



— SINCE 2004

Everyone Living Longer, Better.

HMC creates a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) in partnership with community members and organizations based on local data and health priorities selected by the community.

2025 Progress Report

Key Themes for 2023-2027



Navigation & Access to Services



Building a Healthy Community



Youth Well-Being

Where we are in the Timeline

- ✓ **2022**
Collect community data, talk to key stakeholders, get feedback from community
- ✓ **2023**
Set goals, create framework for 5 year plan, get feedback from community
- ✓ **2024**
Convene action based groups to start working on newly developed plan
- ✓ **2025**
Continue to work on plan
- **2026**
Continue to work on plan
- **2027**
Wrap up and evaluate work, collect new community data

Working with the Community

HMC consists of community members & organizations who work in action based teams. These teams have two co-chairs ensuring progress of goals. These teams are supported by an Advisory Council of community agencies representing a diverse voice in the community.

The Manitowoc County Health Department serves as the backbone structure of HMC providing staff support to achieve HMC goals.

75+ Involved Organizations



Public Health Vending Machine (PHVM)

Helped get Manitowoc County's first Public Health Vending Machine (PHVM) off the ground. The PHVM is a powerful, **community-driven response to the opioid crisis** offering free, 24/7 access to life-saving supplies like Narcan® (naloxone) and fentanyl test strips. Owned and managed by NEWAHEC, this resource was funded through a local grant to help remove barriers of cost, stigma, and access empowering individuals to make safer choices and potentially save lives.

[Learn more](#)



2025 HIGHLIGHTS



April-Dec 2025

323
Narcan Kits Distributed

111
Fentanyl test strips distributed

Providing support to Families

Reach Out & Read (ROR)

Continued to **distribute books** to ROR clinic partners and at various community events including trunk or treat and the community baby shower.

120
Books Distributed at the Community Baby Shower

Welcome Baby

Promoted HMC Welcome Baby's website with parent resources. Continued to **work with hospitals** for referrals for a Welcome Baby visit.

151
Visits made

78
Referrals to programs

37%
First time parents

Parent Cafes

Hosted cafe's allowing parents to talk, learn, and connect in order to **build strong families**. Dinner and childcare provided at parent cafes.

9
Cafes held

35
Families attended

Developmental Screens

Assured developmental screening was available to children as a way to **detect developmental progress** and early intervention.

2
Events hosted

20
Children screened

Educating & Advocating for a Healthy Community



Narcan Saves Lives

Professional videos featuring local stories of lives saved by Narcan were produced and released to reduce stigma, increase awareness, and encourage community use.

Billboards were created in partnership with the Health Department to reduce stigma around Narcan and promote the life saving medication.

[Watch the Video](#)



Hunger in Manitowoc

Actively participated in the Hunger Coalition of Manitowoc County.

Co-presented with other Hunger Coalition members on Current State of Hunger to the Manitowoc Two Rivers Lion's Club resulting in a monetary donation benefiting local pantries.

[Food Information](#)



Bike Friendly Community (BFC)

Convened officials & partners to discuss how BFCs promote safer biking infrastructure & active transport, enhances tourism, and improves quality of life.

While no commitment was made to apply for designation, a step toward shared understanding around bike safety and transport access was a win.

[Learn About BFC](#)

Systems Navigation Panel Series

The HMC Access Navigation team started a Breaking Barriers series aimed to convene local experts and individuals with lived experience. The goal is to rebuild empathy, explore barriers to navigating local systems, and foster networking for service providers.

41 attendees

Substance Use Panel



52 attendees

Mental Health Panel



Community Baby Shower

The community baby shower celebrates and serves new and expecting and families with young children by **providing education, support, new/unused baby supplies, and resources** to help give a strong start to parenthood.

Attendees were entered into a raffle to take home prizes donated by organizations and community members.

[Learn more](#)



- 77**
Families attended
- 240**
Individuals attended
- 29**
Resources & Offerings
- 10**
Communities reached

Wellness Club Membership Benefits

Prepared and distributed information explaining how **Medicare recipients can use wellness benefits** offered by certain plans, including available programs and application steps. Information was shared with long-term care facilities, Senior Centers, and 6 Community Groups, including ADRC.



Walk, Bike and Roll to School

Promoted Walk and Roll to School Day, shared resources including a planning toolkit, raised awareness to ensure pedestrian safety, and gave out incentives provided by local partners including donations from the YMCA and Froedtert Holy Family.

Roncalli Elementary received the **newly created Golden Sneaker Award** in recognition of their strong engagement and community engagement.



5 schools participated



100+ students walked



80 YMCA passes given as incentives



100 bike reflectors given as incentives



Fit in the Park

Supported Froedtert Holy Family Memorial’s **free summer exercise series, Fit in the Park**, for the third year. These classes allow community members to **connect with others and explore new exercises** with no financial commitment. Chronic disease education is incorporated into some of the classes.

[Learn more](#)

6
Classes

55
Attendees



152
Households Attended

213
Pounds Collected

Accidental Overdose Prevention

Drug Take Back Day

Partnered with Froedtert Holy Family Memorial, law enforcement and the Recycling Center to **collect unused or expired medications** and provide information during a Spring Drug Takeback event.

Free Lockable Boxes & Bags

Provided community members and organizations with **free medication storage and disposal resources**. Promoted permanent drop box location by distributing locations and instructions on a fridge magnet.

317
Lockboxes/bags

132
Lockable pill containers

500
Med disposal pouches

Funding the Work

Fundraiser

Held **annual brat fry** in partnership with the Lester Public Library to raise money for developmental screening events and extra books for ROR.

\$1,900
raised

Local Community Grant

Received funding from the **Froedtert Holy Family Memorial Hospital Community Grant Program** to support lived experience panels, storytelling training and scholarship for a navigation certificate program.

Aug 2025- July 2026

\$5,000
awarded

Event Sponsorship

Received funding from **6 local businesses and organizations** to sponsor the annual community baby shower.

\$2,600
donated

State Grant

Awarded a **State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant** to help address opioid use disorder by providing resources and supporting prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery support services.

Oct 2024- Sept 2025

\$13,930
granted

Supporting Food Access to Reduce Youth Mental Health

Received funding based on local data and logic models showing the connection between food insecurity, youth mental health, and substance use-related risk factors. Funds received provided **monetary support to local programs** in partnership with Grow It Forward.

\$250

Pilot **pop up Farmers Market** at Jefferson Elementary including Kids Bucks to empower youth to buy fresh produce

\$250

Youth Gardening Activity at Grow it Forward with elementary students

\$500

Support Grow It Forward's **Weekend Backpack Program** providing 400+ weekend meals for food-insecure children

\$900

Sponsor **6 grow tower kits** in schools providing hands on involvement growing fresh lettuce

\$500

Fresh fruits & veggies for **summer meals** at MPSD and TRSD (\$250 each)

\$150

Fresh food for youth resource events

\$1,000

Local **family meals** support: The Port, Hope House, InCourage, Boys & Girls Club (\$250 each)



Future Work Highlights

1

Sports Equipment Drive

Collecting gently used or new equipment to decrease barriers for youth and adults to play and be active.

2

Additional Breaking Barrier Panels

Continuing the lived experience panels to reach additional systems. Exploring the housing system is planned for February of 2026.

3

Navigation Certificate Program

Continue implementation of a navigator curriculum program piloted in Sheboygan in 2024. Work is already underway with hopes of completing the planning by Fall of 2026.

4

Storyteller Training

Bring a workshop to Manitowoc for individuals with lived experience to build skills in telling their stories, connecting with audiences, and confidence in public speaking.

5

Positive Culture Shift Campaign

Create a campaign focused on encouraging moderation or non-alcoholic options at local businesses or festivals. Raise awareness that not everyone binge drinks.

Get Involved & Stay Connected

HMC Action Teams are open to anyone who wants to help make small steps towards group goals in order to build a healthier community.

Contact us to learn when groups meet and how to get involved. Community members are also invited to provide feedback on current and future work.

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📘 HealthiestMC

We thank the community and our partners for the continued support in achieving our vision

