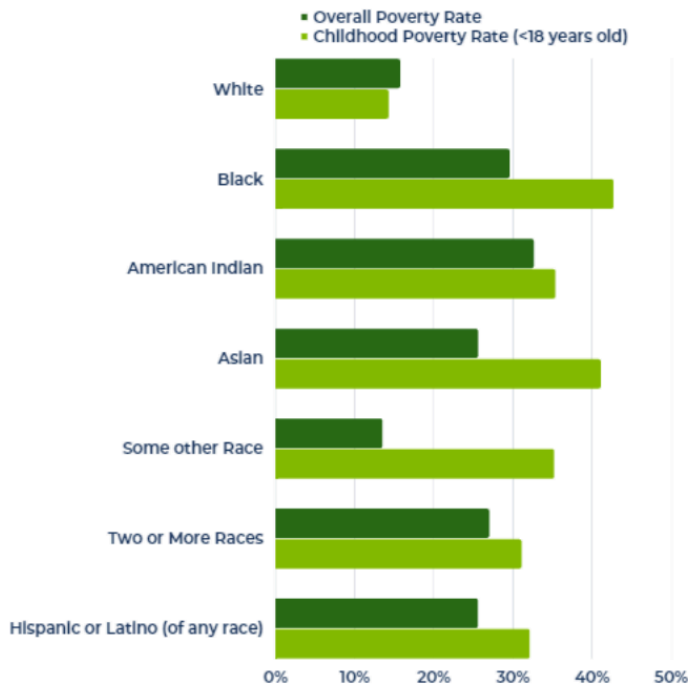


GUARANTEED INCOME

A Tool To Improve
Community Health

Poverty Rates in the City of Milwaukee by Race and Ethnicity¹



Governor Evers' Health Equity Council recommends piloting guaranteed income in five communities to **increase economic opportunity and improve health outcomes among Wisconsinites.**²

How can Guaranteed income support Milwaukee residents living in poverty?

- Guaranteed income programs provide unconditional and recurring cash payments to support the basic needs of the recipients, honoring the dignity and worth of each person by providing flexibility in how funds are spent.
- Guaranteed income payments supplement the existing social safety net.
- Programs are designed to assist communities with critical economic needs, addressing poverty and wealth inequality.
- Health benefits are documented for all three 2023-2028 MKE Elevate priority action areas.

“Guaranteed income is a way to recognize everyone’s inherent dignity – we have to stop attaching dignity to work, and instead attach it to our personhood.”³



Maternal and Child Health

- Unrestricted cash assistance significantly **reduces low birth weights and preterm births**, which are both correlated with infant mortality.⁴
- Guaranteed income provides **essential financial support for healthcare, nutrition, and housing during pregnancy.**⁵

After just one year in the Bridge Project NY, 63% of mothers living in transitional shelter had secured stable housing, there was a 53% increase in food security, and a 63% increase in accessing childcare.⁶

Magnolia Mother’s Trust report a 40% decrease in debt, enhanced child academic performance, 27% higher rates of seeking medical care, and improved budgeting skills.⁷



Safe and Supportive Communities

- Guaranteed income can **decrease depression and anxiety** by reducing financial strain and lowering stress.⁸
- By increasing economic security, Guaranteed Income can **reduce stressors that lead to violence** and improve overall community safety.⁹

The Stockton Economic Empowerment Demonstration (SEED) participants saw a 12% increase in full-time employment and improved financial stability, both linked to a reduced risk of violent crime, and a 40% decrease in depression and anxiety symptoms.¹⁰

In Los Angeles, participants reported less fear of neighborhood violence, better interactions with neighbors, and a decrease in the severity and frequency of intimate partner violence.¹¹



Built Environment

- Guaranteed income helps **alleviate food and housing insecurity** among participants.¹²
- Unrestricted cash **reduces food insecurity**, with even \$2,000 supplements leading to significant improvements.¹³

In Washington D.C., THRIVE participants allocated 54% of their \$5,500 stipend to housing.¹⁴

A GI Program in Los Angeles provided unrestricted cash aids focused on reducing food insecurity. After 6 months, 57% of participants struggled to access preferred foods compared to 43% of those not receiving cash.¹⁵

The MKE Elevate Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is a collaborative effort supported by the Mayor, the Board of Health, and the City of Milwaukee Health Department.

While guided by these institutions, the plan responds to community-identified priorities and focuses on finding shared solutions for local issues. The MKE Elevate team represents diverse voices and perspectives from the community, and their work is informed by—not dictated by—city agencies.

Together, we aim to elevate the health and well-being of all Milwaukee residents.

2023-2028 PRIORITIES AND GOALS

OVERARCHING PRIORITY: Racism and Health Equity

- 1: Increase household income** of Black, Hispanic / Latinx, and American Indian / Alaska Native Milwaukee residents
- 2: Raise the life expectancy and quality of life** for Black and American Indian / Alaska Native Milwaukee residents
- 3: Increase Civic Engagement and knowledge** for Milwaukeeans to participate in local and state level voting



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