



Our Health. Our Community. Our Future.

February Monthly News & Updates

As we celebrate Black History Month, we honor Black communities throughout history not only this month but every month! MKE Elevate recognizes Black leaders, activists, and innovators in shaping the fabric of our society and advancing health equity.

Black History Month serves as a reminder of the ongoing journey toward justice, equity, and inclusivity within our communities. We stand united in our commitment to fostering a healthier, more equitable Milwaukee for all.

"Have a vision. Be demanding."

- Colin Powell, the first African American appointed as the U.S. Secretary of State

MKE Elevate's 2024 Q2 Save The Date Action Team Meetings

SAVE THE DATE

Q2 Action Team Meetings this May!



Please join us at our second round of Action Team Meetings in 2024 to work together to create a plan to work towards our goals and strategies for the next five-year plan!



Built Environment

Location:TBD

Thursday, May 16th, 10:00 am to 11:30 am



Maternal & Child Health

LOCATION: TBD

Thursday, May 16th, 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm



Safe & Supportive Communities

LOCATION:TBD

Tuesday, May 21st, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm



Register for Zoom meetings at
milwaukee.gov/elevate



We will send meeting registration for Q2 meetings next month! For now, mark your calendars!

Built Environment Action Team

(In-Person, Location TBD)

Thursday, May 16th, 10-11:30 am

[Registration Link Here](#)

[Q1 notes here](#)

[Q1 Recording Here](#)

Maternal & Child Health Action Team

(Hybrid, Location TBD)

Thursday, May 16th, 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm

[Registration Link Here](#)

Q1 notes [here](#)

Q1 Recording [Here](#)

Safe and Supportive Communities

(Hybrid, Location TBD)

Tuesday, May 28th, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

[Registration Link Here](#)

Q1 notes [here](#)

Q1 Recording [Here](#)



Our Health. Our Community. Our Future.

2024

MKE Elevate Meeting Schedule

Priority Action Areas:



BE:
Built Environment



MCH:
Maternal and Child Health



SSC:
Safe and Supportive Communities

Scan to register & to learn more!



Q1	January No meetings this month	February 2/8 11:30 am: SC 2/15 10am: BE 2/15 4 pm: MCH 2/20 10:30 am: SSC	March No meetings this month
	Q2	April 4/25 11:30am Steering Committee	May 5/16 10am: BE 5/16 4pm: MCH 5/28 10:30am: SSC
		June General Member Meeting TBD	Q3
August 8/15 10am: BE 8/15 4pm: MCH 8/20 10:30am: SSC		September No meetings this month	
Q4	October 10/24 11:30am Steering Committee	November 11/21 10am: BE 11/21 4pm: MCH 11/19 10:30am: SSC	



Visit milwaukee.gov/elevate to learn more and RSVP!

Implementation Partner Spotlight: Food For Health



FOOD FOR HEALTH™

What is Food For Health?

We are on a **mission** to disrupt diet-related disease for vulnerable populations by delivering delicious, medically tailored meals; keeping participants active; and motivating them through well-being services, programming, and measurement.

Why is this an important resource in Milwaukee/Wisconsin?

Our work is important because millions of Americans are dying prematurely. Chronic disease has caused a health crisis in America. According to the CDC, 60% of Americans have at least one chronic disease. The problem is even worse in Wisconsin! More than 65% of WI residents have diabetes, pre-diabetes or are yet to be diagnosed -- we spend \$1.15B/annually on Medicaid alone on diet related disease. In addition, preventable disease causes 35% of deaths in WI annually and is the leading cause of death in the state. We focus on lower income populations because in Milwaukee, people in low-income zip codes are at 9x greater risk of reduced access to nutritious food, which makes them at greater risk of diet related disease.

Why did you become an implementation partner with MKE Elevate?

We are on a mission to impact the health and well-being of 50,000 people over the next five years. We can't do this alone. Being an implementation partner with MKE Elevate gives us access to information, resources, and expands our network of potential partners.

Implementation Partner Agreement

Implementation Partners help advance the strategies identified in the 2023-2028 MKE Elevate Plan.

Such implementation efforts may include, but are not limited to: program administration; providing content area expertise; sharing resources; advancing advocacy and education efforts; and/or data sharing.

Benefits of being an implementation partner include:

1. Breaking Down Silos
2. Networking Opportunities
3. Strategic Alignment Toward Common Goals
4. Community Health Improvement

Expectations of an implementation partner are:

- Attend at least half the quarterly action team meetings and biannual general meetings
- Commit to being an anti-racist organization (for more information go to <https://aorta.coop/continuum>)
- Provide an annual progress update and share program data as able

[Sign on as an implementation partner here](#)

The City of Milwaukee Health Department recognizes a few of Milwaukee's many Black public health heroes, both past and present!

Ericka Sinclair, MS, MPH



Ericka Sinclair is the founder and CEO of Health Connections, inc., a non-profit organization bringing health care services to some of Milwaukee's most vulnerable populations.

Sinclair has over 17 years of experience in international and domestic public health and clinic operations. She has a Bachelor's in Microbiology, a Master's in Clinical Laboratory Sciences, and a master's in International Public Health.

Her experience working in international and domestic settings has given her the vision to embark on this new adventure.

Dr. William Finlayson



Dr. William Finlayson became the first African American OBGYN to practice in a Milwaukee hospital.

After earning his MD from Meharry Medical College, he established his private practice in Milwaukee. He was also a professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin and the University of Wisconsin Medical School.

Over his 40-year career, he delivered over 10,000 babies!

Dr. Lester Carter (1931-2022)

Dr. Lester Carter served as a pharmacist in the Milwaukee community for over 50 years.

After studying Pharmacy at Creighton University in Omaha, he took an opportunity to open his own Milwaukee-based drug store in 1968.

By forming strong bonds with his patients, he was one of the country's longest-serving African-American pharmacists, whom many Milwaukeeans called their first "Doctor."



CITY OF MILWAUKEE
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MILWAUKEE HEALTH HEROES

Marques Hogans, MPH



Marques Hogans has been a public health professional for nearly 10 years and serves as the Health Strategy Director for the City of Milwaukee Health Department's MKE Elevate.

He received his undergraduate degree from Kentucky State University, a Historically Black College and University (HBCU), and completed his Master's in Public Health from the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Marques is also a member of the Health Equity Awakened Leadership Institute, a program created by Human Impact Partners to grow leaders in racial equity and social justice.



CITY OF MILWAUKEE
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MILWAUKEE HEALTH HEROES

Rayna Andrews, MUP

Rayna Andrews is a public health ambassador, author, and public health activist with a focus on food security and health equity for underserved communities.

She is the Executive Director of Advancement and Engagement for Food For Health, a Milwaukee community-based organization that creates equitable access to healthy and happy lives through the power of food.

Rayna's current work is focused on the intersections of food as a medical intervention, sustainable agriculture, and health policy.



MILWAUKEE HEALTH HEROES

Today, and every day, we celebrate the invaluable contributions of Milwaukee's past and present Black public health professionals who have paved the way and continue to lead the charge for a healthier community.

From trailblazers who laid the foundation for equitable access to healthcare to today's champions who are tackling modern challenges and disparities, these remarkable individuals are the backbone of progress.

News and Reports

RACISM AND HEALTH EQUITY

Impact of Social and Economic Conditions on Life Expectancy

New study from Tulane finds racial life expectancy gap is "driven by differences in employment, family income, food insecurity, education, access to healthcare, housing instability, and relationship status."

Read more [here](#)

Read the journal article [here](#)

County Health Rankings Looks at Civic Health

Elements of civic health include civic infrastructure and civic participation.

Read more [here](#).

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Housing and Health

From the recent issue of *Health Affairs* focused on housing and health, in this article, authors "discuss how the housing health index could be used by local governments to target building inspections with a focus on improving health."

Read more [here](#)

A Shared Vision for Quality, Affordable Housing

How Milwaukee's Community Development Alliance Seeks to Advance Racial Equity Through Quality, Affordable Housing

Read the full report [here](#)

2023 Housing Affordability Report

The City of Milwaukee Department of City Development (DCD) recently released their 2023 City of Milwaukee Housing Affordability Analysis.

View the full analysis [here](#)

Southeastern Regional Planning Commission VISION 2050

A draft of the 2024 update to SEWRPC's [VISION 2050](#) is now available! This long-range land use and transportation plan update includes goals for creating walkable and accessible communities with a mix of housing types and transportation options.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Wisconsin's Medicaid Postpartum Protection Lags Most of the Country

Wisconsin is one of just four states without plans to implement post-partum Medicaid extension to 12 months. A bipartisan bill passed the Senate but was not heard in the Assembly.

Read more [here](#)

SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES

Milwaukee Sees Decline in Homicides

Preliminary crime data shows 21% decline from 2022 to 2023.

Read more [here](#)

Office of Children's Mental Health Resources

Read their 2023 annual report [here](#) and their new Infant and Toddler Mental Health fact sheet [here](#).

45 Traffic Calming Projects for 2024 to Reduce Reckless Driving

DPW announced projects including raised crosswalks, curb extensions, full

reconstruction, and protected bike lanes.

Read more [here](#)

Vision Zero: Your Voice is Needed- Take a short survey!

[Vision Zero](#) aims to reach **zero traffic deaths and life-changing injuries** by developing an action plan to implement strategies for making streets safe for all:

- Building and sustaining leadership, collaboration, and accountability among diverse stakeholders
- Using data in decision-making and ensuring transparency on progress and challenges
- Prioritizing equity and community engagement with a focus on the high-injury street network
- Managing speed to safe levels
- Using 2037 as the goal year to achieve zero traffic deaths and serious injuries, bringing urgency and accountability

Find the survey [here](#)

Policy Updates

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

SB 860 (companion to AB 887): *Bonding for lead service line replacement and granting bonding authority*

- **Status:** 1/22 Fiscal Estimates received (highlighting the costs to the state and potential administrative costs for local units)
- **Impact:** Increases the amount of public debt that can be contracted for the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program to support forgivable loans to private users of public water systems in replacing lead service lines.
- **Milwaukee Sponsorship:** Sen Johnson, Sen Carpenter, Sen Taylor, Sen Larson, Rep Haywood, Rep Moore Omokunde, Rep Sinicki, Rep Madison, Rep Drake, Rep Clancy, Rep Goyke

SB 312: *Programs and requirements to address perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances*

- **Status:** 2/22 transferred back to Senate
- **Impact:** Very mixed. This bill creates several new programs and requirements relating to PFAS, including a municipal grant program for costs related to PFAS testing, disposal, and capital costs. It also funds a study with UW on PFAS and would prevent DNR from requiring the owner of a brownfield property to test for PFAS unless DNR has information that the property previously had a substantial uncontained PFAS.
- **Note:** Governor Evers has declared he won't sign this bill because of the provisions that limit DNR authority and potentially protect polluters.

AB 1013: *Healthy food incentive program*

- **Status:** 2/21 Senate received from Assembly
- **Impact:** DHS would contract with one or more nonprofit organizations to administer

a healthy food incentive program statewide. Under the program, FoodShare recipients could purchase fruits and vegetables from the eligible retailer.

- **Milwaukee Sponsorship:** Rep Clancy, Rep Drake, Rep Madison, Rep Moore Omokunde, Rep Sinicki, Sen Carpenter, Sen Larson

AB 1014: Childhood obesity prevention and management grants

- **Status:** 2/21 Senate received from Assembly
- **Impact:** Requires the Department of Health Services to award two-year grants to organizations, cities, villages, towns, counties, school districts, or Indian tribes for childhood obesity prevention and management programs. Amendment has added a 50% matching requirement.
- **Milwaukee Sponsorship:** Rep Drake, Rep Madison, Rep Sinicki

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

SB110 (companion to AB 114): Extension of eligibility under the Medical Assistance program for postpartum women.

- **Status:** First read on 10/19/23 and referred to Rules.
- **Impact:** This bill would extend Medicaid coverage from 60 days to one year following a pregnancy. Currently, pregnant people in Wisconsin are eligible for Medicaid with income up to 306% of federal poverty level.
- **Milwaukee Sponsorship:** Sen. Carpenter, L. Johnson, Larson, Taylor

SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES

AB 573 (companion to SB 610): A law enforcement officer virtual behavioral health crisis care pilot program

- **Status:** Enrolled on 1/17 (i.e. the final copy has been agreed upon by both chambers, so this is the version that will be submitted to the Governor)
- **Impact:** This bill would implement virtual behavioral health crisis care services for use by county or municipal law enforcement agencies in the field to connect officers who encounter persons in crisis to behavioral healthcare services.
- **Milwaukee Sponsorship:** Rep Ortiz-Velez

SB 875: Excepting xylazine testing materials from the definition of drug paraphernalia and civil and criminal liability exemptions for distributing and administering xylazine testing products

- **Status:** 2/21 Senate received from Assembly and accepted form of bill drafted
- **Impact:** Any materials used for testing for of xylazine are excluded from “drug paraphernalia.” Provides civil or criminal liability for those administering xylazine testing products.
- **Milwaukee Sponsorship:** Sen L. Johnson, Sen Larson, Rep Myers, Rep Ortiz-Velez, Rep Sinicki
- **Note:** Bipartisan

AB 615: Creating a task force on missing and murdered African American women and girls

- **Status:** 2/22 Senate received from Assembly
- **Impact:** Creates a task force on missing and murdered African American women and girls. The task force must examine various factors that contribute to violence against African American women and girls and report on actions that can be taken to eliminate violence against African American women and girls.
- **Milwaukee Sponsorship:** Rep Drake, Rep Moore Omokunde, Rep Madison, Rep Goyke, Rep Ortiz-Velez, Rep Cabrera, Rep Sinicki, Rep Myers, Rep Clancy, Sen Johnson, Sen Taylor, Sen Carpenter, Sen Larson
- **Note:** Bipartisan

STATE AND LOCAL

The **Spring Primary Election is Tuesday, April 4th** for a variety of local offices, including the Mayor and several common council seats. See the results of the February 20th primary [here](#).

Data You Can Use (DYCU) is actively seeking a dynamic Program Manager with a passion for community data and research, dedicated to making a meaningful impact in Milwaukee and its surrounding areas. This pivotal role centers around spearheading the development of Neighborhood Portraits and the MKE Indicators project, embodying our commitment to delivering insightful, actionable data that fuels community growth and well-being.

[Apply here](#)

Ubuntu Research is hiring! "Our Beloved Community is growing! We are looking for new people to join our team. This position is ideal for someone who appreciates a dynamic and fast-paced work environment; is sensitive to detail while appreciating the bigger picture; and is committed to growing their knowledge around research, facilitation, and evaluation."

Positions Available:

Associate Strategist (2) Salary: \$60,000

Communications Strategist (1) Salary: \$60,000

Director of Administration and Operations (1) Salary: \$90,000

[Apply Here](#)

The Milwaukee Health Department is hiring for a Doula Coordinator. Under the direction of the Doula Program Manager, the Doula Program Coordinator provides support and daily direction for City and Community-based doula services, including program outreach and education and training.

[Apply here](#)

Upcoming Events

If you or your organizations would like any events shared in this newsletter please email MKEElevate@milwaukee.gov

Webinar: Advancing Racial & Health Justice Through a Right to Counsel for Tenants

Date & Time: Mar 6, 2024, 01:00 PM in Central Time (US and Canada)

Learn how the public health field can support a right to counsel for tenants facing eviction. A safe and stable home is the foundation for a healthy life, but this remains out of reach for many. New laws that guarantee a right to counsel for tenants facing eviction offer a promising opportunity to address this and related racial and health inequities.

[Register Here](#)

**Jennifer and Karen Lemke, coauthors of EASY WALKS AND
PADDLES IN MILWAUKEE**

Jennifer and Karen Lemke, coauthors of EASY WALKS AND
PADDLES IN MILWAUKEE - an in-person Boswell event

Date & Time: Wednesday, March 27 · 6:30 pm

Location: 2559 North Downer Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53211

Register [Here](#)

MILWAUKEE FOOD COUNCIL QUARTERLY NETWORK SOCIAL

Join us for our and connect with people from around Milwaukee who
care about our food system's future.

Tuesday, March 12th | 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Company Brewery - 735 E Center St

Free Evictions Sealing Clinic

Date & Time: Thursday, March 7, 9:00 AM 4:00 PM

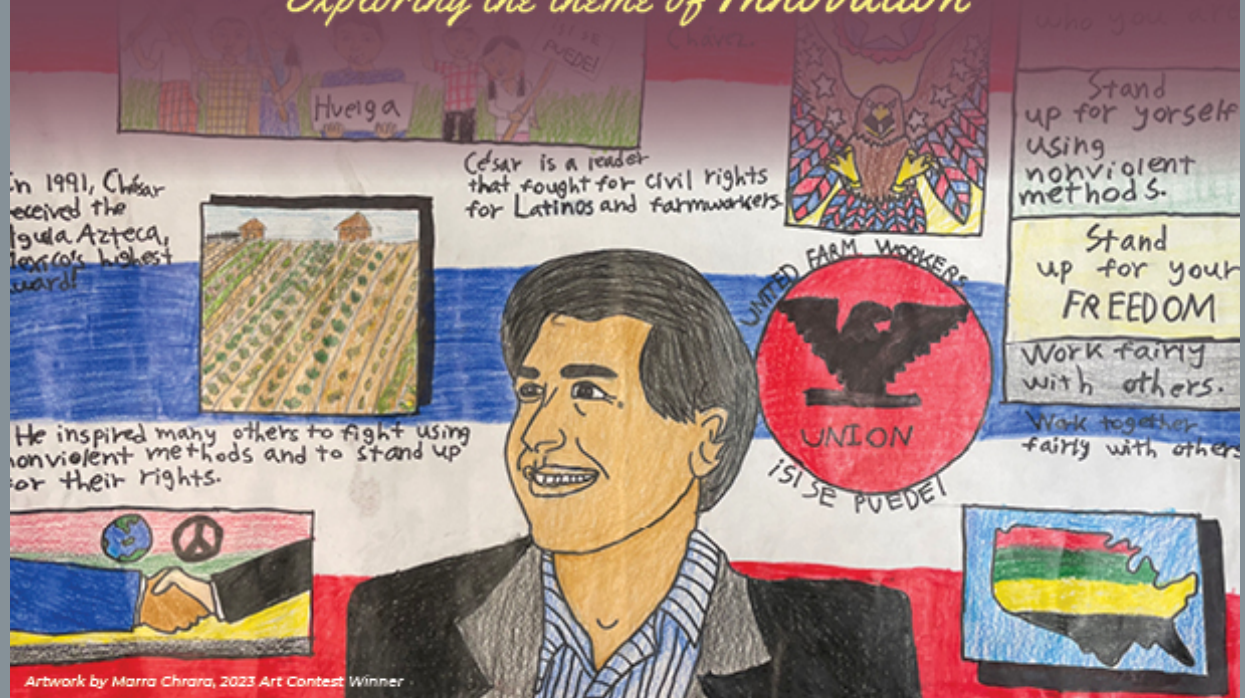
Location: Rental Housing Resource Center (728 North James Lovell
Street, Milwaukee)

Book Appointment [Here](#)

6TH ANNUAL

CÉSAR CHÁVEZ CELEBRATION

Exploring the theme of Innovation



Artwork by Maria Chirara, 2023 Art Contest Winner

Join us for this annual celebration highlighting the youth in our communities and celebrating the life and legacy of César E. Chavez, an unselfish advocate of social justice and respect for human dignity. This year's event features live entertainment from Ballet Folklórico Xanharati, Dance Academy of Mexico, a live Mariachi performance, vendors from the Mercadera Market, and remarks from public officials.

March 10, 2024 | FREE COMMUNITY EVENT!



Mercadera Market in MPAC's Bradley Pavilion from Noon-4pm
Program in MPAC's Wilson Theater at Vogel Hall from 4-6pm

121 E. State Street, Milwaukee, WI, 53202. Free parking in the attached structure

MORE DETAILS AT MARCUSCENTER.ORG/CESAR-CHAVEZ



Presenting Sponsor



Legacy Sponsor



Official Media Sponsors



Freedom Sponsors



Peace Sponsor



March Community Meeting


Wed, March 27th

Topic: Understanding Recycling in Milwaukee
Presented by: Plastic-Free MKE and Milwaukee DPW



 Everyone welcome

 5:30 - 7:00 pm

 1500 E. Park Pl. Urban
Ecology Center - Riverside
Branch

Neighborhood
House
OF MILWAUKEE



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

CELEBRATING
50 YEARS OF HIP HOP



PULL UP FOR AN
EXCITING
EVENING WITH
PERFORMANCES,
POTLUCK
DINNER,
RAFFLES, GAMES,
AND PRIZES

FRIDAY, MAR 1 2024 | 
5PM – 2819 W. RICHARDSON PL.

BLACK NEIGHBORHOODS NEAR FRESH WATER:

*A Teach-in on Gentrification in the Age of
Climate Change and Mass Incarceration*



DR. NICOLE ROBINSON
NNR Evaluation



DR. DAVID PATE
UW-Madison
Moderator

NORTH SIDE
MILWAUKEE
53206

LAKE MICHIGAN

MARCH 20 | 1:00pm – 3:00pm CDT | FREE Online & Open to the Public

A SNEAK PEAK:

- A primer on gentrification in Black neighborhoods with an environmental justice twist
- Distinguishing carceral displacement from carceral gentrification, examples from the City of Milwaukee
- Implications for housing development and re-entry initiatives to preserve Black neighborhoods

TO REGISTER GO TO: <https://bit.ly/nnrmonth24>



Sherman Park Renovations

Phase 1 Construction | Community Update & Community Input Meeting

February 29th, 2024 | 5 p.m. | Mary Ryan Boys & Girls Club

Hosted by Milwaukee County Board Chairwoman, Marcellia Nicholson

What Will Be Discussed: More than \$2M has been raised to implement much needed park improvements at Sherman Park. Phase 1 construction is set to begin in mid-Spring 2024. Phase 1 will include: new pathways and lighting throughout the park, a new biking loop, a new splashpad (on site of current under-utilized wading pool), moving and rebuilding a discrete waste disposal area, and expanded staff parking. Phase II will likely commence in spring 2025 and will bring a new concessions area, a new outdoor picnic/amphitheater space, improved drainage (trees and landscaping), new signage, and new community room space (re-purposed from current garages at Mary Ryan Club).

Input Requested: We especially want your input on the design and features of the new splashpad. Images below provide better understanding of some of the plans for the park. Additional images and detail to be provided at meeting.



VIVENT AFTER DARK

Meeting you in the streets of Milwaukee County

Start date: 3/21/2024

Route 1:

Start at 1823 N 27th St.

End at 1904 N 35th St.

Route 2:

Start at 1205 W North Ave.

End at 1904 N 35th St.

Van hours of operation:
8pm to 11pm every third
Thursday of the month

Supplies (offered at all times): **Supplies (offered when we have it)**

- Intermuscular Narcan
- Fentanyl test strips
- 27 whole cc syringes
- 29 whole cc syringes

- Socks
- Hygiene kits
- Feminine products
- Canned goods
- Sandwiches
- Water

STRIVE TOGETHER

The Milwaukee Health Department serves as the convener for MKE Elevate, coordinating partners, aligning strategies, and facilitating a steering committee and issue-based action teams.

If you are interested in getting involved, email mkeelevate@milwaukee.gov for more information.

To learn more visit our website or follow us on social media!

