016	Race to Equity Wisconsin	Social and Community Context	Kids Forward	Sheri Johnson, PhD, UW School of Medicine and Public Health, Population Health Institute and Abra Vigna, UW School of Medicine and Public Health, Population Health Institute	Race to Equity seeks to reduce racial disparities across Wisconsin by supporting local community efforts to develop community-informed policy agendas and structures that promote racial equity.	
2017	Connecting Clinics, Campuses and Communities to Advance Health Equity	Health and Health Care	Marshfield Clinic, Family Health Center of Marshfield	Corey Huck, PhD, UW-Stevens Point, School of Health Promotion and Human Development	With this grant, project partners will address underlying social factors that influence health. Students and volunteers will connect clinic patients with services such as food, energy, housing and transportation and empower people affected by health disparities and social inequities through a new leadership model.	Read the article https://www.leadertelegram.com/news/front-page/marshfield-clinic-health-system-uw-ec-partnership-helps-people-access/article_39603632-675e-50dd-992f-37ba03b003bd.html
2017	Healthy Housing Initiative	Economic Stability / Neighborhood and Built Environment	Community Advocates Public Policy Institute	Marah Curtis, PhD, MSW, UW-Madison School of Social Work, and Geoffrey Swain, MD, MPH, UW School of Medicine and Public Health, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health	The grantees hope to help inform housing policies related to health, quality, stability or affordability to alleviate Wisconsin's housing crisis and its effects on public health. Activities will include building a community-driven advisory council, conducting a health impact assessment and recruiting and training tenant leadership teams.	Read the report https://ppi.communityadvocates.net/policy-projects/healthy-housing-initiative.html

2017	Improving Opioid Treatment and Recovery in Rural Wisconsin	Social and Community Context	Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program	Robin Lecoanet-Moskowitz, JD, UW School of Medicine and Public Health, Population Health Institute and Elizabeth Feder, PhD, UW School of Medicine and Public Health, Population Health Institute	The goal of this grant is to fight Wisconsin's rural opioid crisis by piloting a model of coordinated access to medical, physical, emotional, social and economic wraparound services for people in recovery from opioid addiction, ultimately to improve their chances of sustained recovery.	Watch the video: https://www.med.wisc.edu/wisconsin-partnership-program/advancing-health-equity/#swcap
2017	First Breath Families	Health and Healthcare	Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation	Bruce Christiansen, PhD, UW Center for Tobacco Research and Intervention	With this grant, project partners will bring smoking cessation services to high-risk residents of Wisconsin. The team will collaborate with local agencies that serve pregnant and postpartum women and their families, provide access to quit coaches, and develop services that help reduce health inequities for women and families.	Read the article: https://ctri.wisc.edu/2018/01/19/uw-ctri-to-partner-with-first-breath-families-program-on-new-community-impact-grant/
2018	Improving Health Outcomes of Milwaukee's Latino Community	Economic Stability	Sixteenth Street Community Health Center	Michelle Corbett, MPH, CHES, UW-Milwaukee College of Health Sciences, Center for Urban Population Health	This grant will address health inequities by addressing housing instability among Sixteenth Street's patients and community, who are primarily Latino and live below the federal poverty line.	Video on hold due to covid
2018	Reducing Health Disparities in Dane County's African American Communities	Social and Community Context	Nehemiah Community Development Corporation, Inc.	Jerlando Jackson, PhD, MEd, UW-Madison School of Education, Wisconsin's Equity and Inclusion Laboratory (Wei Lab)	This grant will facilitate education and training for African American grassroots community leaders and their partners and facilitate cross-cultural interactions that will strengthen social networks and support participants with identifying opportunities for social action.	Read the article https://madison.com/ct/news/local/govt-and-politics/nehemiah-gets-major-grant-to-expand-justified-anger-work-

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2018	Preventing Expulsion in Early Childhood Care and Education	Education	Supporting Families Together Association (SFTA)	Katherine Magnuson, PhD, UW-Madison School of Social Work and Christine Neddenriep, PhD, UW-Whitewater, Department of Psychology	This grant will seek to prevent expulsions in early childhood, thereby helping to create better health and social emotional development outcomes for children and decreased disparities among children of color and lower socioeconomic status.	
2018	Improving the Health Outcomes of Communities Impacted by Incarceration	Social and Community Context	Employ Milwaukee, Milwaukee Reentry Alliance	David Pate Jr., PhD, UW-Milwaukee Helen Bader School of Social Welfare	This grant will address the widespread negative health effects of incarceration by establishing a better coordinated re-entry system to support criminal justice-involved individuals. Goals including increasing employability and job retention, reducing the rate of recidivism and improving the health outcomes of returning citizens.	
2019	Community-Campus Partnership to Strengthen Mental Health Services for Madison's Latino Community, Centro Hispano of Dane County	Health and Healthcare	Centro Hispano of Dane County	Stephen Quintana, PhD, UW-Madison School of Education, Department of Counseling Psychology	Objectives for this initiative include improving the quality, accessibility, and cultural competency of mental health resources for Dane County's Latino residents and training future Latino mental health practitioners in UW-Madison's School of Education.	Read the article https://education.wisc.edu/news/partnership-to-strengthen-mental-health-services-for-latinx-community/

2019	Creating a Renewed and Culturally Vibrant Healthy Food System for <i>Kaeyas Mamaceqtawak</i> , Menominee Nation	Neighborhood and Built Environment	Menominee Nation	Richard Monette, JD, University of Wisconsin Law School	Through this grant, the Menominee Tribe hopes to create a renewed food system by focusing on access to healthy food, agricultural best practices and Menominee cultural teachings and peer support.	Read the article https://www.med.wisc.edu/news-and-events/2019/october/community-impact-grants/
2019	Evaluating the Effectiveness of One City Schools: Preparing Children for School Success and Healthy Lives, One City Schools	Education	One City Schools	Tenah Hunt, PhD, MPH, UW-Madison School of Education, Wisconsin Center for Education Research and Beth Graue, PhD, UW-Madison School of Education, Wisconsin Center for Education Research	With this grant, One City will evaluate how it trains staff, engages parents and the larger community, and prepares young children to illustrate how its model of early childhood education and family involvement can close educational and health gaps.	Read the article https://madison.com/ct/news/local/education/one-city-schools-gets-million-grant-for-long-term-study/article_ccd0fa92-6038-5b65-8212-4d9f3d8866a3.html
2019	Parenting Network Family Health Initiative	Economic Stability	The Parenting Network	Paul Florsheim, PhD, UW-Milwaukee Zilber School of Public Health	The Parenting Network and academic partners hope to improve health outcomes for children by building an integrated system of prevention, intervention and treatment services to strengthen families and reduce the rates of African American children in the Milwaukee child welfare system.	

2019	Improving Birth Outcomes for Black Families through Community-Clinic Collaborations	Health and Healthcare	United Way of Dane County	Sara Lindberg, PhD, UW School of Medicine and Public Health, Department of Population Health Sciences	This initiative will involve developing a model of care coordination aimed at reducing disparities in birth outcomes by improving how health systems and social services engage with African American families.	Read the article https://madison.com/wsj/news/local/health-med-fit/efforts-ramp-up-to-address-black-infant-mortality-in-dane/article_87ed2fa8-abe0-5453-9cb3-bbc1d11bf1d1.html#tracking-source=home-top-story-1
2019	Wisconsin Early Education Support Network: Milwaukee Initiative	Education	Wisconsin Early Childhood Association	Katherine Magnuson, PhD, UW-Madison School of Social Work, Institute for Research on Poverty	The objective of this work is to strengthen the quality and continuity of local childcare providers in under-resourced areas of Milwaukee. The initiative will work to stabilize childcare by connecting family and group childcare programs to pool resources and capitalize on economies of scale and expertise.	
2020	Announcing on 10/17/2020					

Community Collaboration Grant Program

The Community Collaboration Grants program is designed specifically to strengthen community organizations' ability to address health inequities through funding as well as training and technical assistance. Links to the original press releases announcing the awards are included below:

[2017](#)

[2019](#)

Below is a list of funded projects, categorized by year of award.

Year	Title/Organizational Lead	Primary Social Determinant of Health	Brief description	Media
2017	Common Wealth Development	Neighborhood and Built Environment	Common Wealth Development supports the vitality of Madison neighborhoods with an approach centered on racial equity and community level health improvement.	
2017	Family Health La Clinica, Central Wisconsin Health Partnership	Health and Healthcare	These organizations are working together to improve health outcomes in Adams, Juneau, Green Lake, Marquette, Waupaca and Waushara Counties.	
2017	Foundation for Black Women's Wellness	Health and Healthcare	This grant supports the Foundation for Black Women's Wellness' work to eliminate health disparities impacting the lives of Black women and girls.	Read the article https://madison365.com/foundation-for-black-womens-wellness-set-to-grow-impact-on-black-womens-health-push-for-systemic-changes/

2017	Milwaukee Inner-City Congregations Allied for Hope	Social and Community Context	This multi-racial, interfaith organization is committed to addressing social justice issues that impact communities including Milwaukee, Chippewa Valley and Fox Cities.	
2017	Rebalanced-Life Wellness Association	Health and Healthcare	This funding supports work toward reducing health disparities that adversely affect African American men and boys residing in Dane County.	Watch the video https://www.med.wisc.edu/wisconsin-partnership-program/advancing-health-equity/#blackmen
2019	Madison Area Care for the Homeless (MACH OneHealth)	Economic Stability	This grant will support MACH OneHealth's efforts to bridge gaps in the Madison healthcare system by ensuring that individuals experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness have equitable housing and healthcare.	
2019	The Mellowood Foundation	Social and Community Context	The Mellowood Foundation will use its grant to further its efforts to improve health and quality of life in this westside Madison community by addressing employment, racism and trauma and through building leadership and community connectedness among underserved youth and families.	
2019	Menikānaehkem, Inc.	Economic Stability	A grassroots community organization based on the Menominee Reservation in Northeast Wisconsin, Menikānaehkem, Inc. will use its award to address poverty, housing and trauma as part of its efforts to rebuild community and improve health outcomes.	
2019	Metcalfe Park Community Bridges Inc.	Neighborhood and Built Environment	This grant will further efforts to create a healthy, safe and thriving community where neighbors experience social cohesion and access to healthy housing, educational and economic opportunities.	

2019	REAP Food Group	Health and Healthcare	This grant increases the capacity of an innovative collaboration between REAP Food Group and Roots4Change Cooperative, a cooperative led by Latina and Indigenous women, to advance health equity by working with the food and healthcare systems to address individual and collective health and well-being.	Read the article http://reapfoodgroup.org/news/roots4change-reap-food-group-announce-health-food-equity-project/
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COVID-19 Response Grants

The Oversight and Advisory Committee awarded 11 [COVID-19 Response Grants](#) to community-led initiatives working to address the immediate health needs of people in Wisconsin's urban and rural communities, and those most disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

Title	Grantee and Description	Media
Men's Emergency Shelter-Virtual Health Assessments	Awarded to Porchlight, Inc. to immediately reduce the spread of COVID-19 by using an innovative technology-enabled solution of virtual volunteers to safely and accurately screen all homeless shelter guests daily and prior to entry of the homeless shelter sites.	
Bilingual (English/Spanish) Short- and Long-term Assistance to Vulnerable Population	Awarded to the Catholic Multicultural Center to address the impact of COVID-19 among its English and Spanish-speaking clients by addressing immediate needs of food and hygiene and helping to obtain employment or unemployment benefits.	
Immediate COVID-19 Response for 4K-12 Students	Awarded to the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) to provide immediate, extended, personalized support and resources for the physical and mental health of a group of 2000 MMSD 4K-12th graders with medical conditions associated with poor outcomes from COVID-19.	Madison School District among Wisconsin Partnership Program grant recipients

<p>Farms to Families/De Granjas a Familias Resilience Boxes</p>	<p>Awarded to REAP Food Group in collaboration with Roots4Change, a cooperative of community health workers serving Dane County’s Latino/Indigenous families, to develop a delivery of care system related to the COVID-19 pandemic, informed by the needs of Latino/Indigenous families, local, small, and minority scale farmers, food entrepreneurs of color, and community-based doulas.</p>	
<p>WeRISE: Black Birth Workers Response to COVID-19 Project</p>	<p>Awarded to the African American Breastfeeding Network for Black Birth Workers (doulas) and the clients they serve to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among Black/African American families across southeastern Wisconsin.</p>	<p>https://www.med.wisc.edu/wisconsin-partnership-program/meet-our-partners/supporting-black-birth-workers-during-covid/</p>
<p>Health Community Education Strategy for the Latino Community</p>	<p>Awarded to Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers to develop and disseminate accurate information as quickly and broadly as possible to help Milwaukee’s Latino community navigate the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	
<p>COVID-19 Response for Milwaukee’s Uninsured Adults</p>	<p>Awarded to Bread of Healing Clinic to address and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 through outreach and access to care through telehealth for low-income people of color who are uninsured.</p>	
<p>Services for Hmong and other Refugee</p>	<p>Awarded to the Hmong Institute to address the immediate COVID-19 related needs of underserved immigrant communities across the state. Specifically, this project will target Southeast Asian (e.g., Hmong, Laotian, Cambodian), Burmese (e.g., Karen, Rohingya), Nepalese and Tibetan elders and parents who lack access to mainstream services due to language and transportation barriers and face significant physical and mental health needs due to preexisting health disparities and post-traumatic stress disorder.</p>	<p>https://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/local-hmong-agency-receives-state-grant-for-food-pantry-and-covid-community-support/article_c562b26a-d625-53c9-96b2-64b72cf9a6cd.html</p>

Markets to Address Food Insecurity of Vulnerable Populations	Awarded to Wello to address food insecurity in Greater Green Bay through an approach that meets the needs of the area’s most vulnerable residents as well as local farmers.	https://www.med.wisc.edu/wisconsin-partnership-program/meet-our-partners/wello/
Wood County Community Response to COVID-19	Awarded to Marshfield Child Advocacy Center, Marshfield Clinic Health System, to reduce the risk of child maltreatment in Wood County families as a result of parental stress related to the COVID-19 pandemic.	
Barron County Integrated Response to Slow Community Spread of COVID-19	Awarded to Barron County to reduce the spread of COVID-19 through innovative education and outreach efforts to the community’s Spanish-speaking and Somali communities, and in coordination with some of the county’s largest employers.	County Gets \$60,000 to help fight virus