



2025

YEAR IN REVIEW

MISSION

MKE Elevate supports a Milwaukee where all people are thriving in safe, healthy, and equitable neighborhoods free from oppression by aligning strategies and building power, partnerships, access to resources, and opportunities for collective advocacy in community-identified priority areas.

VISION

A Milwaukee where all people are thriving in safe, healthy, and equitable neighborhoods.



2025 MKE Elevate Key Accomplishments



85 implementation partners and 5 community co-chairs



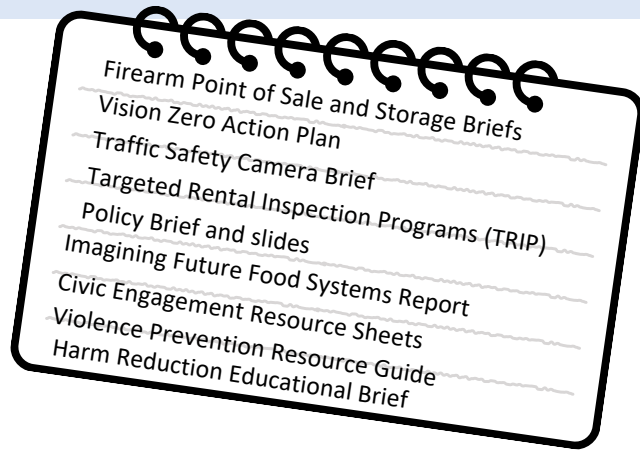
12 zip codes reached in community outreach



35% of strategies implemented or in progress



10 policy briefs, resource guides, and reports created with partners



Policy, systems, and environmental change efforts underway

Racial and Health Equity

Trust and the Vote exhibit and information on how to get involved beyond the ballot box

Built Environment

DPW street projects, Vision Zero, traffic safety camera policy education, healthy housing

Maternal and Child Health

STI provider survey, perinatal mental health and substance use lived experience survey

Safe and Supportive Communities

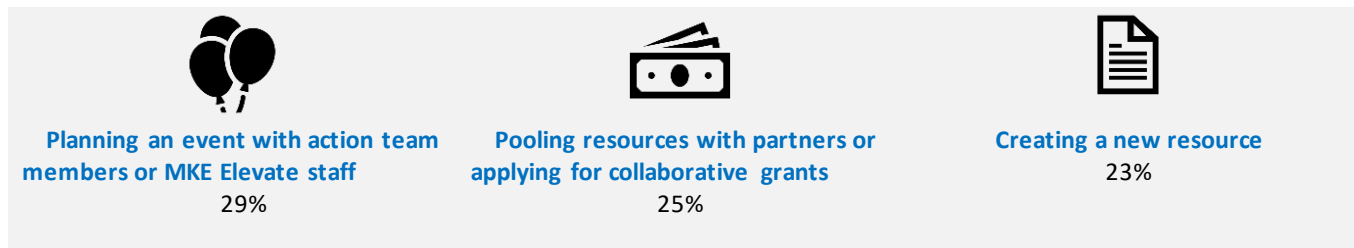
Focus groups to understand drug paraphernalia policy impacts

Partner Survey Findings

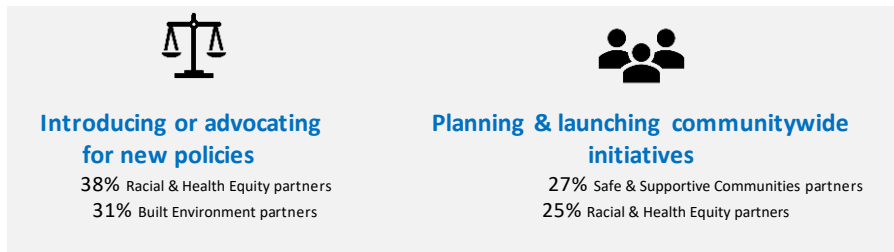
The City of Milwaukee Health Department serves as the convener for MKE Elevate, bringing together partners to align strategies in three priority issue areas through action teams and work groups, while the steering committee oversees an overarching lens of health and racial equity.

In November-December 2025, a partner survey was shared with steering committee, action team, and work group members. There was a total of 62 responses from 51 unique organizations.

Among all respondents, the **top actions taken as a result of participation in MKE Elevate** were:



When broken down by priority area, some groups also identified these top actions:



Among all respondents, the **top benefits of participation in MKE Elevate** were:



Implementation Progress

2023-2028 MKE Elevate Strategies In Progress or Implemented				
Overall	Racial and Health Equity	Built Environment	Maternal and Child Health	Safe and Supportive Communities
Strategies implemented: 7% (8/109)	1 / 10	2 / 22	1 / 34	4 / 43
Strategies in progress: 28% (30 / 109)	2 / 10	7 / 22	19 / 34	2 / 43
Total: 35%	30%	41%	59%	14%



WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Visit our website at milwaukee.gov/elevate
Follow us on Instagram and Facebook @MKEelevate

Supported by the Mayor, the Board of Health, and the City of Milwaukee Health Department, the MKE Elevate Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) responds to priority issues selected by our community, for our community, and seeks to create shared priorities to address these issues.

Together we can elevate the health of all who call Milwaukee home.

Appendix A: 2025 MKE Elevate Implementation

102 Meetings Convened in 2025			
84 work group meetings 12 action team meetings 4 steering committee meetings 2 general member meetings			
Racial & Health Equity	Built Environment	Maternal & Child Health	Safe & Supportive Communities
22 members	66 members	54 members	61 members
85 Community Partners		22 Outreach Events	
85 Implementation Partners total 13 new partners joined this year		Reaching nearly 1,000 people	

Education and Awareness

MKE Elevate uses a variety of tactics to promote education and awareness on priority issue areas, including sending monthly newsletters and email updates, sharing social media content, presenting to community groups, and partnering on campaigns and events.

Over 1,000 people reached by monthly email updates and newsletters

17,300 views on social media. 530 content interactions on [Facebook](#) 359 content interactions on [Instagram](#).

- Helped launch **Vision Zero Plan**
- Participated in Milwaukee Food Council’s **2nd Annual Food Justice Summit**
- Participated in Prevent Suicide of Greater Milwaukee’s **Suicide Prevention Panel Discussion**
- Supported **Black Birth Symposium**

15 presentations given about MKE Elevate priorities and how to get involved to the following groups:

6 MKE Elevate Overview Presentations	3 Built Environment	2 Maternal & Child Health	4 Safe & Supportive Communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milwaukee Area Technical College • Milwaukee Area Health Education Center • UWM School of Social Work • UWM College of Public Health • Marquette University • Board of Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board of Health • Housing Coalition • MATC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milwaukee Health Department Disease Intervention Specialists • Board of Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Howard Fuller Collegiate Academy • Southeastern Wisconsin Veteran for Suicide Prevention Task Force • Indivisible MKE • Prolific Arms

Policy, Systems, and Environmental Change

Raised awareness and supported policy, systems, and environmental changes that impact priority areas

Racial and Health Equity	Built Environment	Maternal & Child Health	Safe & Supportive Communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnered on second Trust and the Vote story exhibit Created resource sheets for ways practice civic engagement beyond the ballot box 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helped launch Vision Zero Action Plan Presented research and Milwaukee’s history of Targeted Rental Inspection Program’s to neighborhood associations Completed the Imagining Future Food Systems Report (English and Spanish) in Collaboration with the SNAP-Ed Collective Action Initiative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched STI testing practices survey Finalized survey of people with lived experience of perinatal mental health and substance use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted focus groups to better understand issue of drug paraphernalia Gun lock distribution Created Violence Prevention Resource Guide Partnered on Zilber College of Public Health Policy Briefs on firearm point of sale and safe storage for suicide and injury prevention Finalized Harm Reduction Educational Brief: Access to Safer Smoking Supplies Saves Lives

Power Sharing and Equity

MKE Elevate uses a variety of strategies from the [MAPP 2.0 Power Framework](#) to practice power sharing.

Conducted **equity activities** at **50%** of quarterly meetings and at 2 general member meetings

MAPP Power Framework	Activity
1. Process (unpack power and privilege)	
2. Form (build container for work)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Window of Tolerance Shared agreements
3. Study (learn about communities’ histories)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>What You Didn't Learn in School</i> presentation by Derek Mosley Storytelling Project
4. Build (cultivate relationships)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Based Orgs vs Community Power Building Orgs Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership <i>Beloved Community</i> presentation by Linetta Alexander of UBUNTU Research and Evaluation
5. Share (with partners and community)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-chair engagement
6. Strategize and Act (amplify and invest)	
7. Evolve (reflect on process, outcomes)	

Appendix A: 2025 MKE Elevate Implementation

Included **15** partner presentations at meetings, including:

Steering Committee	Built Environment	Maternal & Child Health	Safe & Supportive Communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision Zero • NACCHO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity • 1000 Friends of WI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moms Mental Health Initiative • Asthma-Safe Homes • Meta House • ICare BadgerCare+ HMO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective for Powerful Action • Milwaukee County Department of Human Health and Services Credible Messenger program • Office of Community Wellness and Safety Promise Keepers • OCWS ReCAST: Credible Clinicians and Healers Network, Healing Hubs Network. • One MKE coalition • Southeastern Wisconsin Veteran for Suicide Prevention Task Force • Violence Response Public Health Team

5 community co-chairs assisted with meeting planning and facilitation.

Built Environment	Maternal and Child Health	Safe and Supportive Communities
<p>Teresina Simmons, Regal Aspire LLC</p> <p>Mia Rudolph-Schulta, City of Milwaukee Environmental Collaboration Office</p>	<p>Lakeeta Watts, Essentially Empowered</p> <p>Akke Neel Talsma, UWM School of Nursing and Maternity Metrix</p>	<p>Quinn Taylor, Office of Community Wellness and Safety</p>

12 Zip Codes Reached by MKE Elevate Outreach in 2025

53209	53206	53212	53211	53205	53202
53216	53210	53208	53204	53215	53233

Appendix B

2025 MKE Elevate Partner Survey Results

Figure 1. Actions Taken by MKE Elevate Partners in 2025

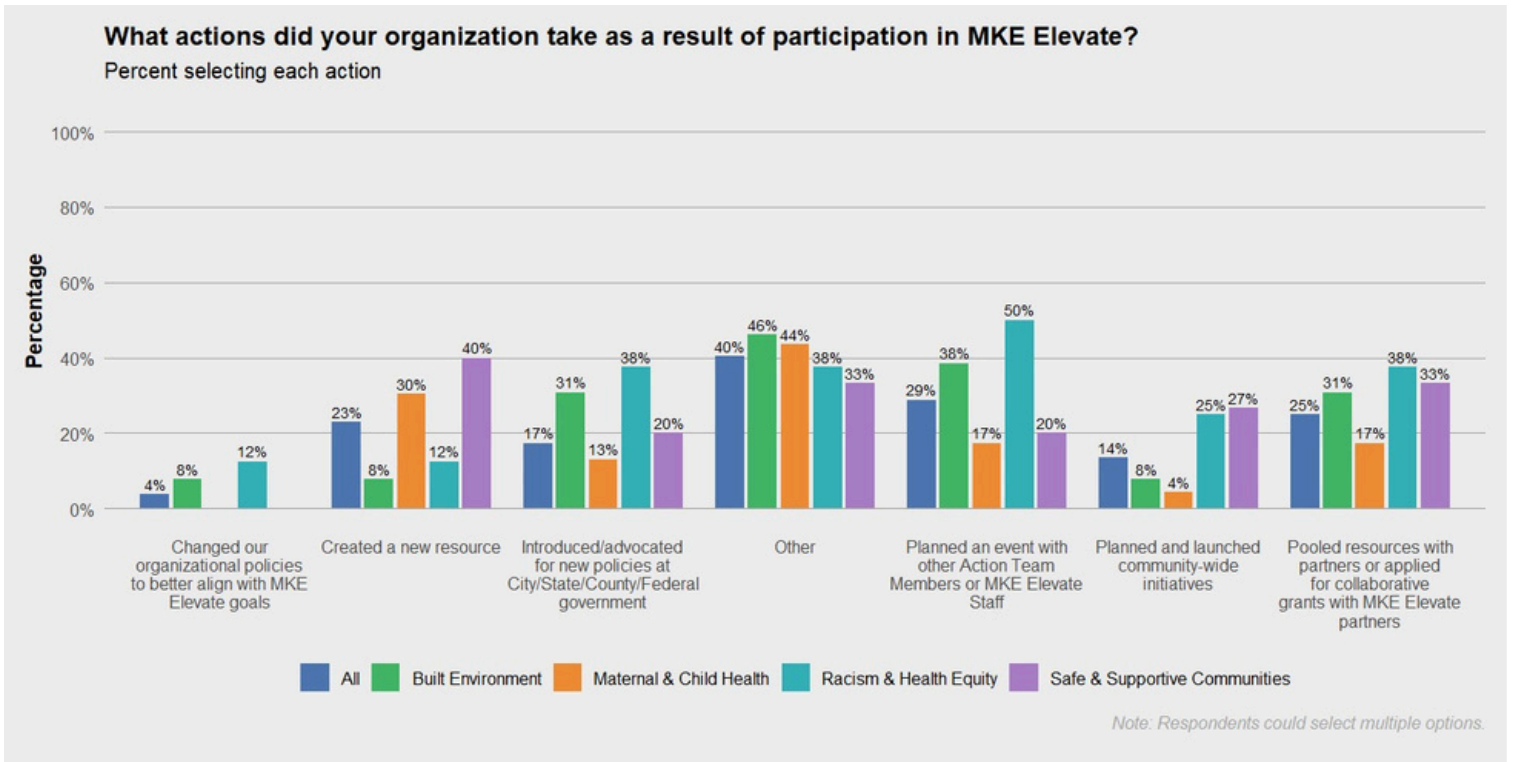
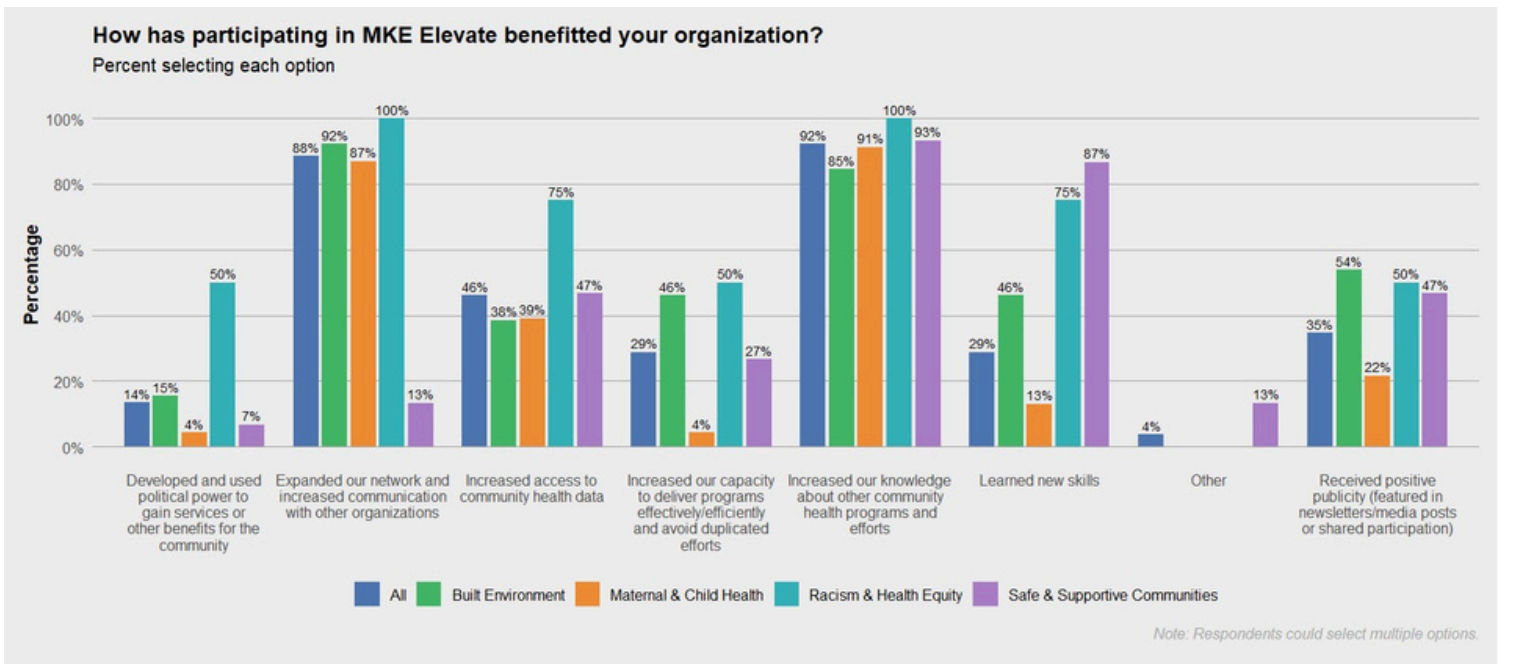


Figure 2. Benefits of Participating in MKE Elevate in 2025



Appendix C

Success Stories from 2025 MKE Elevate Partner Survey

BUILT ENVIRONMENT PARTNER SUCCESS STORIES

After the flooding, we connected with several residents who were considering leaving their homes due to mold concerns and lack of clear guidance. By coordinating with DNS for joint inspections and providing immediate health and cleanup information, we **helped many residents safely remain in their homes and avoid displacement**. This response strengthened our ability to stabilize housing conditions during emergencies and better support impacted households.

Educated the public on traffic safety infrastructure and worked with several groups to discuss pedestrian safety... We showed them how to report issues that they encountered on the MKE Mobile Action app.

We hosted our **third annual food security forum** in October bringing together key stakeholders, volunteers, organizations, etc to highlight the different **ways we can work together to increase food access and address barriers**.

Clean Wisconsin is working to **improve community-informed advocacy and decisions** by partnering with City of MKE Health Department for **Environmental Health Data Chats**. In these data chats, we **present data on housing stock, including potential health impacts** such as lead paint/poisoning, vacant lots, and radon.

Vision Zero Action Plan was signed by the Mayor in July and now we are in the implementation stage of the plan. Really educating community members and moving the work forward to reach our goal of zero deaths caused by reckless driving by 2037.

We conducted community advocacy trainings (Safe Street Academies) to build community capacity for promoting safe, healthy, and accessible streets. The trainings connected residents to local public planning agencies, applied street assessment tools, and facilitated dialogue and action planning. This momentum has allowed 1kfriends to continue providing coordination support for **walk-roll audit programming** into 2026, with more tailored structures to each community group that we'll be working with.



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PARTNER SUCCESS STORIES

AHA has been working with the City to deliver education on infant and adult CPR for new families

One EMT works for a company that offers services with patient comfort in mind (gender-matching when possible), discusses insurance options, and informs their staff of perinatal services to offer EMS patients. This EMT **used knowledge she learned about racism in healthcare while caring for a Black patient** having obstetric bleeding, and her patient advocacy has increased.

The WIC program helps to support moms during pregnancy with foods and resources with the goal to **help moms deliver a healthy full-term infant**.

Individual outreach requests to help birthing patients access **ethics resources** they need while in labor & delivery

Created an **online version of safe sleep education** to reach more families, and are working on translating these to **additional languages**

The EFM/DAD programs have served over 200 expectant/parenting families in 2025, with **85% of enrollees receiving a depression screening within 3 months of enrollment** and 93% receiving health teaching and referrals.

The Maternal Health Innovation Program funds multiple Milwaukee-based projects to improve maternal health and reduce risk of mortality and morbidity. For example: MHD's partnership with Dad Doula University, MCW's MOTHERs clinic (substance use), and 16th St.'s group midwifery model.

Through our nursing programs, we highlight MKE Elevate's work and ways to be involved. Also focusing on Perinatal Education Programs, bringing Maternity Metrix to health fairs and community events. More people are aware of it and are interested in joining the programs.

Culture x Design advances healthy birth outcomes by using culturally responsive engagement, trauma-informed storytelling, and cross-sector collaboration to strengthen support for Black birth families. Through the **Black Birth Symposium**, we created an accessible, community-driven space where doulas, clinicians, and public health partners could share experiences, learn together, and connect to essential resources.

Our home visiting program provides education, support, and access to resources for **low-income expectant parents**. Our work helps families learn to advocate for what they need to achieve **healthy birth outcomes**.



Appendix C

Success Stories from 2025 MKE Elevate Partner Survey



RACIAL AND HEALTH EQUITY PARTNER SUCCESS STORIES

Grant funding to a range of impactful organizations working across MKE Elevate goals. Thought partnership and participation.

"I voted early" sticker design contest conducted in partnership with Milwaukee Public Schools helps support the City's goal of strengthening civic engagement by bringing creativity, community pride, and civic education together in a fun and accessible way"

Led the charge to **eliminate birth recovery** in Milwaukee County, ending \$67 million in debt to Milwaukee County families.

D&R provides HIV/STI testing and care resources, **social support groups**, and **harm reduction** resources like Fentanyl test strips, Narcan, and gun locks. At the end of August our summer intern held a **packing party of welcoming supplies** for local GSAs at the beginning of the school year.

In the beginning of 2025, we **heavily promoted the Spring election**, making sure people knew when they should vote, where they should vote, and who was on their ballot. After the election, we focused on figuring out what civic engagement looks like when there is no large election. It came down to **connecting people to resources** [and] led us to connecting **140 local organizations to work together** to break down resource silos and giving **23 block party grants**.

I have focused on **building a skilled public health workforce**, generating locally relevant **evidence** on health disparities, and **fostering community partnerships** that empower residents to live longer, healthier, and more equitable lives.



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SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES PARTNER SUCCESS STORIES

By bringing partners together, we were able to identify a need and respond with a solution. The need was **informing community of organizations and agencies that focus work around community violence intervention**. The answer was a **resource guide**.

Safe and Supportive Communities is very much the hallmark of our mission. This year we **distributed gun locks and hosted Wear Orange Weekend...**to foster new collaborations with residents who want to be informed and live in safe communities.

Hosted a **Mindfulness Moment for parents and children**. The focus was on stress reduction, family bonding, healthy drink choices, and overall family wellness.

Promoting collaboration between agencies with VR-PHAST. This allows for **real time communication across violence prevention agencies** and a more **coordinated response to violence** in the community.

Bringing free emergency response and harm reduction training right into Milwaukee's Promise Zone neighborhoods. We **trained over 200 residents** in CPR, First Aid, Narcan use, and Stop the Bleed – **giving people the tools and confidence to keep their communities safe**.

One standout story came from a **participant who later used Narcan to save a neighbor's life after an overdose**. He said, "I didn't panic this time. I remembered what you taught us." Moments like that show the **real impact of our work – neighbors stepping in to protect and care for one another**.



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