



Our Health. Our Community. Our Future.

## January Monthly News & Updates

In the January Newsletter, we are excited to kick off the new year with the continued commitment of MKE Elevate, the City of Milwaukee's community health improvement plan. As we enter into 2024, MKE Elevate remains steadfast in its mission to create a healthier and more vibrant city and community. With a focus on addressing key health disparities, promoting wellness, and fostering community engagement, MKE Elevate is dedicated to making a positive impact on the well-being of Milwaukee residents. The new year brings fresh opportunities to collaborate, innovate, and implement initiatives that contribute to the overall improvement of public health. Together, let's embark on another year of progress and collective efforts to elevate the health and vitality of our city.

“You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.”  
— C.S. Lewis

## MKE Elevate's 2024 Q1 Action Team Meetings

Join us at our  
**Q1 Action Team  
Meetings this February!**



Please join us at our first 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**

**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

Thursday, February 15th, 10:00 am to 11:30 am



### **Maternal & Child Health**

**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

Thursday, February 15th, 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm



### **Safe & Supportive Communities**

**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

Tuesday, February 20th, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm



Register for Zoom meetings at  
[milwaukee.gov/elevate](https://milwaukee.gov/elevate)



*Team Meetings registration for Q1 meetings, February 2024.*

#### **Built Environment Action Team**

(Virtual, via Zoom)

Thursday, February 15th, 10:00 am to 11:30 am

[Registration Link Here](#)

Q4 notes [here](#)

Q4 Recording [Here](#)

BE co-chair interest form [here](#)

#### **Maternal & Child Health Action Team**

(Virtual, via Zoom)

Thursday, February 15th, 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm

[Registration Link Here](#)

[Q4 notes here](#)

[Q4 Recording Here](#)

### Safe and Supportive Communities

(Virtual. via Zoom)

Tuesday, February 20th, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

[Registration Link Here](#)

[Q4 notes here](#)

[Q4 Recording Here](#)



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### 2024 MKE Elevate Meeting Schedule

#### Priority Action Areas:



**BE:**  
Built Environment



**MCH:**  
Maternal and  
Child Health



**SSC:**  
Safe and Supportive  
Communities

Q1	<b>January</b> No meetings this month	<b>February</b> 2/8 11:30 am: SC 2/15 10am: BE 2/15 4 pm: MCH 2/20 10:30 am: SSC	<b>March</b> No meetings this month	
	Q2	<b>April</b> 4/25 11:30am Steering Committee	<b>May</b> 5/16 10am: BE 5/16 4pm: MCH 5/21 10:30am: SSC	<b>June</b> General Member Meeting TBD
		Q3	<b>July</b> 7/25 11:30am Steering Committee	<b>August</b> 8/15 10am: BE 8/15 4pm: MCH 8/20 10:30am: SSC
Q4			<b>October</b> 10/24 11:30am Steering Committee	<b>November</b> 11/21 10am: BE 11/21 4pm: MCH 11/19 10:30am: SSC



Visit [milwaukee.gov/elevate](https://milwaukee.gov/elevate) to learn more and RSVP!

## Implementation Partner Spotlight: Ubuntu Research & Evaluation



# UBUNTU

research & evaluation

## **What is UBUNTU Research and Evaluation?**

UBUNTU Research and Evaluation is a strategic learning organization powered by unapologetic Black folks working as **undisciplined** strategists committed to resisting anti-Blackness and building the intellectual and political defenses of all Black people, in solidarity with the global majority, through education, facilitation, and evaluation.

## **Why is this an important resource in Milwaukee/Wisconsin?**

Milwaukee is known as being one of the most segregated cities in the US. With a population of people who are majority people of color there aren't enough organizations led by people of color to do the collection, interpretation, and analysis of the data that is about people of color. As a Black led organization we have a unique perspective that can increase the overall capacity of organizations and our community as a whole to understand how to make this city better for it's Black residents and people of color over all.

## **Why did you become an implementation partner with MKE Elevate?**

We are implementation partners with MKE Elevate for 3 main reasons:

- 1) As the co-conspirators of Milwaukee County declaring racism a public health issue, we want to make sure that the issues of racial equity, justice and liberation are not just theorized but implemented.
- 2) We are Afrofutruist and believe that our collective liberation requires the liberation of Black people from anti-Black oppression. Our current social, political, economic circumstances are defined by practicing anti-Blackness. Combating anti-Blackness requires us to hold the liberated futures of Black people at the forefront of our actionable consciousness, we have a responsibility to our community to hold that.
- 3) Equity is a practice and a practice only matters to the extent that people are held accountable to doing it. We want to hold all of MKE Elevate accountable to this practice.

**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 is excited to announce the launch of its COVID-19 Wastewater Testing Dashboard!**



The creation and implementation of the dashboard are made possible through collaboration and the hard work of many, including MHD's laboratory and data teams, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District - MMSD, and UWM School of Freshwater Sciences.

Why MHD is using wastewater data:

The COVID-19 virus can be found in human waste days before infected individuals display symptoms. This data then makes it possible to see changes BEFORE they happen. Whereas with COVID-19 tests, like at-home and clinical

PCR tests, we can only see a rise in cases as it is happening.

By knowing when COVID-19 cases are changing, MHD and health agencies, clinics, and the community can prepare before an uptick in hospitalizations occurs.

Read the full announcement at [milwaukee.gov/wastewaterdashboard2.23.24](https://milwaukee.gov/wastewaterdashboard2.23.24)

Visit the dashboard at [milwaukee.gov/wastewater](https://milwaukee.gov/wastewater)

## Funding Opportunities

### Comprehensive Suicide Prevention Funding Opportunities

Three new Comprehensive Suicide Prevention funding opportunities are available and **seeking applicants through Thursday, February 15**. Details for the three funding opportunities (and the links to their public notices with application instructions) are included below by clicking the blue.

#### [Comprehensive Suicide Prevention – Gun Shop Project](#)

We are seeking applicants to implement the Gun Shop Project, an educational campaign for firearm retailers and range owners on ways they can help **prevent suicide in rural communities**. The campaign involves posters, brochures and tip sheets discussing proper handling and storage of guns and advice on preventing their use in suicides. Its objectives are to partner with firearm retailers and firing ranges to share guidelines on how to avoid selling or renting a firearm to a suicidal customer, and encourage firearm retailers and firing ranges to display and distribute printed suicide prevention materials tailored to their customers. Funded agencies may also identify firearm retailers and firearm ranges interested in obtaining and installing a gun safe in their facility to provide free firearm storage access for individuals within their communities.

#### [Comprehensive Suicide Prevention – Sources of Strength Project](#)

We are seeking applicants for **implementing Sources of Strength, a school-based suicide prevention program** designed to increase wellbeing, help-seeking, resiliency, healthy coping, and belonging. Sources of Strength (SOS) is a supported strategy by the CDC's (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) Comprehensive Suicide Prevention (CSP) program as it promotes connectedness and positive peer norms. The aim of this funding is to increase implementation and support sustainability of SOS programming in Wisconsin. Funding will go towards an educational organization with statewide reach to coordinate SOS train-the trainer (T4T) certification for school staff within multiple school districts, serving a variety of locations statewide to support sustainability of SOS programming in Wisconsin schools. Additionally, the selected educational organization is expected to provide technical assistance to schools implementing SOS and convene a community of practice supporting SOS in schools. The awarded agency will also engage in a multi-sectoral partnership, led by DHS, designed to support comprehensive suicide prevention efforts throughout Wisconsin. Selected applicants will work closely with DHS staff and the contracted evaluation partner to ensure evaluation of implemented activities.

#### [Comprehensive Suicide Prevention –Telemental Health Access through Digital Literacy Funding Application](#)

We are seeking applicants to implement **digital literacy programming for**

**rural men ages 25 and older** and increase computer access for telemental health care in rural communities. This is a supported strategy by the CDC's CSP Program as it promotes access and delivery of suicide care and reduces provider shortages in underserved areas. The aim of this funding is to support the implementation of digital literacy programming for rural men aged 25 and older, increase access to computers with internet for telemental health utilization in rural communities, and engage with DHS in a multi-sectoral partnership designed to support comprehensive suicide prevention efforts throughout Wisconsin. Selected applicants will work closely with DHS staff and the contracted evaluation partner to ensure evaluation of implemented strategies and activities.

### **Third Shift Mobile Crisis Services**

Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Services-Community Access to Recovery Services (CARS) is releasing a Request for Proposals on January 19, 2024, seeking **proposals from community agencies interested in providing Third Shift Mobile Crisis Services** to provide emergency mental health crisis response and intervention services on an outreach basis to individuals in the community in 2024.

Contact Information and the Request for Proposal information may be obtained at:

<https://countymilwaukee.bonfirehub.com/opportunities>

Proposals are due (uploaded to the above portal) by 4:00 PM CST on March 1, 2024

## **Upcoming Conferences**

### **Fulfilling the Promise Conference**

The theme this year, Nourish To Flourish, showcases how **home visitors, family resource center professionals, child welfare and other professionals** have used their resources and knowledge to grow their **Maternal and Child Health** programs, skills, and themselves.

The event will have one day of institute presentations, two full days of sessions, and two keynote presentations at the Wilderness Resort in the Wisconsin Dells from March 11 through 13. [Learn more](#) about the event.

#### [Register today](#)

The Fulfilling the Promise Conference seeks to provide participants with a rich learning experience covering a wide variety of evidence-based practices and best practices within the field of parent education and family support.

DHS programs will be presenting across various topics like Prenatal Care Coordination (Medicaid), Children's Resource Centers (Wisconsin Wayfinder), Come to the Table (WIC), and more. Also, many additional state partners will be sharing their MCH expertise.

Find a full list of sessions and more details [on the conference webpage](#).

**Victims of Crime Act Funding Cuts The impact on victim services in Wisconsin, SE Wisconsin,**



## Victims of Crime Act Funding Cuts

The impact on victim services in Wisconsin, SE Wisconsin, and Milwaukee



Current funding supports **135** agencies throughout the state  
**\$43,870,940**

**37** of them are in the Southeast region  
**\$17,142,545**

**24** are in Milwaukee  
**\$11,293,262**



**The state has reported** that of the 135 agencies currently supported across Wisconsin, **83** (or 61%) will be cut from funding entirely

At least **30** of the at-risk organizations currently provide support services for victims of domestic abuse crimes



For the remaining agencies, funds will be capped at a **maximum of \$250,000**

For the state of Wisconsin, that is an estimated **cut of 41%** in funding for crime victim assistance, equivalent to a **loss of \$10,000,000**



**Sojourner** currently receives **\$899,408** in VOCA funding for programs including:

- Emergency Shelter
- Advocate Assistance
- Courthouse Programming
- Advocate Presence in Police Districts

As the most comprehensive shelter and provider of domestic violence services in Wisconsin, a loss in this funding would have severe consequences.

With the significant increase in domestic violence incidents and homicides since 2017, Milwaukee is currently in a state of emergency. Cutting VOCA funding for organizations who support survivors will lead to a devastating decrease in the ability of agencies' to provide lifesaving services by forcing them to reduce staff, operations and advocacy and healing support. In the absence of these vital services, survivors are left to navigate the process of reestablishing safety, navigating systems and moving forward with their lives alone, furthering feelings of isolation that often accompany abusive relationships. We know our interventions can be transformational not only for survivors, but for their children as well, interrupting the intergenerational cycle of violence. The reduction in DV services is detrimental to the quality of life, economic stability and public safety of Milwaukee residents.

## Policy Updates

### BUILT ENVIRONMENT

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

- **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.

- **Status:** 1/22 Fiscal Estimates received (highlighting the costs to the state and potential administrative costs for local units)
- **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

## 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

## STATE AND LOCAL

Governor Evers delivered the [2024 State of the State](#) address on Tuesday, January 23rd. Watch it [here](#) (go to the 12:00 minute mark to see the start of the speech). He declared 2024 the 'Year of the Worker.'

The Spring Primary Election is February 20th for a variety of local offices, including Mayor and three common council seats. Learn more [here](#).

## Host A Harm Reduction Vending Machine

Through free vending machines, BHD invites public and private businesses, religious organizations, non-profits, and behavioral health service providers to disseminate harm reduction and prevention supplies to Milwaukee County residents. Agencies that complete the application will be eligible to host a vending machine if they provide at least one written recommendation from a community partner, are located in Milwaukee County, service Milwaukee County residents, and can provide accurate, timely evidence-based education about vending machine supplies.

**Applications and letters of support are due March 1st, 2024.**

The application can be found [here](#)

## Upcoming Events

If you or your organizations would like any events shared in this

# Your Voice is Needed for Safe Streets

The City of Milwaukee is creating a **Vision Zero Action Plan** to make our **streets safer and eliminate traffic deaths** by 2037.

The public has shared many ideas to address the problem over the past few years and we need your help to prioritize them.

## OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS

NORTHSIDE

**Thursday, January 25**

**5-7pm**

Office of African American Affairs  
4830 W. Fond du Lac Ave.

SOUTHSIDE

**Tuesday, February 27**

**4:30-7pm**

Mitchell Street Library  
906 W. Historic Mitchell St.

*Spanish translation provided*



**CONTACT:**

Jessica Wineberg, Vision Zero Policy Director  
[JWineb@milwaukee.gov](mailto:JWineb@milwaukee.gov) • 414-286-8502

Reasonable accommodations provided for persons with disabilities upon request. Call 414-286-3475 or email [ADACoordinator@milwaukee.gov](mailto:ADACoordinator@milwaukee.gov).



[milwaukee.gov/VisionZero](http://milwaukee.gov/VisionZero)



# Aldermanic District 7 CANDIDATES' FORUM

CANDIDATE  
**JESSICA  
CURRIE**



CANDIDATE  
**KENNETH  
HUGHES**



CANDIDATE  
**DIANDRE  
JACKSON**



CANDIDATE  
**RANDY  
JONES**



Saturday, February 3, 2024  
11:00a.m. - 1:00p.m.  
Embassy Center MKE, 3725 N. Sherman Blvd.  
(Formerly known as Parklawn Assembly of God)

**HOSTED BY THE CORRIDOR NEIGHBORHOODS COLLABORATIVE**

Sherman Park  
Community Association



Event Co-Sponsors



**MORE INFO**

Primary - Tuesday, February 20th  
General - Tuesday, April 2nd  
[www.myvote.wi.gov](http://www.myvote.wi.gov)

Sherman Park Community Association  
(414) 444-9803

[office@dominican-center.org](mailto:office@dominican-center.org)



## SERIES #4

# THE POWER AND INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

This month's theme is The Power and Influence of Social Media. Engage in interactive workshops that focus on providing you with tools, resources, and advice to support in your journey through using social media, to benefit your future success. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in roundtable discussions with social media influencers, attend a workshop, meet new people, and win prizes.

A **conference series** for youth grades 9-12th



**SATURDAY, February 3rd, 2023**

**10:00AM-3:00PM**

**PEAK INITIATIVE**

**2480 W. CHERRY STREET**

For more informatio and/or questions contact Mariah Johnson-  
mjohnson@peakinitiative.org or 414-431-4508 ext 108

Scan to Register





# SEOTS Family Night



-Meal provided

-Games and Activities

-Make and Take with essential oils!

**Saturday January 20, 4:30 - 7:00 pm**



**5233 W. Morgan Ave**

**Limited to 60 participants, sign up required:**

**414-329-4101**





# SAMAD'S HOUSE 2ND ANNUAL HARM REDUCTION DRIVE-THRU

**February 24, 2024**

From 1:00pm -  
3:00pm

CLINTON ROSE  
PARK  
3045 N MLK  
DRIVE 53212





**Safe & Sound**

# RESIDENT LEADER TRAINING



Facilitator:  
Teneen Rucker,  
Program Manager  
Safe & Sound

*Nurturing  
Grassroots  
Leaders*

*Space is limited  
to 40 people.  
Register today!*



**Every Wed. starting Feb.21**

from **6PM-8PM**  
at Safe & Sound  
4422 W. Leon Terrace  
Milwaukee, WI 53216

*In 6 Weeks You Will Learn  
How To:*

- Establish a Block Club
- Hold Monthly Meetings
- Conduct Outreach
- Use the City's Mobile App
- Plan Events that Empower the Neighborhood

REGISTER AT:  
[HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE.COM/R/A13FEB8XAP](https://forms.office.com/R/A13FEB8XAP)

4422 W Leon Terrace Milwaukee, WI 53216  
[www.safesound.org](http://www.safesound.org)



# Memory Screenings

Monday, April 22  
12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Sign up for a free memory screening with a Dementia Care Specialist from the Aging and Disabilities Resource Center of Milwaukee County! Memory screenings are designed to detect and identify early signs of memory loss and cognitive changes and are great for brains at all health levels!

**Registration required.**  
**Sign up**  
**April 1 – 21.**



MILWAUKEE COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
& HUMAN SERVICES  
**AGING & DISABILITIES  
SERVICES**

— UNITED WAY —  
**PRIDE UNITED**



#PRIDEUNITED  
@UNITEDWAYGMWC



**GROOVE  
FOR GOOD**



NETWORKING

# Karaoke *and* Drag



**REGISTER  
TODAY**  
[bit.ly/3tWDzDX](https://bit.ly/3tWDzDX)



**AMPED KARAOKE BAR**  
910 W JUNEAU AVE, MILWAUKEE  
**THURS, FEB 22 @ 5:30 PM**

PRIDE UNITED: LGBTQ+ LEADERS, ALLIES, AND ADVOCATES ADDRESSING KEY ISSUES AFFECTING THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY



# Stepping On

## Reducing fall risks

If you are at risk for falls or are worried about falling, Stepping On is a program that can help you.

### In this workshop, you will learn:

- How to identify fall risk factors in your home and community
- How to get up safely from a fall
- Sitting and standing strength and balance exercises
- Strategies to help you stay independent and active
- How footwear, medication and vision can affect your risk for falling

## Is Stepping On for you?

Stepping On is the perfect program if you:

- Are age 60 and older
- Live independently
- Walk without assistance or with a cane, or use a walker outdoors only
- Have fallen or are fearful of falling
- Are cognitively aware

## Questions?

Contact Kimberly Lombard, program facilitator, by calling **414-805-8744** or email [kimberly.lombard@froedtert.com](mailto:kimberly.lombard@froedtert.com).

## Register for this workshop series

To register, call **414-777-7700, option 4**, or visit [froedtert.com/classes](http://froedtert.com/classes). The registration deadline is March 11.

*These Stepping On sessions are hosted by Greater Galilee Baptist Church and funded through the Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services.*

### Workshop sessions

Mondays, 9-11 a.m.  
March 18-April 29, 2024

### Location

Greater Life Community Center  
2446 N. Teutonia Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53206

### Cost

Free (donations recommended)

### Sponsors



MK01241129



# KHLOE'S BEAUTIFUL BLUES



PRESENTED BY  
BRONZVILLE ARTS ENSEMBLE  
AND RAISING THE BAR



Vanaya Grice



Jasmine Tyler



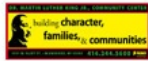
Ebony Lewis



Amira Adams

VOICES OF THE VILLAGE DISCUSSION  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWS THE FEBRUARY 24  
PERFORMANCE WITH SHERI WILLIAMS PANNELL  
AS OUR MODERATOR.

COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE:  
1 PM | SAT. FEB. 24<sup>th</sup>  
TICKETS AT THE DOOR: \$15  
YOUTH 12 & UNDER: \$5



**KING CENTER**  
1531 W. Vliet St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53205

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](mailto:mkeelevate@milwaukee.gov) for more information.

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

