

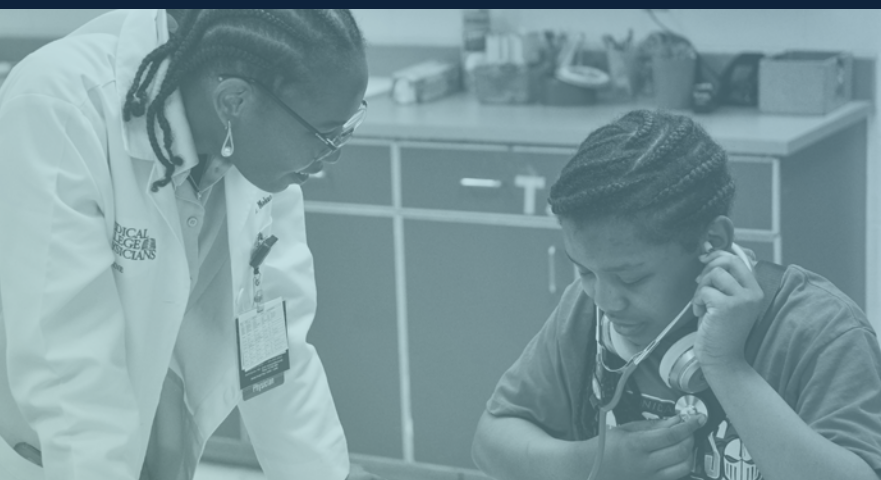
Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

For the period of July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025



**AW** ADVANCING A HEALTHIER  
WISCONSIN ENDOWMENT



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## Cover Photos:

- Medical College of Wisconsin physician helps local student listen to his heartbeat at an event designed to encourage the pursuit of healthcare careers.
- With funding from AHW, the Fond du Lac County United Way is delivering fresh local produce from local farms directly to area childcare centers.
- With funding from AHW, Community Smiles Dental is reducing barriers to dental care for Wisconsin Youth (Photo Credit: Community Smiles Dental).
- Statewide stakeholders gather for an AHW-hosted event at ThriveOn King to explore new approaches and collaborations to improve childhood behavioral health.

# ABOUT AHW

**We provide funding and resources to researchers, organizations, and communities devoted to improving the health of the people of Wisconsin.**

The Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment (AHW) is Wisconsin's largest health improvement philanthropy. We invest in promising health-focused research, support public and community health initiatives, and help build the health workforce needed in Wisconsin.

AHW is part of the Medical College of Wisconsin and is the only health philanthropy in the nation stewarding public funds while embedded in a private medical school.

In 1999, Blue Cross & Blue Shield United of Wisconsin converted from a nonprofit to a for-profit corporation. The Medical College of Wisconsin received half of the funds resulting from the conversion, with the other half going to UW-Madison's School of Medicine and Public Health. Leveraging this generous gift to serve as a resource for health improvement efforts across Wisconsin, AHW issued its first funding awards in 2004, building momentum and increasing its impact on the state's health ever since.



## OUR MISSION:

Working with our partners, AHW will serve as a catalyst for positive change in the health of Wisconsin communities.



## OUR VISION:

Advancing Wisconsin to be the healthiest state in the nation.

*Propelling*

the most promising work and ideas for  
**A HEALTHIER WISCONSIN**  
today, and for generations to come.





# A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

## Health Partners and Friends,

A spark was lit when Blue Cross & Blue Shield United of Wisconsin directed half of the proceeds from its conversion—\$309 million—to the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) in 1999, the year the health insurer became a for-profit entity. With these funds, MCW established the Advancing a Healthier Endowment (AHW), wisely protecting the generous gift and investing its returns in biomedical research and health-improvement initiatives aimed at improving the lives of the people of Wisconsin. Fueled by strong partnerships across the state and drawing nourishment from the wide-ranging medical and health science expertise within MCW, that spark has ignited a philanthropic flame that shines brighter than ever after 21 years of grant making.

**Today, AHW is proud to serve the people of Wisconsin as the state's largest health philanthropy, investing more than \$375 million into 890 health-focused projects since 2004.**

This report fulfills an important pledge AHW makes to our partners and stakeholders to maintain accountability for our investments. Detailing the **more than \$24 million in funding AHW distributed to 138 projects throughout Wisconsin** in fiscal year 2025, it represents not only a celebration of the year's success, but also a source of learning and reflection as we chart our progress toward the goals articulated in our 2024-2028 Five-Year Plan. With regular feedback from our grantees and ongoing process improvement efforts across our organization, our goal is to continually increase both the efficiency and the effectiveness of our operations.

In addition to the financial support AHW provides to community organizations and MCW researchers to advance ideas and work aimed at maximizing the health of ALL Wisconsinites, we are proud to create opportunities for knowledge sharing and collaboration among the many capable partners throughout the state whose work complements our own. In this report, you will read about convenings AHW organized, hosted, and participated in that laid the groundwork for collective efforts to address some of Wisconsin's most pressing health challenges—from maternal and child health to

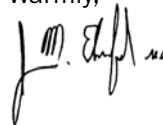
health workforce burnout. Also highlighted are the many learning events and capacity-building resources AHW provides to grantees to increase the strength, agility, and performance of our partner networks.

While supporting the important work of our community and research partners, AHW itself has committed in its current strategic plan to build signature initiatives focused on targeted health areas. At our Advancing Health for ALL Wisconsinites Conference in Green Bay in 2024, I announced a **\$50 million commitment to three Landmark Initiatives—hypertension control, childhood behavioral health, and health workforce well-being**. I am proud to say that we've made significant advances in all three of these critical areas, with exciting new initiatives either in the works or on the horizon, as detailed in the following pages.

We understand that ever-changing environmental forces, including new regulations and evolving federal funding priorities, may very well create even greater demand for the type of resources that AHW provides. Our long history of **innovation**, combined with the mutual **trust** we've built within Wisconsin's health system, gives us every assurance that Wisconsin will rise to any challenge ahead. And that our comforting flame will continue to glow!

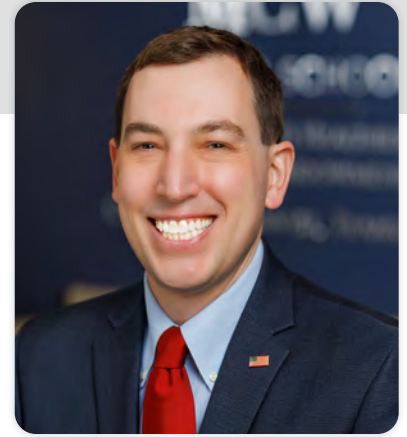
Thank you for interest in and contributions toward improving health in Wisconsin!

Warmly,



**Jesse M. Ehrenfeld, MD, MPH, FASA, FAMIA, FCPP**

Senior Associate Dean and Executive Director  
Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment  
Professor, Anesthesiology  
Medical College of Wisconsin





“Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment funding has helped to expand MCW’s reach and our impact throughout the state through community partnerships in nearly every county of the state. And this has allowed us to foster relationships across vast geographies that have endured the test of time and really allowed us to have an impact throughout the entire state.”

**John R. Raymond, Sr., MD**

*President and CEO  
Medical College of Wisconsin*



“The funding [from AHW] provided a tremendous boost to seed this working community. This work is deeply grounded in relationship building, and that takes a lot of time.... It takes energy. It takes trust. And, so, the funding allowed us to build that trust.”

**Karen Iverson Riggers**

*Ebb & Flow Connections Cooperative  
AHW Community Partner*

# YEAR IN REVIEW

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025



At AHW, we are committed to maximizing the health of ALL Wisconsinites and developing programs, partnerships, and knowledge-sharing opportunities that help our friends and neighbors to thrive, both physically and mentally.

Collaboration is in our DNA, as improving health throughout the state requires a foundation of trust with people and organizations on the ground willing to devote time, resources, and energy to overcoming the unique health challenges within their communities. As Wisconsin's largest health improvement philanthropy, we leverage our unique position within the Medical College of Wisconsin to connect our statewide partners with the latest advances in biomedical and health science.

Since awarding our first grant funding in 2004, AHW has supported 890 health-focused projects in Wisconsin, investing more than \$375 million into initiatives designed to improve public and community health, advance medical discoveries, and build Wisconsin's

health workforce. These figures include \$24,392,778 in new funding AHW awarded in fiscal year 2025 to a record total of 138 projects!

This report represents investments made and initiatives undertaken in the first full fiscal year of AHW's 2024-2028 Five-Year Plan, in which we committed to the following overarching goals:

- Achieve and inspire positive sustainable change
- Translate new knowledge to results-oriented action
- Increase strength, agility, and performance of partner networks

Investment highlights from fiscal year 2025 include:

- A \$5.67 million investment in projects designed to enhance the professional well-being of Wisconsin's health workforce
- A \$250,000 grant to support research to develop a brain-to-text interface to restore communication to people with stroke damage



- Support for accelerated healthcare licensure and employment for medically trained veterans with \$250,000 grant funding
- Continued support of MCW post-doctoral researchers with 13 Seed Grant awards for projects with faculty supervision
- A \$49,976 Seed Grant to pilot a project to expand genomic testing to NICUs throughout Wisconsin
- Support for a pilot project to explore pain management therapies for chemotherapy patients with \$50,000 Seed Grant funding
- \$70,588 Seed Grant funding to support efforts to build sustainable nutrition access networks in rural Wisconsin communities
- Grants to support 26 learning events throughout Wisconsin focused on building capacity within the state's health workforce, including the 2024 Rural Clinician Conference and Building Capacity for Suicide Prevention in Milwaukee County

In addition to this financial assistance, AHW helped its partners increase their effectiveness and reach with capacity building programs, including:

- Connecting AHW community partners and public health departments to pro bono services through Catchafire, a national organization matching skills-based virtual volunteers with nonprofit entities, to strengthen their work and increase impact.
- Driving successful outcomes for community-based organizations, community coalitions, and community-academic partnerships through engagements with respected organizations and individuals who provide content expertise and experience to support funded projects as part of AHW's Technical Assistance Provider Program.
- Funding, organizing, hosting, and participating in Grantee Learning Events to support partnerships through information sharing and relationship building, including the Advancing Childhood Behavioral Health Summit and the Advancing Maternal and Child Health Symposium, both of which took place at ThriveOn King, an inclusive community hub housing MCW's community engagement programs.

## TOTAL NEW INVESTMENTS

### Fiscal Year 2025

**\$4,960,786**

Public and Community Health Improvement

**\$11,179,865**

Health Workforce Education and Development

**\$8,252,127**

Health-Focused Research

## FISCAL YEAR 2025

### By the Numbers



**\$24,392,778** NEW FUNDING



**138** NEW PROJECTS



**276** ACTIVE PROJECTS representing **\$99,091,878** in FUNDING



**133** CLOSED PROJECTS

# PRODUCTIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Awarding grants to health-focused community organizations and researchers is one thing. Building meaningful, multi-disciplinary partnerships that fuel the state's health ecosystem is something else.

At AHW, we do more than fund worthy health improvement projects. We make connections to increase capability. We create learning opportunities. And we provide platforms for sharing and celebrating success. While fulfilling our stewardship responsibilities to the people of Wisconsin, we create the trust necessary to build strong, lasting, and effective relationships with grantees.

We take feedback seriously and implement process improvements that leverage new technology, incorporate industry advancements, and, most importantly, embrace insights gained through interactions—both formal and informal—with our stakeholders.

We received 95 responses to our 2025 Partnership Survey, with respondents representing both MCW-Led (53%) and Community-Led projects (43%). Grantees continue to credit AHW for being responsive to their needs and adding value to their work.

96%

of funded partners felt that their partnership brought valuable resources and knowledge to their work.

92%

of funded partners felt their partnership contributed to their organization's mission and goals.

98%

of funded partners felt that AHW staff were professional.

94%

of funded partners felt they had everything they needed from AHW to carry out their project goals.

Source: AHW 2025 Partnership Survey

“We are very fortunate to have AHW at MCW as an engine for community health innovation.”

Medical College of Wisconsin Research Partner

“I’ve always believed that the AHW Endowment serves as a partner in the truest sense of the word. Financial support is important, yet they also strive to make human connections and bring other expertise to community academic partnerships.”

AHW Community Partner

“Our partnership with AHW accelerated project implementation and increased visibility of my research and opened doors to new project implementations.”

Medical College of Wisconsin Research Partner

“I am incredibly grateful for AHW’s funding, support, and dedication to improving the well-being of Wisconsinites. AHW not only brings together community partners and researchers, but the AHW model fosters strong partnerships and authentic collaboration, which is key to capacity-building. AHW’s model ... is far superior to any other grant/project I have experienced over my three-decade career in nonprofits.”

AHW Community Partner





# NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

For a third year running, AHW hosted a meeting of its National Advisory Committee in Milwaukee in October 2025. The convening brought together 13 members of the committee comprising eminent scholars, organization leaders, and public health practitioners from across the nation. The AHW National Advisory Committee serves as an advisory group to AHW's leadership, providing both formal and informal counsel on strategic goals and major activities. Discussions over the two-day meeting centered around AHW's Landmark Initiatives, programming, and investment strategies. Committee members also shared their perspectives on navigating recent regulatory changes.

National Advisory Committee members met in Milwaukee in October to exchange ideas and provide guidance to AHW leaders on topics ranging from national health policy and medical science advancements to public health best practices and trends in philanthropic investing.

## HOWARD BAUCHNER, MD

*Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health, Boston University Chobanian and Avedisian School of Medicine; Visiting Scholar, National University of Singapore; Former Editor in Chief of JAMA*

## SHEILA MIKHAIL, JD, MBA

*Serial Biotech Entrepreneur*

## DWAYNE PROCTOR, PHD

*President and CEO, Missouri Foundation for Health*

## ASAF BITTON, MD, MPH

*Executive Director, Ariadne Labs, Brigham and Women's Hospital and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; Associate Professor of Medicine and Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health*

## BRIAN MILLER, MD, MBA, MPH

*Associate Professor of Medicine, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine*

## BETH RESNICK, MD

*Assistant Dean for Public Health Practice, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health*

## KEMI DOLL MD, MS

*Gynecologic Oncologist and Professor, University of Washington Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology*

## JUDY MONROE, MD

*President and CEO, CDC Foundation*

## TOM ROMEO, MPH

*Director of Health Care, Stand Together*

## ATUL GROVER MD, PHD

*Clinical Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine, George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences*

## JULIE MORITA, MD

*President and CEO, The Joyce Foundation*

## SIOBHAN WESCOTT, MD, MPH

*Dr. Susan and Suzette La Flesche Professor of American Indian Health; Director, American Indian Health Program, University of Nebraska*

## OCTAVIO MARTINEZ JR., MD, MPH, MBA, FAPA

*Executive Director, Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, University of Texas-Austin*

## ELIZABETH OFILI, MD, MPH, FACC

*Professor of Medicine, Morehouse School of Medicine*

## SANDRA L. WONG, MD, MS

*Dean, Emory University School of Medicine*

## MORGAN MCDONALD, MD, FACP, FAAP

*National Director for Population Health and Health Equity Leadership, Milbank Memorial Fund*

# STRATEGIC FOUNDATION

AHW's 2024-2028 Five-Year plan defines overarching goals and areas of focus to maximize the impact of our work and to build and deliver core competencies across the state's health ecosystem that will most effectively achieve broad and lasting health improvements.

## AREAS OF FOCUS

## OVERARCHING GOALS

- Achieve and inspire positive, sustainable change
- Translate new knowledge to results-oriented action
- Increase strength, agility, and performance of partner networks



### PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT

- Deepen our understanding of the drivers of public health in Wisconsin
- Affect measurable improvement in targeted public health markers
- Innovate through system-level change and social impact investing strategies



### HEALTH WORKFORCE EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

- Nurture a diverse and multifaceted health workforce responsive to Wisconsin's needs
- Implement effective recruitment, retention, and continuous learning strategies to optimize current and future workforce
- Maximize purpose, resilience, and fulfillment among health workers across disciplines



### HEALTH-FOCUSED RESEARCH

- Align funded research with Wisconsin's health priorities
- Embrace AHW's unique mission to fund truly visionary projects
- Enhance funded partners' ability to disseminate and apply new knowledge
- Build and sustain a strong trained investigator pipeline







# PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT

AHW's Public and Community Health Improvement focus area aims to deepen our understanding of the drivers of public health in Wisconsin, affect measurable improvement in key public health markers, and innovate through system-level change and social impact investing strategies.

## CLOSED PROJECTS

- Integrated Public Health Nursing Training and Internship Program
- Integrating Trauma Screening and SBIRT to Enhance W-2 Case Management Services
- Battling the Bottleneck: Increasing Capacity for ASD Diagnosis within Primary Health Care Across Wisconsin
- Reestablishing and Reviving Great Lakes Intertribal Food Systems to Heal Tribal Communities
- Enhancing Behavioral Health in Northern Wisconsin through Innovative Collaboration and Outreach
- Healthy Teen Minds
- Better Together in La Crosse County
- Milwaukee Coalition for Children's Mental Health
- Creating Mental Wellness through Systems Change
- Addressing Cancer Disparities in Breast and Lung Cancer: Integration Hub
- Seeds for Strong Futures: Nurturing Youth Wellness through Caregiver-Focused Education
- Reaching Caregiving Youth: Creating Access through Expansion of WisconSibs Programming
- Connecting the Dots: Building a Fall Intervention Team in Kenosha County
- Building and Reinforcing a Community-Based Nutrition Collaborative
- Strategies to Improve Mental Health of Independent Living Youth
- Food for Healthier Birth Outcomes
- Mentor Matching for Veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Taking Controlz
- Community Living Room
- Building Pathways for Caregiver Support
- Public Health Issues of Loneliness and Isolation in Metcalfe Park
- Mental Health Action Partnership: Fostering Local Mental Health Coalitions
- Wisconsin Clubhouse Coalition: Expanding Services for People Living with Mental Illness
- An Assessment of Nutrition Security among Residents in Rural Eau Claire County
- Community Perspectives on Addressing Food Insecurity
- STRYVtime: Community-Based Train-the-Trainer Model
- Improving Health Awareness among Incarcerated Wisconsinites through Information and Self-Empowerment
- Collaborative for Healthcare Delivery Science (CHDS)

Find a listing of each closed project with a summary of outcomes at [ahwendowment.org/fundedprojects](http://ahwendowment.org/fundedprojects).

**\$4.96 MILLION**  
Funded in FY25

## NEW INVESTMENTS

PROJECT NAME AND AWARD	PROJECT AIM	PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS AND PRIMARY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION
<b>Family Resource Centers: A Universal Primary Prevention Strategy to Promote Health Equity - \$250,000</b> 2024 Community-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Advancing child abuse prevention policies and best practices in Wisconsin	Elizabeth Cleek, PhD, MA, RN, CPNP-PC, MCW Department of Pediatrics Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board
<b>Healthy Homes Collaborative - \$250,000</b> 2024 Community-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Collaborating to test and reduce lead exposure in Milwaukee home daycare centers	Ronald Anguzu, MD, MPH, PhD MCW Institute for Health & Humanity Community Water Services
<b>Development of a Sustainable Public Awareness Campaign to Prevent Veteran Suicides - \$249,768</b> 2024 Community-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Assessing public education to reduce veteran suicide and mental health stigma in Wisconsin	Bertrand Berger, PhD, MCW Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine Milwaukee County War Memorial Center Inc
<b>Nurturing Social Connection to Promote Health through Culturally Connected Arts-Based Programming - \$250,000</b> 2024 Community-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Enhancing community health and connection through arts-based cultural programming	Courtney Barry, PsyD, MS, MCW Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine Bembé Drum & Dance
<b>Activating Community Health Workers to Build Power Reduce Health Inequities in Black Populations - \$250,000</b> 2024 Community-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Evaluating and empowering the community health worker model for the Black community in Brown County	Leslie Ruffalo, PhD, MCW Department of Family Medicine Wello
<b>Reducing Dental Access Barriers for State-Insured Wisconsin Youth - \$250,000</b> 2024 Community-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-12/31/2026	Improving pediatric dental care access and education for state-insured children in southeast Wisconsin	Rebecca Bernstein, MD, MCW Department of Family Medicine Community Smiles Dental
<b>CAtCH Enhanced: Reaching Youth, Aging, and Disability Populations - \$250,000</b> 2024 Community-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Improving behavioral health outcomes in Ashland and Bayfield Counties with CAtCH safety plans	Michelle Broaddus, PhD, MCW Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine NorthLakes Community Clinic
<b>Building Community Recovery Capital: A Recovery Ecosystem Approach - \$249,990</b> 2024 Community-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Developing a recovery ecosystem in Green Bay to enhance long-term recovery from substance use disorder	Katinka Hooyer, PhD, MCW Department of Family Medicine WASH Community Inc.
<b>Faith Food Action Network: Improving Mental Health through Mutual Aid - \$249,883</b> 2024 Community-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Creating food equity mutual aid groups in southeast Wisconsin's African American churches to improve community nutrition and mental health	Jennifer Walsh, PhD, MCW Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine Wisconsin Council of Churches

PROJECT NAME AND AWARD	PROJECT AIM	PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS AND PRIMARY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION
<b>Building Resilience in Our Communities - \$250,000</b> 2024 Community-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Enhancing regional quality of life through collective impact and resiliency training for mental health and trauma	Leslie Ruffalo, PhD, MCW Department of Family Medicine Great Rivers United Way
<b>Strengthening Fox Cities: A Data-Driven Approach to Sustainable and Equitable Suicide Prevention - \$249,455</b> 2024 Community-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Building sustainable suicide prevention infrastructure in the Fox Cities with local data and equitable outcomes	Sara Kohlbeck, PhD, MCW Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine NEW Mental Health Connection
<b>Advancing Access to Behavioral Health Care in Rural Jefferson and Dodge County - \$249,999</b> 2024 Community-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Creating a coordinated behavioral health system to increase access in rural Jefferson and Dodge County	David Songco, PsyD, MCW Department of Family Medicine Rock River Community Clinic
<b>Advancing Health Equity Using and Integrated Medical-Dental-Behavioral Health Care Model - \$250,000</b> 2024 Community-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Improving patient access and outcomes through integrated healthcare for vulnerable Wisconsinites	Joni Williams, MD, MPH, MCW Department of Medicine Kenosha Community Health Center
<b>Community Health Care Workers from the Carceral Landscape - \$248,866</b> 2024 Community-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Training incarcerated individuals as community health workers to improve health information access	Laura Hawks, MD, MPH, MCW Department of Medicine The Community
<b>Project iSERVE: Investigating Service Effectiveness, Reliability, and Validity for Equity - \$249,903</b> 2024 Community-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Enhancing health and educational equity for Wisconsin children with chronic illnesses through improved access to coordinated care services	Cheryl Brosig, PhD, MCW Department of Pediatrics Children's Wisconsin
<b>YCare: Supporting Young Caregivers in ALS Families - \$73,045</b> 2025 Community-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Developing and evaluating a skills training program for youth caregivers supporting family members with ALS	Courtney Barry, PsyD, MS, MCW Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
<b>SSM Heart Math and Trauma Informed Care Suicide Prevention Training - \$73,604</b> 2025 Community-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Building comprehensive suicide prevention support for Wisconsin healthcare workers through peer support training	David Nelson, PhD, MS, MCW Department of Family Medicine SSM Health
<b>CAtCH Project: Data Integration for Rapid Crisis Response - \$77,438</b> 2025 Community-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Streamlining mental health crisis information access for first responders in rural Wisconsin	Jennifer Walsh, PhD, MCW Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine NorthLakes Community Clinic
<b>Ozaukee Food Alliance Fresh Foods/Food as Medicine Initiative - \$89,494</b> 2025 Community-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Improving health outcomes across Ozaukee County through local food production and distribution	Corina Norrbom, MD, MCW Regional Campus-Central Wisconsin Ozaukee Food Alliance
<b>Nourishing Futures: Enhancing Maternal Child Health through Nutrition and Education - \$76,945</b> 2025 Community-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Using in-home nutrition education to improve maternal and child health in rural Wisconsin	Abbey Kruper, PsyD, MCW Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology Great Rivers United Way



PROJECT NAME AND AWARD	PROJECT AIM	PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS AND PRIMARY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION
<b>Nurturing the Nurturers - \$71,726</b> 2025 Community-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Building a sustainable support network for community-based doulas to improve Black maternal health outcomes	Christopher Simenz, PhD, MCW Institute for Health & Humanity The Doula Village MKE
<b>Partnerships for Success: Innovative Health Support for Young Parents in Schools - \$72,190</b> 2025 Community-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Developing an integrated health and education support model for teen parents in Madison schools	Mochamad Nataliansyah, PhD MD MPH, MCW Department of Surgery Madison Metropolitan School District
<b>Health and Housing Insecurity among Milwaukee County's Older Adults - \$73,104</b> 2025 Community-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Exploring health issues experienced by homeless and housing-insecure older adults in Milwaukee County	David Nelson, PhD, MS, MCW Department of Family Medicine Community Advocates, Inc.
<b>211 Wisconsin/WIRE Validated Screening Pilot - \$88,994</b> 2025 Community-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Enhancing health equity through systematic social needs screening in Wisconsin's 211 system	Constance Gundacker, MD, MPH, FAAP, MCW Department of Pediatrics 211 Wisconsin, Inc
<b>Health Videos as a Culturally Sound Approach to Integration among Refugee and Immigrant Populations - \$76,438</b> 2025 Community-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Creating accessible health education through multilingual videos for Wisconsin's refugee communities	Jamila Kwarteng, PhD, MS, MCW Institute for Health & Humanity University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
<b>Minobiimaadiziwin-Good Mental Health in Community-Based Qualitative Research Storytelling Program - \$69,813</b> 2025 Community-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Advancing health through indigenous knowledge and decolonizing research methods in Native American communities	Brian Jackson, PHD, MCW Institute for Health & Humanity Waaswaaganing Institute of Indigenous Teaching and Learning
<b>Milwaukee County Community Mental Health Navigation Initiative - \$73,105</b> 2025 Community-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Building an accessible mental health resource network for Milwaukee families	Leslie Ruffalo, PhD, MCW Department of Family Medicine Mental Health America of Wisconsin
<b>Integrity for Data Equity and Accuracy (IDEA) - \$72,190</b> 2025 Community-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Improving healthcare data collection to advance health equity in rural Wisconsin	Mochamad Nataliansyah, PhD MD MPH, MCW Department of Surgery WHA Foundation, Inc.
<b>Empowering Community Health - \$70,588</b> 2025 Community-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Building sustainable nutrition access networks in rural Wisconsin communities	Katinka Hooyer, PhD, MCW Department of Family Medicine Green County Development Corporation
<b>Identifying Pathways to Implement the Help Me Grow Model within Health Systems - \$85,620</b> 2025 Community-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Expanding early childhood development support through health system integration in Wisconsin	Jennifer Koop, PhD, ABPP, MCW Department of Neurology First 5 Fox Valley
<b>Empowering Wisconsin Faith-Based Groups to Combat Elderly Isolation and Depression - \$68,628</b> 2025 Community-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Addressing social isolation and depression among the elderly through church-based partnerships in Wisconsin	Jamila Kwarteng, PhD, MS, MCW Institute for Health & Humanity Health Equity Leadership Partnership Global

# HEALTH WORKFORCE EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

AHW's Health Workforce Education and Development focus area aims to cultivate a skilled and resilient health workforce tailored to meet Wisconsin's evolving needs. Through strategic recruitment, retention, and ongoing learning initiatives, these projects aim to enhance the purpose and well-being of health professionals across all disciplines.

## CLOSED PROJECTS

- Community Outreach as a Core Component of Professional Development in Medical Education
- MCW Pancreatic Cancer Symposium: Bench to Bedside
- Wisconsin Endocrine Society October Meeting
- WiSER Conference 2024 Inspired by Discovery: Lunch with Experts
- 2024 Alcohol Policy Seminar
- From Bedside to Bench, How Systems Biology Advances the Care of Rare Disease and Rare Cancer Patients
- 37th Annual Update in Primary Care
- Distinguish Yourself Medical Student Summit
- 14th Annual Pancreatic Cancer Symposium
- Pituitary Adrenal Symposium
- "10,000 Strong": MHFA Training for Health Workforce across Wisconsin to Address Resiliency and Stigma
- Moving to Healing: Developing a Trauma-Informed Care Training for a Hospital System
- Medical College of Wisconsin Physician Associate Master of Science Program
- Increasing Equitable Access to Fertility Preservation Care in AYAs with a New Cancer Diagnosis
- Froedtert and MCW Ignite: An Outreach Program to Spark Interest in Health Equity Biomedical Careers
- Understanding Barriers and Facilitators to Health Risk Communication on Cannabinoid Use in Pregnancy
- Concussion Guidance and Education Program
- Mitigating Impacts of Healthcare Delivery on Climate and Community: Greening the OR at F&MCW
- Advancing Rural Health Equity and Civic Health through Medical Student Community Engagement
- Great Lakes Palliative Care Conference
- Midwest Neuropsychology Conference
- Building Capacity for Suicide Prevention in Milwaukee County
- The Harvest: Reflecting on the Hmong Experience to Build Cultural Humility
- Understanding Medical Professional Identity and Character Development Symposium
- Health Career Path2Practice (P2P) Certificate: A Comprehensive Health Careers Exploratory Course
- System of Wellness Instruction for Teachers and Teens (SWITTT)
- MCW-Central Wisconsin Advocates in Medicine Pathway
- Integration of CHWs into Public Health Initiatives for Rural and Urban Communities
- Txhawb: A Phone Line to Support Access to Healthcare for Central Wisconsin Hmong Communities
- Inclusive Health Training Expansion to All MCW Campuses
- Promoting Tailored Decision-Making Support for Persons with Disabilities: A PFW and MCW Partnership

- Compensated Work Therapy Core Career Training in Veterans with Disabilities: A Feasibility Study
- Building Skills of WI Dietetic Professionals to Meet Evolving Needs of Nutrition Insecure Clients
- Increasing BIPOC Representation in Healthcare Professions
- MedEd 2.0: Developing Community-Based Medical School Training to Prevent Childhood Obesity
- 2024 WAND Annual Conference
- 2024 WASH Best Practices Huddle Up
- Closing the Gap on Disparities in Maternal Health and Child and Adolescent Immunizations
- 2024 WPHA-WALHDAB Annual Public Health Conference
- Building Precision Medicine Capacity for Innovative Patient Care
- Doctorate in Public Health Program: Building Leadership Capacity
- #ForKidsHealth Summit
- 2024 Rural Clinician Conference
- WCHQ Statewide Quality Improvement Event
- Bridging Health Equity for Wisconsin's Underserved Communities
- E.M.B.R.A.C.E.: Empowering Birth Workers through Resources, Advocacy, Care, and Education
- Healing Connections: Addressing the impact of Racial Trauma

Find a listing of each closed project with a summary of outcomes at [ahwendowment.org/fundedprojects](https://ahwendowment.org/fundedprojects).

**\$11.18 MILLION**  
Funded in FY25

## NEW INVESTMENTS

PROJECT NAME AND AWARD	PROJECT AIM	PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS AND PRIMARY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION
<b>Creating an Addiction Medicine Fellowship in Milwaukee's Highest Risk Community - \$250,000</b> 2024 MCW-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Developing critical infrastructure to improve the health and well-being of patients by with opium use disorder in Milwaukee	David Songco, PsyD, MCW Department of Family Medicine
<b>Establishing a Fellowship Training Program at the Nexus of Implementation Science and Health Equity - \$249,667</b> 2024 MCW-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Developing a health equity implementation science fellowship training program address significant health disparities in Wisconsin	Katherine Quinn, PhD, MCW Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine
<b>An Innovative Approach to Address Social and Structural Determinants of Health through Housing - \$250,000</b> 2024 Community-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Expanding Jackson County Pathways to support housing-stable individuals with environmental health services	Leslie Ruffalo, PhD, MCW Department of Family Medicine Jackson County Public Health
<b>Accelerated Healthcare Licensure and Employment for Medically Trained Veterans - \$250,000</b> 2024 Community-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Addressing healthcare worker shortages through training and placement of medics and corpsmen in critical frontline positions	Erich Roush, PsyD, MCW Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine Heroes for Healthcare



PROJECT NAME AND AWARD	PROJECT AIM	PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS AND PRIMARY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION
<b>High School to Health Care: Medical Assistant (H2H-MA) - \$250,000</b> 2024 Community-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Creating a sustainable high school medical assistant training program for underserved students to promote economic and health equity	William Calawerts, MD, MPH, MCW Department of Family Medicine Center for Healthcare Careers of Southeast Wisconsin Inc
<b>Implementation of a Spanish Community Health Worker Training Program - \$250,000</b> 2024 Community-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Increasing Spanish-speaking community health workers and fostering health career interest among Hispanic high school students in Wisconsin	Leslie Ruffalo, PhD, MCW Department of Family Medicine Milwaukee Area Health Education Center
<b>A Proactive Approach to Wellness for First Responders - \$250,000</b> 2024 Community-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Enhancing first responders' resilience and service delivery through resilience training	Matthew Chinn, MD, MCW Department of Emergency Medicine Center for Suicide Awareness
<b>Strengthening Minoritized CHW Capacity to Combat Secondary Trauma Using Natural Approaches - \$250,000</b> 2024 Community-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Empowering community health workers with natural mental health promotion toolkit for community advocacy	Corina Norrbom, MD, MCW Medical School Regional Campuses Lawrence University
<b>The Medical College of Wisconsin Health Equity Scholars Program - \$1,904,516</b> REAC-Initiated Investments 7/1/2024-6/30/2029	Pilot innovative strategies for health workforce development across Wisconsin and the U.S.	Catherine Ferguson, MD, MCW Department of Pediatrics
<b>Health Workforce Well-Being - \$698,775</b> REAC-Initiated Investments 7/1/2024-6/30/2027	Advancing workforce well-being to ensure stronger care, better outcomes, and lasting retention	Michael Stadler, MD, MCW Department of Otolaryngology & Communication Sciences
<b>MCW Pancreatic Cancer Symposium: Bench to Bedside - \$5,000</b> MCW-Led Learning Event Support 7/2/2024-10/1/2024	Accelerating pancreatic cancer breakthroughs	Douglas Evans, MD, MCW Department of Surgery
<b>Young Caregivers: Identifying and Supporting Children, Youth, and Young Adults as Family Caregivers - \$5,000</b> Community-Led Learning Event Support 9/25/2024-12/24/2025	Building healthcare workforce capacity to support young family caregivers	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
<b>#ForKidsHealth Summit - \$5,000</b> Community-Led Learning Event Support 7/11/2024-12/10/2024	Creating a better understanding of the impact of social determinants of health	Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin / Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
<b>Wisconsin Endocrine Society October Meeting - \$3,934</b> MCW-Led Learning Event Support 8/12/2024-12/11/2024	Advancing CAH treatment with expert insights for endocrine providers	Ty Carroll, MD, MCW Department of Medicine
<b>WiSER Conference 2024 Inspired by Discovery: Lunch with Experts - \$5,000</b> MCW-Led Learning Event Support 8/12/2024-12/11/2024	Supporting Wisconsin's statewide scientific conference to enhance trainee networking and STEM retention	Michaela Patterson, PhD, MCW Department of Cell Biology, Neurobiology and Anatomy

PROJECT NAME AND AWARD	PROJECT AIM	PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS AND PRIMARY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION
<b>2024 Alcohol Policy Seminar - \$4,992</b> MCW-Led Learning Event Support 8/12/2024-12/11/2024	Supporting Wisconsin's cross-sector collaboration to reduce excessive alcohol use through policy education	Felice Borisy-Rudin, JD, PhD, MCW Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology
<b>2024 Rural Clinician Conference - \$5,000</b> Community-Led Learning Event Support 8/12/2024-1/11/2025	Promoting best practices for clinicians who provide care to rural populations	Gundersen Health System
<b>From Bedside to Bench, How Systems Biology Advances the Care of Rare Disease and Rare Cancer Patients - \$4,120</b> MCW-Led Learning Event Support 8/19/2024-1/18/2025	Advancing integrated expertise in chromatin biology and genomics to improve rare disease research	Angela Mathison, PhD, MCW Department of Surgery
<b>37th Annual Update in Primary Care - \$5,000</b> MCW-Led Learning Event Support 9/20/2024-12/19/2024	Supporting Wisconsin's primary care providers with evidence-based updates to enhance patient care and outcomes	Theresa Maatman, MD, MCW Department of Medicine
<b>HCET Provider Education Project: STI Masterclass (STIM) - \$79,335</b> 2025 Community-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Expanding Wisconsin's STI prevention network through healthcare provider education	Jennifer Walsh, PhD, MCW Center for Community Health and Intervention Research Health Care Education & Training, Inc.
<b>Community-Led Mental Health Transformation on Milwaukee's Southside - \$74,026</b> 2025 Community-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Building mental health capacity through community partnership in Milwaukee's southside	Courtney Barry, PsyD, MS, MCW Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine Saint Adalbert Congregation
<b>Wisconsin Health Career Lab: A Novel Approach to Upstream Workforce Development - \$38,310</b> 2025 MCW-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Building a flourishing digital community for health career interested students in Wisconsin	Andrew Klein, MD, MCW Department of Radiology
<b>Empowering Sauk County's Public Health Workforce with AI Tools for Enhanced Efficiency and Equity - \$82,912</b> 2025 Community-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-9/30/2025	Enhancing local public health efficiency through secure AI implementation	Stacey Lerret, PhD, MCW Department of Pediatrics Public Health Sauk County
<b>Wisconsin's Behavioral Healthcare Future: Bettering Our Systems through Peer Recovery Coach Training - \$67,388</b> 2025 Community-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Developing a skilled peer recovery workforce to support Wisconsin's substance use treatment services	Felice Borisy-Rudin, JD, PhD, MCW Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology Arbor Place, Inc.
<b>Transforming Patient Interactions: A Performance Improvement Approach to Health Literacy - \$88,994</b> 2025 Community-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Improving patient care through enhanced provider communication skills in Wisconsin	Corina Norrbom, MD, MCW Regional Campus-Central Wisconsin Wisconsin Medical Society
<b>Vaccinating Parents and Siblings of Pediatric ED Patients, a Novel Method to Improve Vaccine Equity - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Increasing influenza vaccination rates among underserved populations	Shannon Baumer-Mouradian, MD, MCW Department of Pediatrics

PROJECT NAME AND AWARD	PROJECT AIM	PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS AND PRIMARY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION
<b>Engaging VPIT to Enhance Emergency Resident Training in Telehealth (E-VERT) - \$49,982</b> 2025 MCW-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Improving emergency care outcomes with telehealth	Thomas Yang, MD, MCW Department of Emergency Medicine
<b>WCHQ Statewide Quality Improvement Event - \$5,000</b> Community-Led Learning Event Support 9/20/2024-1/19/2025	Reducing healthcare disparities through data-driven collaboration	Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality Inc.
<b>Distinguish Yourself Medical Student Summit - \$5,000</b> MCW-Led Learning Event Support 9/20/2024-1/19/2025	Enhancing medical students' professional competencies beyond clinical skills for long-term career success in healthcare	Arthur Derse, MD, JD, MCW Institute for Health & Humanity
<b>Empowering Future Nurses and Nurse Practitioners: A Focus on the Importance of Advance Care Planning - \$2,422</b> Community-Led Learning Event Support 12/3/2024-7/2/2025	Empowering future healthcare providers with advance care planning skills	University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
<b>14th Annual Pancreatic Cancer Symposium - \$5,000</b> MCW-Led Learning Event Support 12/17/2024-4/16/2025	Advancing pancreatic cancer care through innovative research and practical treatment	Y. David Seo, MD, MCW Department of Surgery
<b>Pituitary Adrenal Symposium - \$4,978</b> MCW-Led Learning Event Support 1/10/2025-5/9/2025	Building effective multidisciplinary teams for Cushing's syndrome management	Sophie Dream, MD, MPH, FACS, MCW Department of Surgery
<b>Bridging Health Equity for Wisconsin's Underserved Communities - \$5,000</b> Community-Led Learning Event Support 1/6/2025-5/5/2025	Uniting Wisconsin's healthcare ecosystem to bridge disparities through evidence-based innovation	Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality Inc.
<b>Building Bridges: Collaborative Health Science for Graduate Student Researchers and Clinical Trainees - \$5,000</b> MCW-Led Learning Event Support 2/19/2025-9/29/2025	Increasing scientific collaboration between graduate student researchers	Jasmine Dowell, MD, MCW Department of Pediatrics
<b>E.M.B.R.A.C.E.: Empowering Birth Workers through Resources, Advocacy, Care, and Education<sup>1</sup> - \$5,000</b> Community-Led Learning Event Support 1/24/2025-12/24/2025	Nurturing Wisconsin's Black birth workers through a day of self-care, financial empowerment, and community building	Sawubona Enterprises
<b>Ignite Momentum: Workforce Summit Insight and Action - \$4,978</b> Community-Led Learning Event Support 2/6/2025-7/5/2025	Addressing Wisconsin's pharmacy workforce crisis through coordinated action and sustainable solutions	Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin
<b>Creation of Wisconsin Healthcare Professional Services Program (WIHPSP)—Planning - \$2,515,212</b> 2025 Health Workforce Well-Being Landmark Grant 6/1/2025-11/30/2027	Collaborating to create a long-term plan for improving professional well-being among Wisconsin's healthcare and public health workers	Michael Stadler, MD, MCW Department of Otolaryngology & Communication Sciences Wisconsin Medical Society

<sup>1</sup>E.M.B.R.A.C.E.: Empowering Birth Workers through Resources, Advocacy, Care, and Education received funding approval, but project work was not initiated. Approved funds in the amount of \$5,000 were returned to the Endowment.



PROJECT NAME AND AWARD	PROJECT AIM	PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS AND PRIMARY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION
<b>Caring for Caregivers: Advancing Health Workforce Well-Being in Wisconsin - \$3,155,349</b> 2025 Health Workforce Wellness Landmark Grant 6/1/2025-5/31/2030	Building sustainable solutions for healthcare workforce well-being across Wisconsin's 30+ health systems	Michael Stadler, MD, MCW Department of Otolaryngology & Communication Sciences Wisconsin Hospital Association
<b>Consultant Institute: Reflection, Relationships and Rejuvenation - \$5,000</b> Community-Led Learning Event Support 2/19/2025-8/18/2025	Strengthening reflective capacity to enhance early childhood mental health support across Wisconsin	Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health
<b>2025 Health &amp; Harmony - \$5,000</b> Community-Led Learning Event Support 3/3/2025-7/2/2025	Empowering physicians to address burnout and build resilience through storytelling, self-reflection, and strategies for individual well-being and integrity in care	Wisconsin Medical Society
<b>Improving Value through Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration - \$5,000</b> Community-Led Learning Event Support 3/7/2025-8/6/2025	Uniting healthcare stakeholders to enhance value, share best practices, and improve quality of life	Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality Inc.
<b>The Power of We, Navigating the Trail to Better Health: WPHA WALHDAB 2025 Annual Conference - \$5,000</b> Community-Led Learning Event Support 4/9/2025-8/8/2025	Revitalizing public health through innovation, community leadership, and cross-sector collaboration	Wisconsin Public Health Association
<b>NAMI Wisconsin Facilitates Mental Health Action Partnership Learning Summit - \$5,000</b> Community-Led Learning Event Support 4/25/2025-11/24/2025	Advancing statewide mental health system improvement by identifying gaps, sharing best practices, and empowering community-driven solutions across Wisconsin	National Alliance on Mental Illness Wisconsin
<b>Sustainable Healthcare Summit - \$5,000</b> Community-Led Learning Event Support 5/19/2025-9/18/2025	Equipping Wisconsin's health workforce to address climate change as a healthcare issue through storytelling, expert insights, and climate-informed care practices	Froedtert Health
<b>Time for a Change: Prioritizing Nurse Well-Being - \$5,000</b> Community-Led Learning Event Support 6/4/2025-2/3/2026	Supporting Wisconsin nurses with tools for self-care, stress management, and mental health through a statewide event focused on well-being and workforce resilience	Wisconsin Peer Alliance for Nurses (WisPAN)
<b>Local Scientific Program for the 35th Annual Meeting of the Society of Black Academic Surgeons - \$4,975</b> MCW-Led Learning Event Support 6/18/2025-11/17/2025	Building capacity and fostering collaboration among Wisconsin's surgical workforce	Callisia Clarke, MD, MS, MCW Department of Surgery
<b>Healing Connections: Addressing the Impact of Racial Trauma - \$250,000</b> 2024 Community-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-11/12/2024	Increasing availability of evidence-based racial trauma interventions through workforce training to improve community health outcomes	Terri deRoos-Cassini, PhD, MCW Department of Surgery

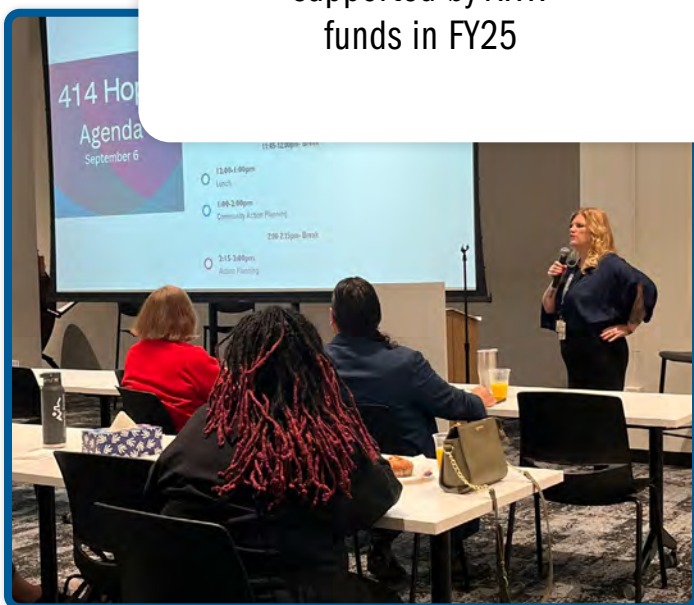
<sup>2</sup>Healing Connections: Addressing the impact of Racial Trauma received funding approval, but project work was not initiated. Approved funds in the amount of \$250,000 were returned to the Endowment.

# LEARNING EVENT SUPPORT

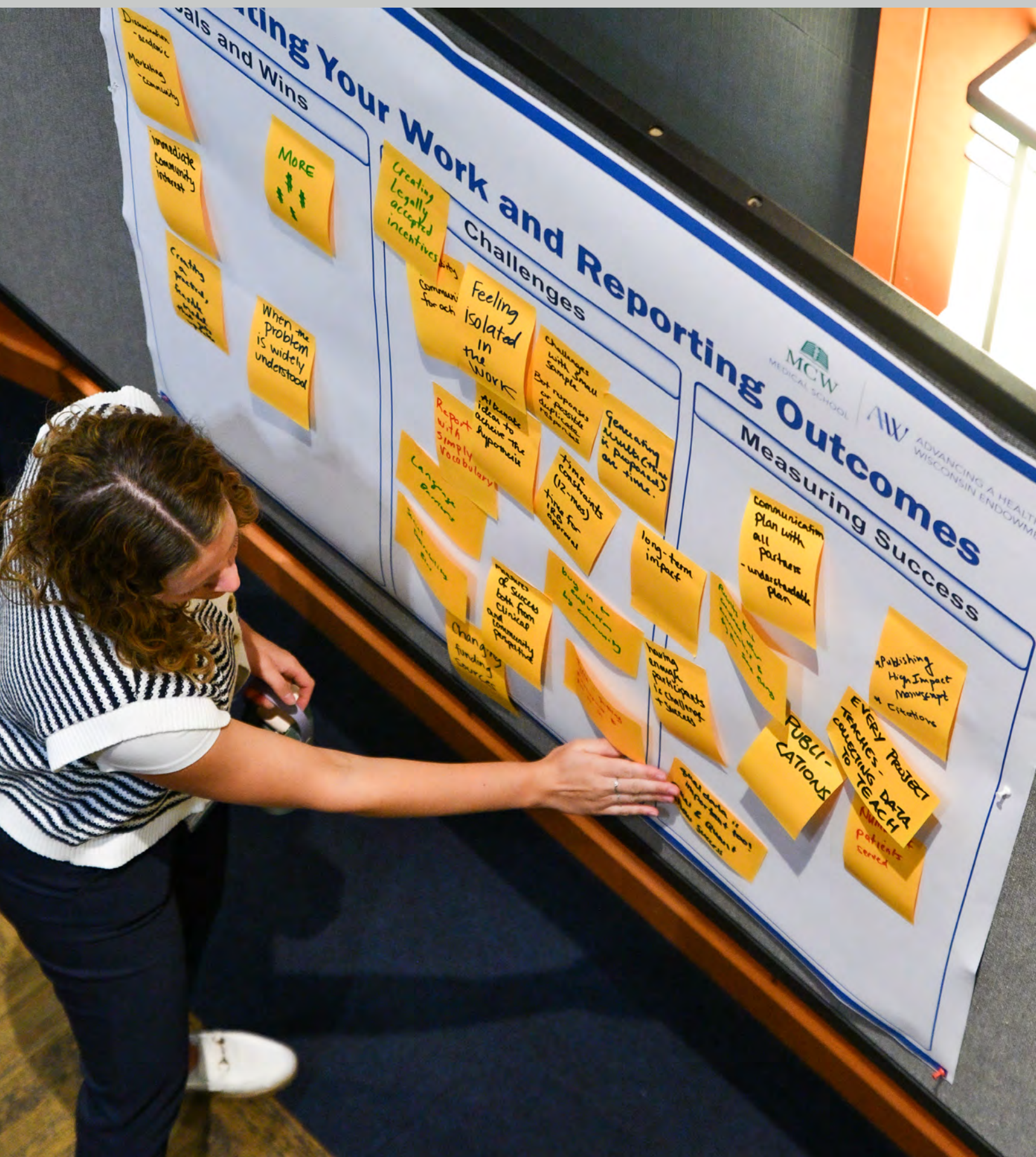
With Learning Event Support funding, AHW seeks to advance Wisconsin's health workforce by supporting events that build knowledge, skills, and connections. These events equip current and future health professionals with the tools to improve health outcomes across Wisconsin communities.

**26 Learning Events**  
supported by AHW  
funds in FY25

**\$125,399**  
Total Investment  
in FY25







# HEALTH-FOCUSED RESEARCH

AHW's Health-Focused Research focus area prioritizes funding visionary projects aligned with Wisconsin's health needs. We aim to enhance the dissemination and application of new knowledge while building and sustaining a robust pipeline of trained investigators.

## CLOSED PROJECTS

- Defining the Cardiometabolic Profile of Transgender Boys and Men<sup>3</sup>
- Remembering the Lost: How Investigation of Military Suicides Can Improve Prevention Resources
- Impacts of Nature in Proactive and Responsive Behavioral Health Treatment of Urban Latino Youth
- Advancing Behavioral Health Initiative Phase III: Academic Partner Team
- Developing Innovative Research Programs in Clinically Relevant Neurological Disorders
- Improving Heart Health, Supporting Healthy Minds, and Dismantling Cancer
- Collaborative Research into the Etiology and Treatment of Pediatric and Congenital Heart Disease
- Understanding and Addressing Health Disparities in Wisconsin through Statewide Partnerships
- Leveraging Patient and Family Perspectives to Improve Systems of Care for Traumatic Brain Injury
- Investigating Intervertebral Disc Endplate Degeneration for Non-Specific Low Back Pain
- Virtual Reality Training Paradigm to Rehabilitate Hand Dexterity in Degenerative Cervical Myelopathy
- Diagnostic and Treatment Options for Patients with High-Risk Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma
- Enhancing Suicide Review in Wisconsin: Elevating Data and Collaboration for Prevention
- siRNA Lipid Nanoparticle Delivery for Liver Defatting During Normothermic Machine Perfusion
- Genetic Influence on Metabolic Health after Chronic Dietary PFAS Exposure
- Endothelial Senescence in Impairment of Lung Regeneration in Obesity
- Recovering after Denial: Evaluating Eligibility Criteria for the Crime Victims Compensation Program
- Structural and Functional Imaging Correlates of Cognitive Phenotypes in Epilepsy
- Identifying LDL Particles as a Novel Functional Carrier for Coagulation Factor VIII in Hemophilia A
- Developing a Novel Gallium Compound for the Treatment of Metastatic Breast Cancer
- Exploring the Oncogenic Mechanisms of NAT10 in Ovarian Cancer
- The Role of G3BP1 in Cancer Progression and Chemoresistance
- Identification of Novel Therapeutic Targets of RhoBTB1-Cullin 3 Pathway in Cardiovascular Disease
- The Role of Modified HDL in Atherogenesis
- Thrombophilia Promotes the Development of Bronchus-Associated Lymphoid Tissue

<sup>3</sup>Defining the Cardiometabolic Profile of Transgender Boys and Men received funding approval, but project work was not completed. Approved funds in the amount of \$4,990 were returned to the Endowment.



- Regulation of the Prenylation, Trafficking, and Activity of KRas and Rac1 by RabL3 in Breast Cancer
- Mapping Motor Functions to Brain Networks in Patients with Brain Tumors from Diagnosis through Recovery
- Data-Driven Computational Modeling of Cellular Response in CART Therapy
- Multi-omic Analyses of Epigenetic Drivers of Immunotherapy Resistance in Small Cell Lung Cancer
- Role of Mitochondrial ATP Synthase  $\epsilon$  Subunit, ATP5E, in Pancreatic Cancer
- Implementation of Genomic Testing in Neonatal Intensive Care Units throughout Wisconsin
- Treatments Targeting Phonological Short-Term Memory to Improve Language Health after Stroke
- Restoration of Vision in the Blind through Reprogramming of the Neural Retina
- Targeting Epidermal TRPV4 to Alleviate Neuropathy following Cancer Chemotherapy Treatment
- Role of Alzheimer's Disease-Associated Genes in Neuronal Mitochondrial Homeostasis: An in Vivo Study
- Chromatin Remodeling Mediated by Insulin Signaling: The Role of FoxK Factors
- Let's Hash This Out: The Case for Rapid THC Testing to Reduce ED Resource Utilization
- Identifying Long-Term Care Deserts in Wisconsin
- Characterization of Response to Gallium Maltolate in Treatment-Resistant Glioblastoma
- Improving Pancreatic Beta-Cell Differentiation and Maturation through Epigenetic Modulation
- BMP-Dependent GATA3-TFAP2A-WNT Signaling Mechanisms Regulating Human Amnion Formation
- The Role of Tip60 in Cardiac Calcium Signaling and Mitochondria Function
- A Novel in Vivo Model for Investigating Alternatively Activated Rod-Shaped Microglia
- Understanding Relationships between Colleges, Local Alcohol Policies, Drinking, and Health Outcomes
- Bringing Wellness Home: QI Evaluation of an Urban Community Mental Health Education Project
- Defining Mechanisms of Glia-Mediated Synapse Formation to Develop Future Retinal Repair Therapies
- Role of 3D Chromatin Architecture in Breast Cancer Endocrine Resistance
- Infection Prophylaxis in Patients with Multiple Myeloma Receiving Bispecific Antibody Therapy
- Automating Myocardial Infarction Diagnosis by ECGs with VERITAS Software and Hybrid Learning
- Necrotizing Enterocolitis from Microbial Hydrogen Sulfide Intoxication
- Personalizing Emergency Surgery in Wisconsin Cancer Patients: A Data-Driven Approach
- Therapeutic Targeting of the Genome Guardian SIRTuins in Metastatic Prostate Cancer
- Characterizing the Path to Surgery for Uninsured Patients in Milwaukee
- Assessing Post-Operative Cognitive Dysfunction in the Elderly
- Exploring First-to-Arrive Scene Transport for Penetrating Thoracoabdominal Injuries in Milwaukee
- Biofabrication of Small Vascular Graft with Human Amniotic Membrane
- Improving Access to Medication for Opioid Use Disorder through Transdisciplinary Collaboration
- Pharmacokinetics of Piperacillin/Tazobactam in Pediatric Obesity

Find a listing of each closed project with a summary of outcomes at [ahwendowment.org/fundedprojects](http://ahwendowment.org/fundedprojects).

## NEW INVESTMENTS

PROJECT NAME AND AWARD	PROJECT AIM	PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS AND PRIMARY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION
<b>Adapting an Evidence-Based Suicide Prevention Program for Black LGBTQ+ Youth - \$247,315</b> 2024 MCW-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Laying the groundwork for more effective, culturally relevant suicide prevention interventions for Black LGBTQ+ youth to reduce disparities	Katherine Quinn, PhD, MCW Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine
<b>Eliminating Unnecessary Axillary Surgery in Wisconsin Women Undergoing Lumpectomy for Ductal Carcinoma in Situ (DCIS) - \$250,000</b> 2024 MCW-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Reducing unnecessary surgery for Wisconsin women with stage-0 breast cancer	Chandler Cortina, MD, MS, FSSO, FACS, MCW Department of Surgery
<b>Developing a Culturally Tailored Bystander CPR Education Intervention for Milwaukee Hmong Community - \$249,991</b> 2024 MCW-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Developing tailored bystander CPR education for the Hmong population	Jamie Jasti, MD, MS, MCW Department of Emergency Medicine
<b>Effects of Peripheral Injury and Surgery on Traumatic Brain Injury Outcomes - \$250,000</b> 2024 MCW-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Improving care for Wisconsinites that suffer traumatic brain injury	Christopher Roberts, MD, PhD, MCW Department of Anesthesiology
<b>Brain-to-Text Computer Interfaces as a Precursor for Artificial Speech Restoration in Aphasia - \$250,000</b> 2024 MCW-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Working toward a brain-to-text interface to restore communication to people with stroke damage	Andrew Anderson, PhD, MCW Department of Neurology
<b>Community-Based and Genomics-Informed Precision Medicine Pilot Project - \$249,447</b> 2024 MCW-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Increasing awareness and understanding of how genetics can impact health in communities	Michael Zimmermann, PhD, MCW Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI)
<b>Photo-Triggered Trojan-Horse Drug Delivery for MPNST Tumor Cell Death and Macrophage Reprogramming - \$250,000</b> 2024 MCW-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Developing novel therapies to target neurofibromatosis type-1 tumor cells	Amit Joshi, PhD, MCW Department of Biomedical Engineering
<b>Optimizing HIV and Syphilis Screening Rates in Youth - \$248,555</b> 2024 MCW-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Increasing HIV and syphilis screening in Milwaukee County by implementing point-of-care testing in pediatric clinics	Claudia Vicetti Miguel, MD, MCW Department of Pediatrics

PROJECT NAME AND AWARD	PROJECT AIM	PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS AND PRIMARY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION
<b>Cognitive Dysfunction Related to Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplantation: Behavior and Neuroimaging - \$250,000</b> 2024 MCW-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2027	Characterizing cognitive dysfunction associated with blood and marrow transplantation in children	Adam Greenberg, PhD, MCW Department of Biomedical Engineering
<b>Exploring the Microbiome Mechanism Underlying Neurological Symptoms in Long COVID - \$250,000</b> 2024 MCW-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Determining potential mechanisms underlying neurological symptoms of long COVID	Yang Wang, MD, PhD, MCW Department of Radiology
<b>Milwaukee Overdose Response Initiative: Enhancing Outreach for Disparately Impacted Communities - \$249,982</b> 2024 MCW-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Developing enhanced outreach to communities highly impacted by overdose and low utilization of treatment and harm reduction services	Constance Kostelac, PhD, MS, MCW Institute for Health & Humanity
<b>Development of HOPE (Helping Optimize Prehospital Equity) Research Collaborative - \$250,000</b> 2024 MCW-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Developing a first-of-its-kind prehospital health equity data collaborative among emergency medical services agencies to understand health inequities	Benjamin Weston, MD MPH, MCW Department of Emergency Medicine
<b>Safer Medication Treatment during Pregnancy Using Fetal MCG and Pharmacological Modelling - \$250,000</b> 2024 MCW-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Studying fetal heart rhythm effects of arrhythmia medications to develop predictive models of drug metabolism	Janette Strasburger, MD, MCW Department of Pediatrics
<b>Increasing Capacity for Froedtert Primary Care to Treat Opioid Use Disorder - \$249,132</b> 2024 MCW-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Increasing access to effective treatment for opioid use disorder	Julia Dickson-Gomez, PhD, MCW Institute for Health & Humanity
<b>Collaboration to Engage Black Americans in Medication for Opioid Use Disorder Treatment in Milwaukee - \$249,993</b> 2024 MCW-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Leveraging friendship networks to reach and engage out-of-treatment Black individuals with opioid use disorder	Kelly Gagnon, PhD, MCW Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine
<b>Supporting Families in Complex Care: Developing a Measure to Assess Impact - \$146,959</b> 2024 MCW-Led Momentum Grants 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Assessing the impact of participation in a complex care program on families of children with medical complexity	Jessica Schnell, MD, MCW Department of Pediatrics
<b>Advancing Physiology Research by Single Cell Spatial Transcriptomics - \$824,769</b> REAC-Initiated Investments 7/1/2024-6/30/2028	Identifying novel pathways to treat life-threatening diseases	Curt Sigmund, PhD, MCW Department of Physiology
<b>Deciphering Cell-Cell Interactions and Communication in Cardiovascular Disease - \$600,000</b> REAC-Initiated Investments 7/1/2024-6/30/2027	Identifying new drug targets for treating cardiovascular disease in Wisconsin's patients	Chun Liu, PhD, MCW Department of Physiology

PROJECT NAME AND AWARD	PROJECT AIM	PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS AND PRIMARY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION
<b>Hypertension Control - \$900,548</b> Hypertension Control Landmark Grant 7/1/2024-6/30/2026	Implementing effective strategies to help people with high blood pressure monitor and manage their condition	Jesse Ehrenfeld, MPH, MCW Department of Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment
<b>The Role of Xpr1 Genetic Variants in Resident Cardiac Macrophage Seeding - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Investigating the role of Xpr1 and its genetic variants in regulating cardiac macrophage function	Caitlin O'Meara, PhD, MCW Department of Physiology
<b>Finding Peace for Youth Suicide Loss Survivors - \$49,517</b> 2025 MCW-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Developing a support group curriculum for young suicide loss survivors	Sara Kohlbeck, PhD, MCW Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine
<b>Screening for Chloride Channel 6 (CLC-6) Inhibitors as Novel Antihypertensives - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW Post-Doctoral Researcher Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Identifying novel treatments for hypertension	Evgenii Chulkov, PhD, MCW Department of Cell Biology, Neurobiology and Anatomy
<b>Inactivating SARM1 as a Therapeutic Avenue to Treat Parkinson's Disease - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW Post-Doctoral Researcher Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Developing a new therapeutic for Parkinson's disease management	Prince Joshi, PhD, MCW Department of Cell Biology, Neurobiology and Anatomy
<b>Transcriptional Effects of Oxycodone in Prefrontal Cortex: Focus on Neurons that Drive Drug Seeking - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Developing novel strategies to reduce opioid drug craving	Christopher Olsen, PhD, MCW Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology
<b>Impact of Sucralose Consumption During Pregnancy - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Assessing the consumption of sucralose during pregnancy and associated toxicity in the placenta	Stephanie Olivier-Van Stichelen, PhD, MCW Department of Biochemistry
<b>Establish and Validate a Model of Concomitant Neurotrauma - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Developing a model of combined traumatic spinal cord injury and traumatic brain injury	Antje Kroner-Milsch, MD PhD, MCW Department of Neurosurgery
<b>Definition of Immunocyte Populations Associated with Immune Phenotypes and Putative R1D Endotypes - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW Post-Doctoral Researcher Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Fostering the development of personalized therapy for type-1 diabetes patients	Amina Bedrat, PhD, MCW Department of Pediatrics
<b>Using AI-Based Brain Model of Story Comprehension to Reveal MCI in Early Alzheimer's - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Improving the forecasting of dementia development	Andrew Anderson, PhD, MCW Department of Neurology
<b>Pathophysiological Understanding for the Development of Biomarkers and Intervention for MASH - \$49,974</b> 2025 MCW-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Improving the accuracy of metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis prediction in liver disease patients	Achuthan Sourianarayanan, MD, MCW Department of Medicine



PROJECT NAME AND AWARD	PROJECT AIM	PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS AND PRIMARY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION
<b>Novel Monocyte Populations and Type-1 Diabetes Susceptibility - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW Post-Doctoral Researcher Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Improving the quality of life of type-1 diabetes patients and those at risk	Tarun Pant, PhD MCW Department of Pediatrics
<b>Oxytocin and Traumatic Injury: Delineating the Neural and Psychological Pathway to Resilience - \$49,730</b> 2025 MCW-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Understanding how social interactions foster mental health in trauma patients	Carissa Tomas, PhD, MCW Institute for Health & Humanity
<b>Targeting Hippocampal Plasticity and Inflammation in Sickle Cell Disease to Improve Cognition<sup>4</sup> - \$47,107</b> 2025 MCW Post-Doctoral Researcher Seed Grants 1/1/2025-8/10/2025	Investigating the pharmacogenomic factors driving immunotherapy toxicity and resistance	Callisia Clarke, MD, MS, MCW Department of Surgery
<b>Pharmacogenomic Mediators of Immunotherapy Resistance and Toxicity - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Improving the quality of life for patients with sickle cell disease	Vanessa Ehlers, PhD, MCW Department of Cell Biology, Neurobiology and Anatomy
<b>IL-39/IL-39R Signaling Drives Acute Graft-Versus-Host Disease Pathogenesis - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW Post-Doctoral Researcher Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Establishing a biomarker and therapeutic target for aGVHD pathogenesis	Denggang Fu, PhD, MCW Department of Microbiology & Immunology
<b>Understanding the Role of Genomic ExoDNA on Pre-Metastatic Niche Establishment in Ovarian Cancer - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW Post-Doctoral Researcher Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Developing biomarkers for early, non-invasive detection of ovarian cancer	Fnu Mona, PhD, MCW Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology
<b>Developing a Deep Learning Model for Predicting Seizure Generating Networks in Focal Epilepsy - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Leveraging deep learning models to improve surgical outcomes for patients with epilepsy	Vahab Youssofzadeh, PhD, MCW Department of Neurology
<b>Modeling Human Cell Cycle Dysregulation in Cancer for Drug Discovery - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Developing a cost-effective approach to anti-cancer drug discovery	Ranjan Dash, PhD, MCW Department of Biomedical Engineering
<b>MRI Connectivity and Machine Learning for Epilepsy Classification and Treatment Prediction - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Improving epilepsy care with more precise diagnostic and treatment strategies	Pradeep Javarayee, MD, MCW Department of Neurology
<b>Neuroimaging Markers of Semantic Impairment in MCI - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Developing a novel approach to aid in the early detection of Alzheimer's disease	Leonardo Fernandino, PhD, MCW Department of Neurology

<sup>4</sup>Targeting Hippocampal Plasticity and Inflammation in Sickle Cell Disease to Improve Cognition received funding approval, but project work was not initiated. Approved funds in the amount of \$47,107 were returned to the Endowment.

PROJECT NAME AND AWARD	PROJECT AIM	PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS AND PRIMARY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION
<b>Epigenetic Alterations Initiated by Gender-Affirming Testosterone in Breast Tissue - \$49,987</b> 2025 MCW-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Examining the impact of gender-affirming testosterone on breast tissue	Angela Mathison, PhD, MCW Department of Surgery
<b>Optic Nerve Regeneration Driven by Hypertranscription - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Developing new therapeutics for blinding eye diseases	Matthew Veldman, PhD, MCW Department of Cell Biology, Neurobiology and Anatomy
<b>Targeting TRPA1 Regulation by Heat Shock Proteins for Post-Surgical Pain - \$39,510</b> 2025 MCW Post-Doctoral Researcher Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Developing novel treatments for post-surgical pain	Jonathan Enders, PhD, MCW Department of Cell Biology, Neurobiology and Anatomy
<b>Exploring Nuclear Architectural Changes in Pancreatic Cancer for Precision Therapy - \$49,710</b> 2025 MCW Post-Doctoral Researcher Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Uncovering structural alterations linked to pancreatic cancer progression	Gareth Pollin, PhD, MCW Department of Surgery
<b>Chronic Tibial Neuromodulation Model Development - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Improving the treatment of urinary incontinence	James Hokanson, PhD, MCW Department of Biomedical Engineering
<b>Identification of Cell-Type Specific Gene Programs Dysregulated by Binge Alcohol Withdrawal - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Developing targeted interventions to reduce the likelihood of relapse for individuals with alcohol use disorder	Jennifer Tuscher, PhD, MCW Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology
<b>Evaluation of Pilot Hydroponics STEM Program Apprenticeship - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Creating healthier communities by developing skillsets related to growing food	Laura Cassidy, MS, PhD, MCW Institute for Health & Humanity
<b>Electrical Pacemakers for Stem Cell-Derived Striated Muscle Models - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Expediting the translation of preclinical therapies into clinical breakthroughs	Brian Lin, PhD, MCW Department of Cell Biology, Neurobiology and Anatomy
<b>Cardioprotective Signaling in Diabetic-Induced Human Heart Cell Injury - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Improving heart health and health equity by advancing treatment strategies for diabetic heart conditions	Xiaowen Bai, MD, PhD, MCW Department of Cell Biology, Neurobiology and Anatomy
<b>Blood Monocyte and Microglia Morphological Changes as Markers of Stress and Addiction - \$49,954</b> 2025 MCW-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Improving drug design to regulate acute stress	Constanza Garcia Keller, PhD, MCW Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology
<b>Catalyzing Research on the Health Equity Impacts of Community Land Trusts in Wisconsin - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Catalyzing research on the health equity impacts of community land trusts in Wisconsin	Kirsten Beyer, PhD, MPH, MS, MCW Institute for Health & Humanity

PROJECT NAME AND AWARD	PROJECT AIM	PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS AND PRIMARY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION
<b>Molecular Regulators of Mammary Epithelial Cell State Instability in Breast Tumorigenesis - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW Post-Doctoral Researcher Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Identifying high risk individuals to enhance clinical outcomes for breast cancer patients	Priyanga Jayakrishnan, PhD, MCW Department of Surgery
<b>MRI-Based Radiomic Analysis for Diagnosis and Prognosis in Degenerative Cervical Myelopathy - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Advancing the clinical management of degenerative cervical myelopathy	Aditya Vedantam, MD, MCW Department of Neurosurgery
<b>Supporting Equitable Access to Research through the Use of a Shortened Consent Form - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Increasing health equity through research access in Wisconsin	Ryan Spellecy, PhD, MCW Office of Research
<b>Reinnervation Failure in Targeted Muscle Reinnervation: Influence of Chronic Axotomy and Nerve Size - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Developing new approaches to chronic pain treatment in amputees	Gwendolyn Hoben, MD, PhD, MCW Department of Plastic Surgery
<b>Au-Phagic Nanozyme for Inflammatory Breast Cancer (IBC) Targeted Therapy - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW Post-Doctoral Researcher Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Exploring a synergistic therapy to treat breast cancer	Sayantan Sinha, PhD, MCW Department of Biomedical Engineering
<b>Assessing the Role of Immune Cells in Factor V Leiden-Associated Pregnancy Complications - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW Post-Doctoral Researcher Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Gaining insights into pregnancy complications associated with a common form of maternal thrombophilia	Sarika Gunjan, PhD, MCW Department of Pathology
<b>Policy and Practice Related to Temporary Extension of Hours for On-Premises Alcohol Consumption - \$49,997</b> 2025 MCW-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Studying how an alcohol-related policy change may impact public health	Constance Kostelac, PhD, MS, MCW Institute for Health & Humanity
<b>Cutaneous Targets for Treating Chemotherapy-Induced Neuropathic Pain - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Exploring molecular pain management therapies for chemotherapy patients	Cheryl Stucky, PhD, MCW Department of Cell Biology, Neurobiology and Anatomy
<b>Exploring the Loss of O-GlcNAcylation to POMC Pre-mRNA Intron Splicing to Reduce ACTH Secretion - \$49,950</b> 2025 MCW Post-Doctoral Researcher Seed Grants 1/1/2025-11/30/2025	Developing noninvasive alternatives to surgery for patients with brain cancer	Adam Knier, PhD, MCW Department of Biochemistry
<b>Cell-Free DNA Analytical Validation Supporting Small Blood Volume Test for Infants and Neonates - \$50,000</b> 2025 MCW-Led Seed Grants 1/1/2025-12/31/2025	Improving care for babies born with congenital heart disease	Michael Mitchell, MD, MCW Department of Surgery

# LANDMARK INITIATIVES

At the Advancing Health for ALL Wisconsin Conference at Lambeau Field in Green Bay in June 2024, AHW Executive Director Jesse Ehrenfeld, MD, MPH, committed \$50 million to three Landmark Initiatives prioritized in the 2024-2028 AHW Five-Year Plan: health workforce well-being; hypertension control; and childhood behavioral health. In FY25, AHW formed significant alliances and laid the groundwork for sustainable collaborative efforts to address each of these pressing health challenges.

## Health Workforce Well-Being

In April 2025, AHW announced two investments totaling more than \$5.6 million focused on addressing burnout and supporting the mental health of Wisconsin's health workers.

With a \$3.2 million award from AHW, the Wisconsin Hospital Association will build a collaborative coalition to develop a long-term professional well-being improvement plan focused on Wisconsin's healthcare and public health workers. The initiative will draw upon resources and expertise provided by the Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation, a national nonprofit committed to safeguarding the well-being of healthcare professionals and an official partner to WHA in this important work.

A \$2.5 million grant from AHW will allow the Wisconsin Medical Society—in collaboration with the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Dental Association, the Wisconsin Nurses Association, the Wisconsin Academy of Physician Assistants, and other professional membership organizations across Wisconsin—to establish the Wisconsin Healthcare Professional Services Program (WIHPSP), which will provide confidential referral and monitoring services for licensed healthcare professionals in Wisconsin who experience behavioral, psychiatric, substance use, or other potentially impairing conditions. The WIHPSP will coordinate detection, prevention, evaluation, treatment, and monitoring of licensed healthcare professionals with these conditions.







## Hypertension Control

A statewide initiative to help Wisconsinites reach and maintain healthy blood pressure requires wide-ranging collaboration among healthcare providers and community organizations. The Wisconsin Now (WIN) steering team comprises investors; payers; policy experts; healthcare and community health organizations; healthcare quality consultants; health data managers; community representatives; and high-level corporate leadership.

The project's leaders reviewed available data assets to set baselines for goals and improvement targets across the state. And they have begun building the project's participatory design process. A review of existing activities and interventions across Wisconsin that can be leveraged has been completed, and potential multi-sector collaborators identified. Key strategies to be pursued include elevating team-based care, enabling home monitoring of blood pressure, and unleashing reimbursement policies for sustainability.

Having established partnerships with state and national leaders in heart health, including the American Heart Association, AHW plans to launch several pilot hypertension control initiatives in the coming months.

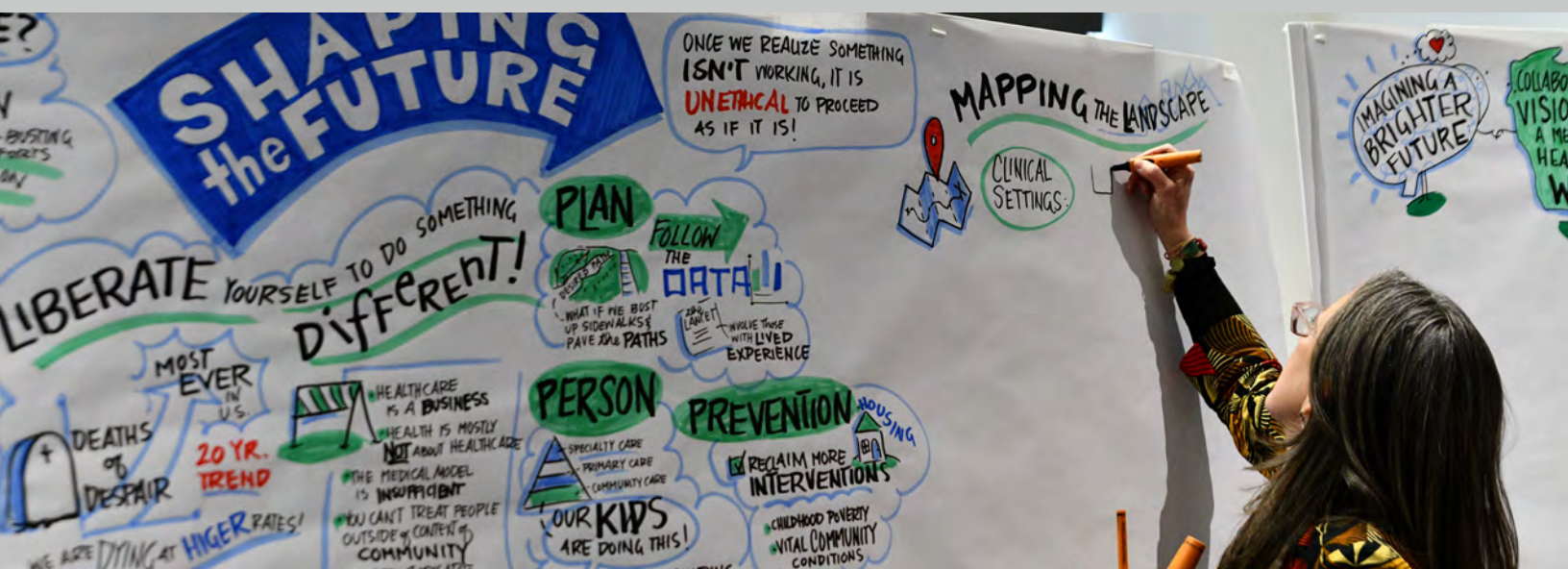


## Childhood Behavioral Health

An AHW-organized Advancing Childhood Behavioral Health Summit at ThriveOn in February 2025 created actionable strategies and partnerships to carry forward ideas discussed by attendees. In March, a workgroup comprising local experts in philanthropy, public health, mental health, school-based programs, and related fields began convening virtually twice monthly to explore approaches, partnerships, and resources to fuel a short-term, school-based investment in childhood behavioral health, in support of AHW's Landmark priority for its current five-year planning period. In September, workgroup member Catherine Kolkmeier reported to the MCW Consortium on Community and Public Health insights gained from a review of 20 programs, platforms, and resources utilized nationwide to address childhood behavioral health challenges.



# PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES



In addition to grant funding, AHW develops and delivers resources that add value to our partners, building capacity within Wisconsin's health ecosystem and extending the impact of our investments to maximize opportunities for people and communities throughout the state to thrive.

We provide technical assistance to grant recipients to increase their efficiency and effectiveness, and we fund, organize, and support learning events designed to share expertise and experience among health-focused stakeholders across Wisconsin.

## AHW RESOURCES

AHW supports our grantees with programs and resources designed to increase the effectiveness of their programs while strengthening connections within Wisconsin's health ecosystem.

In addition to funding networks of experts to provide technical assistance to grant recipients, AHW organizes and hosts educational events that build capacity, share successes, and foster collaboration among health-focused organizations across Wisconsin.

## COLLABORATION IN FOCUS: PARTNER LEARNING EVENTS

AHW funds, organizes, and hosts learning events designed to bring partners together. These events foster collaboration by creating opportunities for information sharing and relationship building.

### **Advancing Childhood Behavioral Health: Wisconsin Leaders Collaborate to Improve Youth Mental Health Care**

In February 2025, AHW hosted nearly 100 academic leaders, community partners, and mental health professionals at ThriveOn King in Milwaukee for the Advancing Childhood Behavioral Health Summit. This gathering addressed what health agencies nationwide and in Wisconsin have declared a state of emergency: child behavioral health.

The summit built on AHW's landmark commitment announced in June 2024 to invest \$50 million across three key health initiatives, including childhood behavioral health. This focused investment comes at a critical time, as recent CDC data reveals nearly 60% of teen girls have experienced persistent sadness or hopelessness, and 42% of high school students reported feeling so sad or hopeless that they stopped participating in regular activities.

AHW Executive Director Jesse Ehrenfeld, MD, MPH, opened the summit emphasizing the importance of collaboration. The event featured a keynote address by Benjamin Miller, PsyD, a nationally recognized expert in mental health policy who addressed the complexities of accessing mental health care.







Through interactive sessions, participants explored Wisconsin's childhood behavioral health landscape across clinical, community-based, and non-traditional settings. Attendees shared knowledge of existing programs while identifying service gaps throughout the state. Collaborative exercises challenged participants to envision Wisconsin without childhood mental health barriers, creating visions of transformed schools, communities, and healthcare systems.

The summit addressed key areas including policy, prevention, planning, platforms, people, and place through rotating discussion stations. Participants prioritized promising strategies for improving youth mental wellness across Wisconsin. This collaborative effort represents the beginning of a coordinated statewide response to transform how Wisconsin supports youth mental wellness.

### Advancing Maternal & Child Health: A Celebration of Innovation

In March 2025, AHW hosted "Advancing Maternal & Child Health: A Celebration of Innovation," bringing together healthcare professionals, researchers, and community partners committed to improving maternal and child health outcomes across Wisconsin.

In November 2022, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services directed \$5.5 million in



American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to the Medical College of Wisconsin to be administered by AHW. This strategic investment leveraged AHW's infrastructure, technical expertise, and extensive networks to identify and support innovative projects addressing maternal health disparities throughout the state.

The event was kicked off by AHW Deputy Director Ugwuji N. Maduekwe, MD, MMSc, MPH, who emphasized the synergy between AHW's deep knowledge of the local environment and the infusion of federal funding to drive impactful work in this space. Anna Palatnik, MD, lead primary investigator for the NIH-funded Maternal Health Research Center of Excellence at MCW, delivered the keynote address, underscoring the importance of research, collaboration, and innovation in shaping the future of maternal health.

The event featured presentations from 15 ARPA-funded project teams representing organizations including Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, Progressive Community Health Centers, African American Breastfeeding Network Inc., Food for Health, and Marquette University. Projects addressed critical areas such as perinatal depression prevention, social determinants of health through early childhood education, mobile pregnancy care access, trauma-informed care curriculum, and postpartum preeclampsia management.

A panel discussion on "Collaborating for Maternal Health Equity," explored strategies for fostering ongoing collaboration and ensuring sustainability of maternal health initiatives beyond initial funding periods.

Beyond individual presentations, the event created valuable networking opportunities among researchers, healthcare providers, and community partners. These connections are instrumental in developing comprehensive approaches to complex maternal health challenges, particularly for underserved populations. The innovations showcased represent building blocks of systemic change in maternal and child healthcare across Wisconsin, fostering the cross-sector collaboration essential for addressing deeply rooted health disparities and offering hope for meaningful progress ahead.

## Strengthening Health Initiatives through Expert Support: AHW Technical Assistance Provider (TAP) Program

AHW's Technical Assistance Provider (TAP) program connects eligible community-based AHW-funded project teams with experienced consulting organizations and individuals, bringing specialized expertise directly to health improvement initiatives across Wisconsin. Through this program, AHW grantees work with dedicated TAPs who understand their project's specific needs, helping teams strategize solutions, overcome barriers, and maximize the success of their coalitions as they drive toward meaningful health outcomes for communities statewide.

The program provides significant value by offering up to 20 hours of professional TAP services each project year at no additional cost to the project budget. TAP partners deliver expertise across eight critical areas including community engagement, evaluation, grant writing, marketing and communications, partnership development, program development, and sustainability planning. This comprehensive support empowers community-based health initiatives to build stronger foundations, develop more effective strategies, and achieve greater impact in improving health across Wisconsin's diverse communities.



## Connecting Nonprofits with Skilled Professional Volunteers: Catchafire

AHW has partnered with Catchafire to provide critical capacity-building support to eligible community-based AHW-funded projects, local health departments, and health-focused nonprofits throughout Wisconsin by matching them with professional, skilled volunteers ready to lend their expertise in areas like marketing, IT, finance, design, fundraising, human resources, and more. Through this collaboration, organizations can post unlimited projects and access a global network of nearly 90,000 dedicated volunteers, with nonprofits typically matched within five days. The platform also offers one-hour phone consultations for quick expert advice, plus unlimited access to nonprofit coaching and professional development opportunities.

The partnership has demonstrated significant impact for Wisconsin's health-focused organizations, with AHW supporting organizational licenses statewide to help nonprofits build capacity to promote health across communities. This tailored approach ensures organizations receive expert support in the areas they need most, from data management and business systems development to technical writing and graphic design, ultimately strengthening their ability to fulfill their health improvement missions.

## AHW Catchafire Investment Impact



**1,001** hours donated in FY25



**\$215,530** in savings to AHW-supported organizations



**126** completed Catchafire projects in FY25



More than **\$1,206,238** in savings to AHW-supported organizations to date



## Advancing Health Policy through National Academy of Medicine Fellowships

In June 2025, AHW played a lead role in hosting a Wisconsin state visit of the National Academy of Medicine's (NAM's) State Health Policy Fellows. This AHW-funded program is the first nationally coordinated fellowship focused on health policy and capacity for interstate training and knowledge sharing. AHW funded the fellowship in Wisconsin for its pilot year. Medical College of Wisconsin Department of Medicine Assistant Professor Rachel Bernard, MD, MPH, FACP, was selected in August 2024 for the inaugural class of fellows and spent one year, part-time, embedded in local/county government, state legislative branches, contributing to the development and implementation of state health policies and programs. The three inaugural NAM fellows were joined by

AHW-funded NAM Fellow to Advance State Policy Youhalli B. Anaya, MD, MPH, and a number of Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellows in information-rich visits to sites in Madison and Milwaukee, where they connected with government and public health leaders from June 17-19.

Medical College of Wisconsin Department of Pediatrics Assistant Professor Kellie Snooks, DO, has been selected as the 2026 Wisconsin National Academy of Medicine (NAM) State Health Policy Fellow.



## Livestreaming Health Advancements

Since 2021, AHW has partnered with experts across the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) and host Rayna Andrews to deliver an engaging and informative monthly livestream showcasing the latest advances in biomedical research and public health improvement. Coffee Conversations with Scientists draws hundreds of live viewers and reaches thousands more through archival recordings of conversations with MCW researchers and clinicians who share their insights and experiences addressing some of Wisconsin's most pressing health challenges.

As a mother, children's book author, public health advocate, TEDx speaker, and engaged community member, Rayna approaches each month's topic—from pediatric nutrition to dementia care—with curiosity and compassion.

Through Coffee Conversations with Scientists, important health advances taking place at MCW, much of which is supported with AHW funding, reaches general audiences and health specialists seeking the latest information on important topics affecting the lives people throughout Wisconsin and beyond.



# PUBLIC STEWARDSHIP

Since 2004, AHW has been provided the extraordinary opportunity and responsibility to steward a generous financial gift on behalf of the people of Wisconsin. Today, we continue to advance our mission and purpose through effective oversight and management.

## Oversight

AHW is an entity within the Medical College of Wisconsin's (MCW's) School of Medicine. AHW's operations are led by an MCW faculty member, who also serves as a senior associate dean in the MCW School of Medicine and reports to the dean of the School of Medicine. The director provides oversight and day-to-day direction for AHW staff. Governance and oversight of AHW is provided by three entities: The MCW Consortium on Public and Community Health, the AHW Research and Education Advisory Committee, and the MCW Board of Trustees.

## MCW Consortium on Public and Community Health

The MCW Consortium on Public and Community Health (Consortium) formed in 2002 as a non-stock, nonprofit corporation whose purpose is to fulfill the obligations of the Public and Community Health Oversight and Advisory Committee as described in the March 2000 Order of the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Wisconsin. The Consortium provides oversight for AHW's investments in support of community and public health partnerships and projects and serves in an advisory capacity for investments in research and education. The Consortium conducts itself in accordance with its bylaws and Wisconsin Open Meetings and Public Records laws.



**Jesse M. Ehrenfeld, MD, MPH**  
Senior Associate Dean and Director  
Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment  
Professor, Anesthesiology  
Medical College of Wisconsin



**Joseph E. Kerschner, MD**  
Dean Emeritus, School of Medicine  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
(Stepped down from Consortium in Dec. 2024)



**Ian B.K. Martin, MD, MBA**  
Eminent Scholar, Professor with Tenure,  
System Chairman  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Interim Associate Provost and Senior  
Associate Dean  
Office of Faculty Affairs and Leadership  
Development  
Medical College of Wisconsin



**Tony Shields, MSM**  
President and CEO  
Wisconsin Philanthropy  
Network



**Dan Fleischman**  
Interim President/CEO and Vice President  
of Housing and Residential Services  
Jewish Family Services, Inc.  
(Joined Consortium in July 2025)



**Catherine Kolkmeier, MS**  
Executive Director  
La Crosse Medical Health Science Consortium



**Paula Tran, MPH**  
State Health Officer and  
Division of Public Health  
Administrator  
Wisconsin Department  
of Health Services



**John R. Raymond, Sr., MD**  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Medical College of Wisconsin



**Stephanie Harrison, MA**  
Former Chief Executive Officer  
Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association  
(Stepped down from Consortium in Dec. 2024)



**Matthew Lester, MBA, MHA, CPA**  
Executive Vice President for Finance  
and Administration  
Chief Operating Officer  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
(Joined Consortium in Jan. 2025)



**Rebecca Rice, MA (Chair)**  
Chief Executive Officer  
NorthLakes Community Clinic

## AHW Research and Education Advisory Committee

The AHW Research and Education Advisory Committee (REAC) provides oversight for AHW investments and support of MCW-led biomedical and population health research, as well as programs to enhance medical education opportunities for the health care and public health workforce.



**Ivor Benjamin, MD**

Director, Cardiovascular Center  
Professor of Medicine, Physiology, Pharmacology,  
Toxicology, Cell Biology, Surgery

Medical College of Wisconsin

(Stepped down from REAC in Feb. 2025)



**Cecilia Hillard, PhD**

Associate Dean for Research  
Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology  
Director, Neuroscience Research Center

Medical College of Wisconsin

(Stepped down from REAC in Feb. 2025)



**Jonathan Marchant, MA, PhD**

Marcus Professor and Chair, Department of Cell Biology,  
Neurobiology, and Anatomy

Medical College of Wisconsin

(Joined REAC in March 2025)



**Shelisa Dalton, MBA**

Chief Financial Officer

Medical College of Wisconsin



**Joseph E. Kerschner, MD**

Dean Emeritus, School of Medicine

Medical College of Wisconsin

(Stepped down from REAC in Dec. 2024)



**John Mantsch, PhD**

Chair and Florence Williams Professor of Pharmacology  
and Toxicology

Medical College of Wisconsin



**Jesse M. Ehrenfeld, MD, MPH (Chair)**

Senior Associate Dean and Executive Director  
Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment  
Professor, Anesthesiology

Medical College of Wisconsin



**Brian Lewis, MD, FACS**

Professor, Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

Medical College of Wisconsin

(Joined REAC in March 2025)



**Ann B. Nattinger, MD, MPH, MACP**

Senior Associate Dean for Research, School of Medicine  
Associate Provost for Research  
Professor of Medicine, Lady Riders  
Professor of Breast Cancer Research

Medical College of Wisconsin



**José Franco, MD, MPH**

Senior Associate Dean for Education School of Medicine

Medical College of Wisconsin



**Cynthia Lien, MD**

John P. Kampine Professor and Chair, Department  
of Anesthesiology

Medical College of Wisconsin

(Joined REAC in March 2025)



**Amy Prunuske, PhD**

Former Associate Professor, Department of Medical  
School Regional Campuses

Medical College of Wisconsin

(Stepped down from REAC in Feb. 2025)



# FUND MANAGEMENT

The Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin funds are invested with the Medical College of Wisconsin Endowment Funds using a diversified asset allocation strategy that includes money market funds held by external investment managers, marketable debt and equity securities, bond and equity mutual funds, commingled bond and equity funds, other equity securities, and accrued interest and dividends thereon and are reported at fair value. The investment goal for the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin funds, as approved by the Medical College of Wisconsin Board of Trustees, is to preserve the purchasing power of its investment, while providing a level of investment return and liquidity that funds its purposes within a reasonable and prudent level of risk. The Medical College of Wisconsin has a long-term investment objective for the endowment assets to earn on average a real (inflation-adjusted) annual rate of return and to provide a return for the appropriation of not less than the total annual spendable income rate under the endowment fund spending policy.

All Endowment Funds, including the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin funds, are invested in a unitized pool. Pooling of funds allows an individual participating fund to benefit from diversification and economies of scale in the investment process. Income is also unitized and allocated based on relative value on the first of the month. Realized capital gains are reinvested in the pool. The separate identity of each fund participating in the Endowment Fund pool is fully preserved, and each fund's share in the income and gains and losses of the pool is assured.

The Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin funds are segregated within the Endowment Fund. With respect to the 35% allocation of the funds for the Healthier

Wisconsin Partnership Program and the 65% allocation of the funds for the Research and Education Program, separate accounts for the endowed funds and the spendable income funds available for current and future program distribution are maintained.

Distributions are based on the MCW Endowment Fund Spending Policy. Investment earnings that are not distributed are restricted under the terms of the Grant Agreement.



## FUND MANAGEMENT

A financial audit of The Medical College of Wisconsin, Inc. Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Program was conducted by an external audit firm for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2025, and 2024.

The following pages reflect the financial position for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2025, and 2024 and the activities and changes in net assets for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025.

## ADVANCING A HEALTHIER WISCONSIN ENDOWMENT

### Statements of Financial Position

As of June 30, 2025 and 2024 (in thousands)

	2025	2024
<b>Assets</b>		
Investments, at fair value:		
Spendable income funds	\$ 69,384	\$ 64,950
Endowed funds	483,877	454,868
Total investments, at fair value	553,261	519,818
Total assets	\$553,261	\$519,818
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Liabilities		
Due to The Medical College of Wisconsin, Inc.	\$ 43	\$ 303
Total liabilities	43	303
Net assets with donor restrictions	\$553,218	\$519,515
Total liabilities and net assets	\$553,261	\$519,818

## ADVANCING A HEALTHIER WISCONSIN ENDOWMENT

### Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025 (in thousands)

	HWPP*	REP**	TOTAL
<b>Changes in net assets without donor restrictions:</b>			
Net assets with donor restrictions released from restrictions	\$ 5,948	\$ 15,446	\$ 21,394
Program Expenditures			
Faculty salaries	751	3,622	4,373
Staff salaries	678	5,289	5,967
Fringe benefits	278	1,772	2,050
Services, supplies, and other	473	4,763	5,236
Payments to community partners	3,768	-	3,768
Total expenditures	\$ 5,948	\$ 15,446	\$ 21,394
Increase (decrease) in net assets without donor restrictions	-	-	-
Change in net assets without donor restrictions	\$ 5,948	\$ 15,446	\$ 21,394
<b>Changes in net assets with donor restrictions:</b>			
Investment return	20,142	34,955	55,097
Net assets released from restrictions	(5,948)	(15,446)	(21,394)
Decrease in net assets with donor restrictions	14,194	19,509	33,703
Net assets with donor restrictions at beginning of year	\$188,851	\$330,664	\$519,515
Net assets with donor restrictions at end of year	\$203,045	\$350,173	\$553,218

\*Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program

\*\*Research and Education Program

## ADVANCING A HEALTHIER WISCONSIN

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

(in thousands)

The MCW Consortium on Public and Community Health authorized the following changes in outstanding commitments for the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin program. These outstanding commitments will be funded on a reimbursement basis and recognized as expenditures after the amounts have been expended by MCW and the community partners.

	LIFE-TO-DATE AUTHORIZED FUNDING <sup>1</sup>	LIFE-TO-DATE EXPENDITURES	OUTSTANDING COMMITMENTS
<b>Commitments</b>			
Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program	\$117,221	\$ 92,031	\$ 15,718
Research and Education Program	266,226	205,627	35,079
Support Services Provided by AHW Staff	50,927	35,198	6,983
Total	\$434,374	\$332,856	\$ 57,780

<sup>1</sup>Reflects grants awarded net of grant reductions made due to the economic recession that began in December 2007.



# HOW WE OPERATE

Funding proposals received through both the MCW Consortium on Public and Community Health (Consortium) and AHW Research and Education Advisory Committee (REAC) follow standard request for application (RFA) and review processes. However, the process varies for each funding mechanism, right-sizing applicant requirements to align with the amount of funds being requested.

## MCW-Led Project (REP) Application and Review Procedures

The AHW Research and Education Program (REP) funds are distributed through the following processes:

**REAC-Initiated Investment** – REAC-initiated proposals are received upon invitation. AHW's scientific advisors and AHW staff work with applicants to ensure the proposal's alignment with AHW's mission and vision through a multi-level process that includes the submission of a letter of intent and full proposal. All submissions are screened by AHW staff to determine that all eligibility, content, and submission requirements are fulfilled, then are reviewed by the REAC for scientific merit and alignment with the AHW Five-Year Plan. REAC-approved awards are advanced to the MCW Board of Trustees for final funding determination. All full proposals are also reviewed under AHW's supplanting requirements through the MCW controller's office prior to award commencement.

**MCW-Led Momentum Grant** – Proposals received through this competitive funding opportunity follow a two-stage submission process involving review by AHW staff for technical requirements, including, but not limited to, eligibility criteria and adherence to the guidelines and restrictions at each stage. Merit reviews were conducted by MCW faculty for all letter of intent applications that passed technical review and by MCW faculty, external (non-MCW) faculty reviewers recommended by the applicants, and statisticians for all invited full proposal applications that passed technical review. Following merit review, the REAC reviewed the recommendations from the merit reviewers and approved a slate of letters of intent to invite to submit full proposals and a slate of full proposals to be advanced to the MCW Board of Trustees for approval. All full proposals were also reviewed under AHW's supplanting requirements through the MCW controller's office prior to award commencement.

**MCW-Led Seed Grant** – Proposals received through this competitive funding opportunity followed a one-stage submission process involving review by AHW staff for technical requirements, including, but not limited to, eligibility criteria and adherence to the guidelines and restrictions. Peer reviews were conducted by other applicants who applied to this funding opportunity for all applications that passed technical review along with review by AHW's scientific advisors for alignment with AHW's mission. Following peer review, the REAC reviewed the recommendations from the peer reviewers and approved a slate of proposals to be advanced to the MCW Board of Trustees for approval. All full proposals were also reviewed under AHW's supplanting requirements through the MCW controller's office prior to award commencement.

**Post-Doctoral Researcher Seed Grant** – Proposals received through this competitive funding opportunity followed a one-stage submission process involving review by AHW staff for technical requirements, including, but not limited to, eligibility criteria and adherence to the guidelines and restrictions. Merit reviews were conducted by a review body consisting of MCW faculty. Following merit review, the REAC reviewed the recommendations from the merit reviewers and approved a slate of proposals to be advanced to the MCW Board of Trustees for approval. All full proposals were also reviewed under AHW's supplanting requirements through the MCW controller's office prior to award commencement.

**MCW-Led Learning Event Support** – AHW's MCW-Led Learning Event Support awards are distributed in adherence with the resource allocation and review process approved by the REAC. These smaller, rolling funding awards follow a review process that includes submission of a written application that undergoes AHW staff review and supplanting review prior to funding determination by AHW leadership.

## Community-Led Project (HWPP) Application and Review Procedures

**Health Workforce Well-Being Grant** – Proposals received through this competitive funding opportunity followed a one-stage submission process involving review by AHW staff for technical requirements, including, but not limited to, eligibility criteria and adherence to the guidelines and restrictions. The Consortium on Public and Community Health reviewed the submitted proposals and approved a slate of full proposals to be advanced to the MCW Board of Trustees for approval. All full proposals were also reviewed under AHW's supplanting requirements through the MCW controller's office prior to award commencement.


**Community-Led Momentum Grant** – Proposals received through this competitive funding opportunity followed a two-stage submission process involving review by AHW staff for technical requirements, including, but not limited to, eligibility criteria and adherence to the guidelines and restrictions at each stage. Merit reviews were conducted by Wisconsin-based community leaders and MCW employees for all letter of intent applications and invited full proposal applications that passed technical review. Following merit review, the

Consortium on Public and Community Health reviewed the recommendations from the merit reviewers and approved a slate of letters of intent to invite to submit full proposals and a slate of full proposals to be advanced to the MCW Board of Trustees for approval. All full proposals were also reviewed under AHW's supplanting requirements through the MCW controller's office prior to award commencement.

**Community-Led Seed Grant** – Proposals received through this competitive funding opportunity followed a one-stage submission process wherein eligible Wisconsin-based community organizations applied separately from interested MCW academic partners. AHW staff reviewed all applications for technical requirements, including, but not limited to, eligibility criteria and adherence to the guidelines and restrictions. Peer reviews were conducted for the community organization applications by other applicants who applied to this funding opportunity for all applications that passed technical review. A merit review panel consisting of Wisconsin-based leaders reviewed MCW academic partner applications and conducted interviews with applicants to ensure







alignment with AHW's mission. Following review, the Consortium on Public and Community Health reviewed the recommendations from the review process and approved a slate of community-based proposals and eligible MCW academic partners to be matched based on aligned interests and expertise. The resulting proposals advanced to the MCW Board of Trustees for approval. All full proposals were also reviewed under AHW's supplanting requirements through the MCW controller's office prior to award commencement.

**Community-Led Learning Event Support** – AHW's Community-Led Learning Event Support awards are distributed in adherence with the resource allocation and review process approved by the MCW Consortium on Public and Community Health. These smaller, rolling funding awards follow a review process that includes submission of a written application that undergoes AHW staff review and supplanting review prior to funding determination by AHW leadership.

## AHW Supplanting Policy

As determined by the Order of the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Wisconsin, AHW funds may not be used to supplant funds or resources available from other sources. As such, AHW, via the MCW controller's office, conducts a review of all AHW funding awards for determination of non-supplanting in accordance with procedures approved by the Order.

## Evaluation of Programs and Projects Funded

Throughout the year, AHW evaluates the progress and outcomes of funded projects using regular interim and final reports as well as financial status reports and/or presentations, site visits, meetings, or subrecipient audits. Multi-year awards are reviewed for progress annually by the appropriate AHW oversight body.

Project updates and outcomes are posted on our funded project listing at [ahwendowment.org/fundedprojects](http://ahwendowment.org/fundedprojects).



# OUR TEAM

## LEADERSHIP



**Jesse M. Ehrenfeld, MD, MPH**

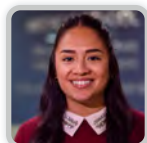
Senior Associate Dean and Executive Director  
Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment  
Professor, Anesthesiology  
Medical College of Wisconsin



**Ugwuji N. Maduekwe, MD, MMSc, MPH**

Associate Dean and Deputy Director  
Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment  
Associate Professor, Surgery  
Medical College of Wisconsin

## STAFF



**Lupita Ayala**

Administrative Assistant, Sr.



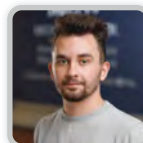
**Julia Enright**

Grant Compliance Coordinator



**Kristl Klewein**

Administrative Associate



**Michael Plewa**

Digital Media Specialist



**Scott Terhune, PhD**

AHW Scientific Advisor  
for Basic Science



**Kate Beadle**

Grant Compliance Coordinator



**Amanda Fraser**

Program Manager



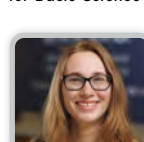
**Autumn Kowalczyk, MBA**

Compliance Business Manager



**Chris Renaud**

Application Systems Analyst



**Madison Van Allen**

Business Analyst



**Kaylee Beck**

Program Coordinator



**Monica Grimm**

Program Coordinator



**Kelly Lietz, MA**

Communications Director



**Kanoe Riedel, MA**

Communications Consultant



**Tracy Wilson, MPH**

Program Manager



**Andrés Daryanani, MD**

Postdoctoral Research Fellow



**Amy Homel, MS**

AHW Administrator



**Ned Littlefield, PhD**

Senior Evaluator



**Abby Sokol-Roberts**

Salesforce Administrator



**Christina Ellis, MS**

Program Director -  
Strategic Investments



**Amber Jacoby**

Program Coordinator



**Liliana Pezzin, PhD, JD**

AHW Scientific Consultant for  
Clinical/Population Science



**Amy Sordahl**

Program Coordinator

# AHW INTERNSHIPS

AHW's commitment to building the health workforce Wisconsin needs includes exposing young learners to the wide-ranging career opportunities available to them through community-focused paid internships.

In fiscal year 2025, AHW continued its partnership with the Milwaukee Area Health Education Center (MAHEC), sponsoring two Community Health Internship Program (CHIP) students for a third consecutive year. After completing the CHIP program in July 2024, Ramla Bajabar and Julia Jakusz continued providing valuable service to multiple AHW units as interns for another year, while continuing their studies.

Whether they stay on with AHW or pursue their health-focused career aspirations elsewhere, AHW is proud to play a part in the personal and professional development of the interns who share their knowledge and skills with us.



## May 2024 – July 2024 MAHEC CHIP Partnership Interns



**Ramla Bajabar**  
University of Wisconsin-Parkside



**Julia Jakusz**  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

## May 2025 – July 2025 MAHEC CHIP Partnership Interns



**Conor Lezama**  
University of Wisconsin-Parkside



**Sophia Taavao**  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

“My AHW internship has been a **rewarding opportunity to gain insights into the world of health philanthropy**. Members of the AHW team have proven to be **adaptable and committed stewards** throughout the duration of my internship. As a lifelong Wisconsinite, it makes me proud to have briefly been a part of a team that **supports such important work** in Wisconsin's health landscape.”

*Sophia Taavao - AHW 2025 Intern*





**AW** ADVANCING A HEALTHIER  
WISCONSIN ENDOWMENT

## **Advancing A Healthier Wisconsin Endowment Medical College of Wisconsin**

8701 Watertown Plank Road | Milwaukee, WI 53226

(414) 955-4350 | [ahw@mcw.edu](mailto:ahw@mcw.edu) | [ahwendowment.org](http://ahwendowment.org)

