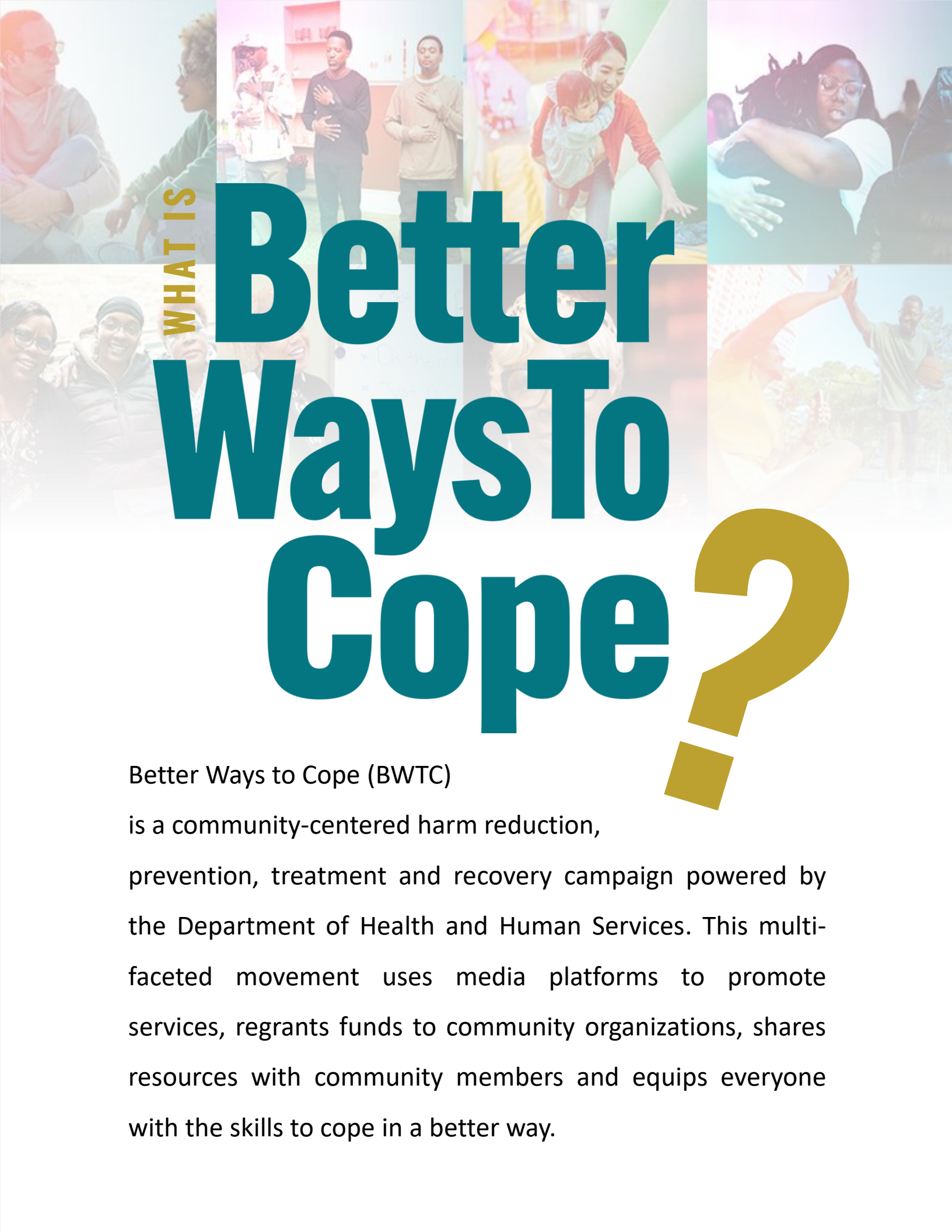




MILWAUKEE COUNTY
**DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & HUMAN
SERVICES**

Better Ways to Cope

**2026 Regranting Cohort
Overview Document**



WHAT IS

Better Ways To Cope?

Better Ways to Cope (BWTC)

is a community-centered harm reduction, prevention, treatment and recovery campaign powered by the Department of Health and Human Services. This multifaceted movement uses media platforms to promote services, regrants funds to community organizations, shares resources with community members and equips everyone with the skills to cope in a better way.

FOUR Better Ways To Cope

FUNDING PRIORITIES

CREATE

TANGIBLE RESULTS

Concrete achievements are anchored in measurable results. We seek to support projects that promise discernible, substantial outcomes—those where the impact is not just anticipated but can be demonstrated and evaluated

COMMIT

TO WHAT'S PROVEN

We champion strategies, programs and approaches that have proven effective in reducing overdoses and preventing or addressing addiction. We aim to duplicate such efforts when necessary and also to leverage them to create additional strategies, programs and approaches.

INSPIRE

ACTION

A compelling initiative transcends beyond filling a gap—it ignites a movement. We are searching for proposals that tackle critical issues and mobilize community members to take action. A successful project will catalyze change, sparking widespread participation and engagement, thereby forging a collective force for good

BE

INNOVATIVE

Innovation is an important element of sustainable change. We encourage you to approach conventional challenges with an inventive mindset. Your proposal should present bold strategies or methodologies that offer fresh solutions to old problems, potentially establishing new benchmarks in preventative measures, harm reduction, treatment protocols, and recovery support systems.

FOUR Better Ways To Cope **COMPONENTS**



MEDIA

We use social and mass media platforms to promote services, engage the community, and educate residents across Milwaukee County. Connect with us on Facebook, join our newsletter, and subscribe to our YouTube channel playlist.



COMMUNITY

We are proud to regrant funds to community organizations across Milwaukee County. We support local influencers, community leaders, and service providers with helping Milwaukee County residents finding better ways to cope.



RESOURCES

We promote health and wellness resources to share with community members and organizations. Each organization, expert, program and website has a proven track record of providing quality services.



TRAINING

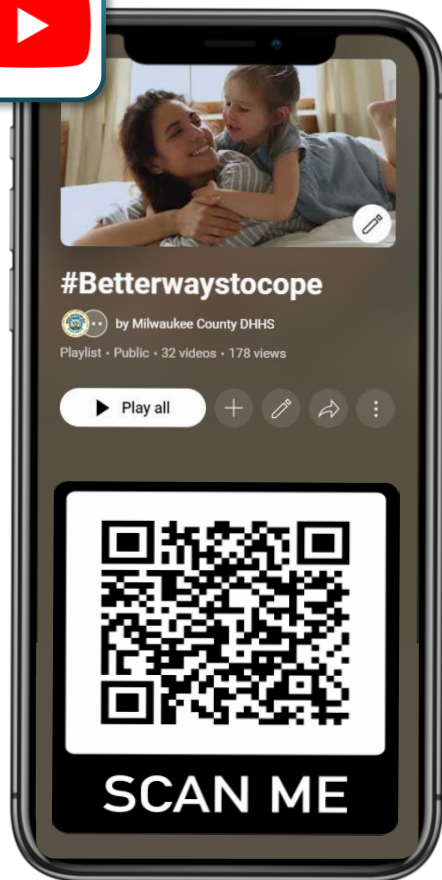
We partner with local and national experts to educate on non traditional healing practices and evidence based professional health services via online and in-person training.



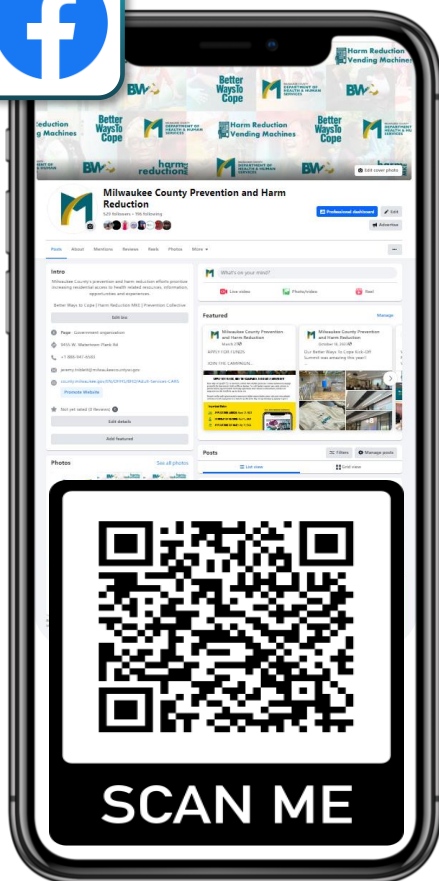
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Milwaukee County DHHS



Milwaukee County Prevention and Harm Reduction



Better Ways to Cope.org





RESOURCES

We promote health and wellness resources to share with community members and organizations. Each organization, expert, program and website has a proven track record of providing quality services.



MKE COUNTY DHHS
Find resources and services that meet your needs.

[SERVICE LIST](#)



HEALTHY MKE
Find mental health and substance use care resources.

[WEBSITE](#)



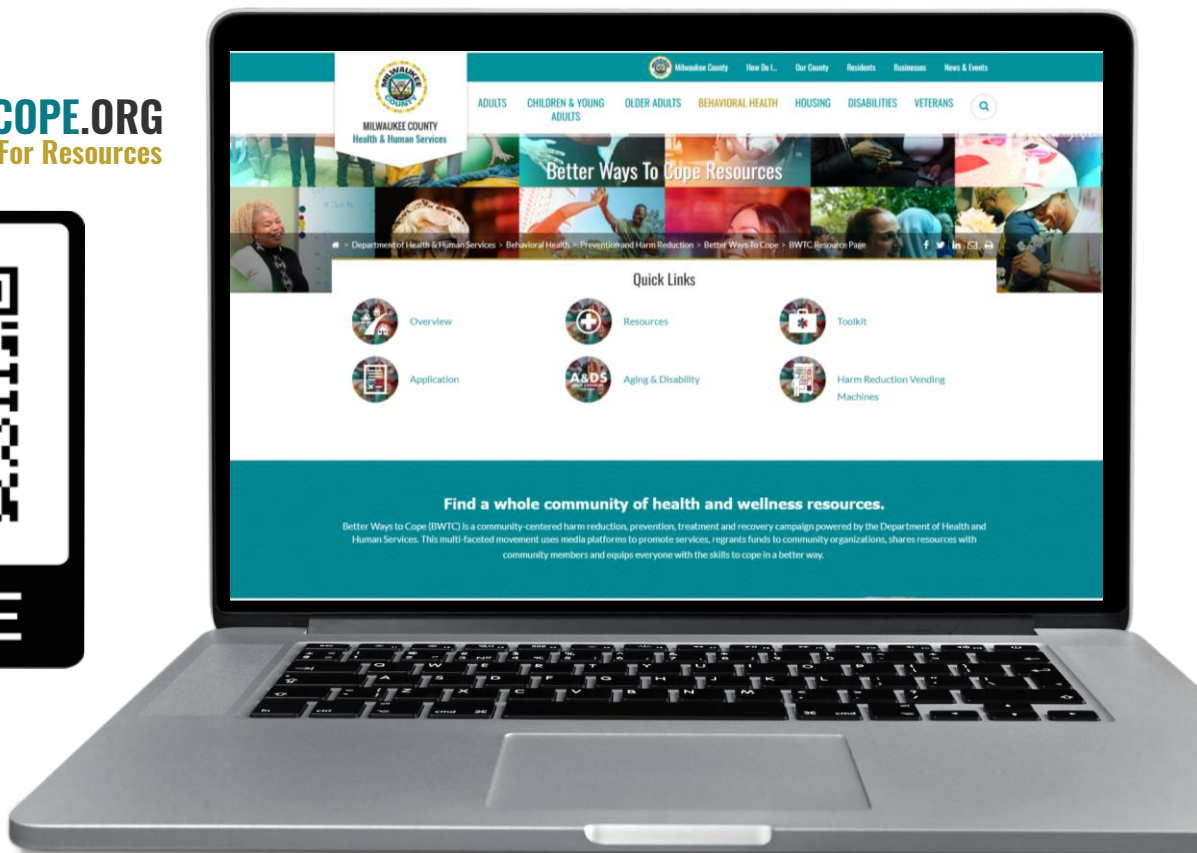
MILWAUKEE COUNTY CRISIS LINE
For anyone experiencing a behavioral health crisis line.

414-257-7222

Go To
WWW.BETTERWAYSTOCOPE.ORG
For Resources



SCAN ME



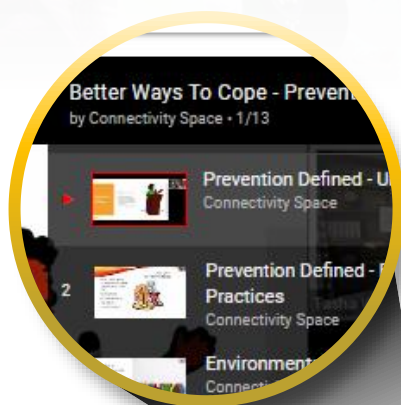


TRAINING

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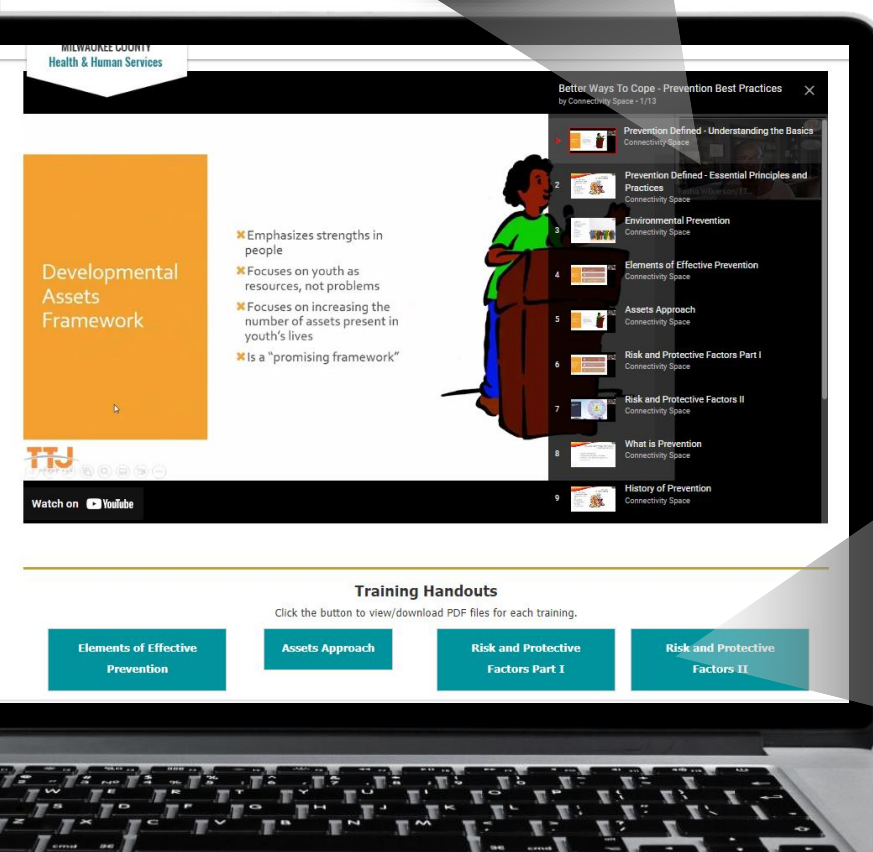
WATCH TRAINING PLAYLIST

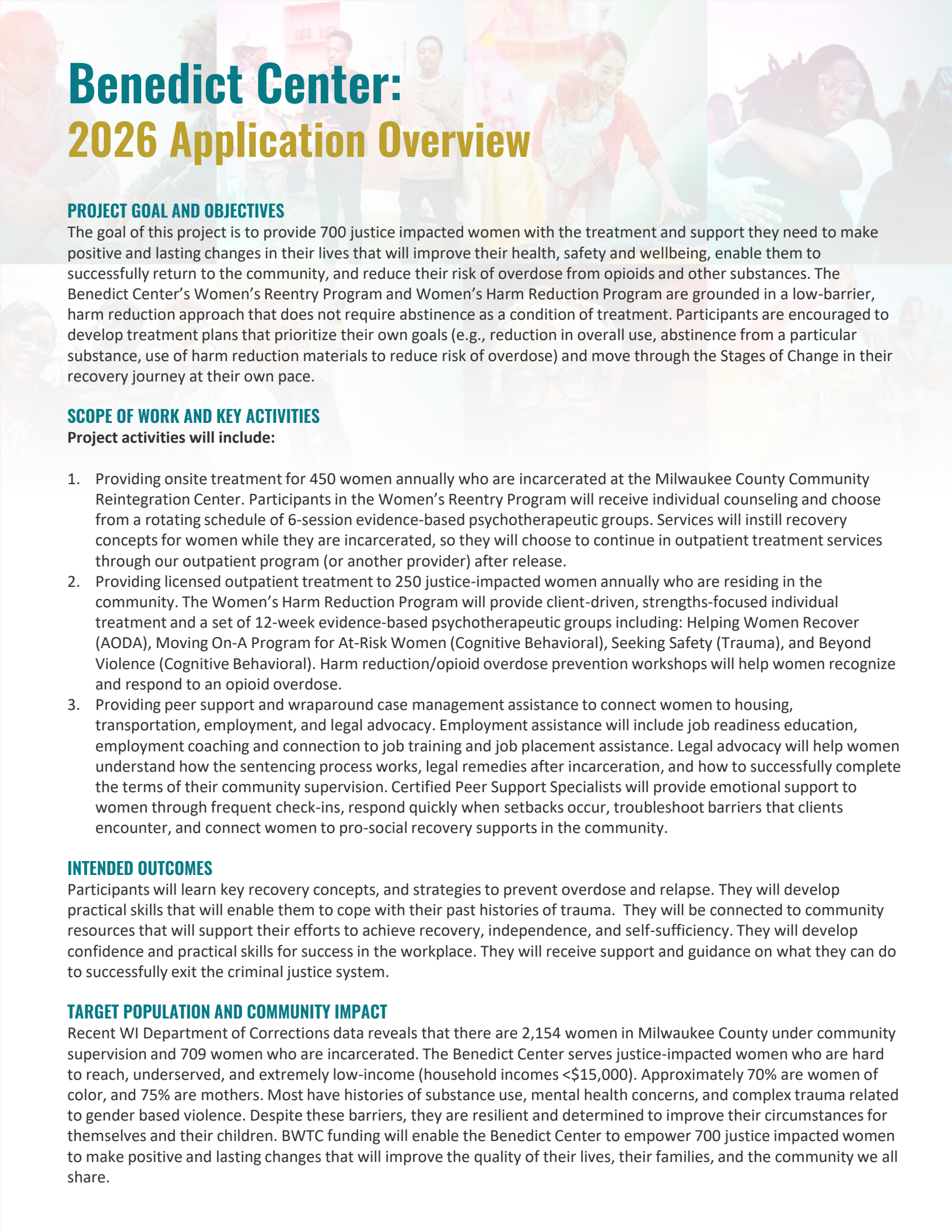
Watch the training videos. Click on the playlist icon in the upper right-hand corner for additional training videos to be revealed.



DOWNLOAD TRAINING HANDOUTS

Download the handouts for each video. Answer the discussion questions and follow the action steps.





Benedict Center: 2026 Application Overview

PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of this project is to provide 700 justice impacted women with the treatment and support they need to make positive and lasting changes in their lives that will improve their health, safety and wellbeing, enable them to successfully return to the community, and reduce their risk of overdose from opioids and other substances. The Benedict Center's Women's Reentry Program and Women's Harm Reduction Program are grounded in a low-barrier, harm reduction approach that does not require abstinence as a condition of treatment. Participants are encouraged to develop treatment plans that prioritize their own goals (e.g., reduction in overall use, abstinence from a particular substance, use of harm reduction materials to reduce risk of overdose) and move through the Stages of Change in their recovery journey at their own pace.

SCOPE OF WORK AND KEY ACTIVITIES

Project activities will include:

1. Providing onsite treatment for 450 women annually who are incarcerated at the Milwaukee County Community Reintegration Center. Participants in the Women's Reentry Program will receive individual counseling and choose from a rotating schedule of 6-session evidence-based psychotherapeutic groups. Services will instill recovery concepts for women while they are incarcerated, so they will choose to continue in outpatient treatment services through our outpatient program (or another provider) after release.
2. Providing licensed outpatient treatment to 250 justice-impacted women annually who are residing in the community. The Women's Harm Reduction Program will provide client-driven, strengths-focused individual treatment and a set of 12-week evidence-based psychotherapeutic groups including: Helping Women Recover (AODA), Moving On-A Program for At-Risk Women (Cognitive Behavioral), Seeking Safety (Trauma), and Beyond Violence (Cognitive Behavioral). Harm reduction/opioid overdose prevention workshops will help women recognize and respond to an opioid overdose.
3. Providing peer support and wraparound case management assistance to connect women to housing, transportation, employment, and legal advocacy. Employment assistance will include job readiness education, employment coaching and connection to job training and job placement assistance. Legal advocacy will help women understand how the sentencing process works, legal remedies after incarceration, and how to successfully complete the terms of their community supervision. Certified Peer Support Specialists will provide emotional support to women through frequent check-ins, respond quickly when setbacks occur, troubleshoot barriers that clients encounter, and connect women to pro-social recovery supports in the community.

INTENDED OUTCOMES

Participants will learn key recovery concepts, and strategies to prevent overdose and relapse. They will develop practical skills that will enable them to cope with their past histories of trauma. They will be connected to community resources that will support their efforts to achieve recovery, independence, and self-sufficiency. They will develop confidence and practical skills for success in the workplace. They will receive support and guidance on what they can do to successfully exit the criminal justice system.

TARGET POPULATION AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

Recent WI Department of Corrections data reveals that there are 2,154 women in Milwaukee County under community supervision and 709 women who are incarcerated. The Benedict Center serves justice-impacted women who are hard to reach, underserved, and extremely low-income (household incomes <\$15,000). Approximately 70% are women of color, and 75% are mothers. Most have histories of substance use, mental health concerns, and complex trauma related to gender based violence. Despite these barriers, they are resilient and determined to improve their circumstances for themselves and their children. BWTC funding will enable the Benedict Center to empower 700 justice impacted women to make positive and lasting changes that will improve the quality of their lives, their families, and the community we all share.



Community Center for Immigrants (CCI): 2026 Application Overview

PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES:

Community Center for Immigrants (CCI) will improve opioid prevention and medication safety among refugee and immigrant adults in Milwaukee County by providing culturally and linguistically appropriate education during the critical period after prescription medications are issued. The project addresses barriers related to limited English proficiency, low health literacy, trauma, and limited familiarity with the U.S. healthcare system, helping participants safely manage prescription medications and reduce the risk of opioid misuse.

SCOPE OF WORK AND KEY ACTIVITIES:

Over the 24-month project, CCI will:

- Reach approximately 1,000 refugee and immigrant adults through opioid risk screening, medication safety education, and targeted support to prevent unsafe opioid use
- Increase participants' understanding of safe medication use, opioid risks, counterfeit fentanyl-containing pills, and appropriate follow-up care.
- Improve participants' confidence communicating with healthcare providers about medications and pain management.
- Provide individualized education and referral support to 40–50 participants identified as having elevated opioid-related risk or difficulty managing prescription medications.
- Develop sustainable multilingual prevention resources that can be shared with refugee-serving organizations across Milwaukee County.

INTENDED OUTCOMES:

CCI will integrate opioid prevention into existing refugee education and support programs by:

- Conducting opioid risk screenings through ESL classes, immigration legal services, healthcare navigation, and community outreach.
- Providing medication safety and opioid prevention education in trusted community settings using low-literacy teaching methods.
- Developing 4-6 multilingual ESL lesson plans and 2-3 educational videos in Rohingya, Burmese, Karen, and Swahili.
- Hosting six community education sessions in partnership with the Burmese Rohingya Community of Wisconsin (BRCW).
- Using teach-back methods and follow-up support to reinforce safe medication practices.
- Connecting participants with specialized substance use prevention and treatment resources when additional support is needed.

TARGET POPULATION AND COMMUNITY IMPACT:

The program serves refugee and immigrant adults living primarily in Milwaukee County neighborhoods with large refugee populations, including individuals from Burma (Rohingya, Karen, Chin, and Karenni), the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, and Afghanistan. Many participants live below the federal poverty level, have limited formal education, and face significant language and health literacy barriers.

By delivering prevention education through trusted community organizations and in participants' primary languages, CCI will reduce barriers to healthcare communication, improve medication safety, strengthen connections to healthcare providers, and expand access to opioid prevention resources for communities that have historically been underserved by traditional prevention efforts. The project will also create culturally responsive educational materials that can benefit refugee-serving organizations throughout Milwaukee County beyond the grant period.

South Shore CARES Partnership

2026 Application Overview

PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The South Shore Youth Prevention Team seeks to prevent opioid misuse and substance use among youth by creating a regional, youth-led prevention infrastructure across the South Shore communities of Cudahy, Oak Creek, South Milwaukee, and St. Francis. The project aims to strengthen protective factors, elevate youth voice, and shift community norms surrounding substance use through leadership development, peer engagement, and community-based prevention strategies.

SCOPE OF WORK AND KEY ACTIVITIES

The project has five primary goals and outcomes:

1. Establish a South Shore Youth Advisory Board representing all four communities.
2. Increase youth knowledge of opioid risks, fentanyl exposure, and prevention strategies.
3. Shift youth and community norms around substance use through peer-led education and messaging.
4. Strengthen protective factors including school connectedness, healthy coping skills, and trusted adult relationships.
5. Create a sustainable youth prevention infrastructure that continues beyond the grant period.
6. Recruiting and retaining at least 25 youth leaders across the South Shore region.
7. Increasing negative attitudes toward opioid misuse and early substance use by 20%.
8. Increasing school connectedness and access to trusted adults by 5%.
9. Increasing confidence in healthy coping skills by 10%.
10. Reaching at least 5,000 youth, parents, and community members through prevention messaging and outreach activities.

SCOPE OF WORK AND KEY ACTIVITIES

The project will be implemented through the South Shore CARES partnership between the Cudahy Health Department, the Oak Creek Health Department, and the South Milwaukee/St. Francis Health Department. Activities include:

1. Recruiting youth leaders through schools, service organizations, and existing student leadership programs.
2. Providing training in opioid prevention, fentanyl awareness, healthy coping, leadership development, and community advocacy.
3. Reviewing local Youth Risk Behavior Survey and Community Health Assessment data with youth participants.
4. Supporting youth-led prevention campaigns, school awareness initiatives, and social media messaging.
5. Conducting community education events and parent engagement activities.
6. Developing mentorship opportunities and succession planning to sustain youth leadership over time.
7. Creating a South Shore Youth Prevention Toolkit to support long-term implementation and replication.

TARGET POPULATION AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

The target population is youth and adolescents living in the South Shore communities of Cudahy, Oak Creek, South Milwaukee, and St. Francis, a region of more than 86,000 residents where nearly 20% of the population is under age 18. The initiative prioritizes students experiencing risk factors such as low school connectedness, limited access to supportive adults, mental health concerns, and exposure to substance use.

By empowering young people as prevention leaders and credible messengers, the project will strengthen resilience, improve mental health and wellness, reduce risk factors associated with opioid misuse, and build a culture of healthy coping and community connectedness across the South Shore region. The long-term vision is a sustainable, youth-driven prevention movement that becomes embedded within local schools, communities, and public health systems.

A background collage of diverse people, including a woman holding a child, a group of people, and a person in a white shirt, all in a soft, faded style.

Great Lakes Dryhooch: 2026 Application Overview

PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

Reduce the impact of opioid use disorder (OUD) by providing trauma-informed, peer-led recovery services that connect Veterans and civilians through evidence-based mentoring, healing-centered curricula, and the BattlePeer platform. The project strengthens long-term recovery, expands access to treatment, and improves health outcomes across Milwaukee County.

INTENDED OUTCOMES

The project has seven primary goals and outcomes:

1. Serve approximately 100 participants (60 Veterans and 40 civilians).
2. Train 10 certified Veteran Peer Mentors.
3. Provide weekly one-on-one peer mentoring supported by BattlePeer.
4. Deliver healing-centered group sessions using The Child Speaks and The Community Speaks curricula.
5. Reduce PTSD symptoms, substance use risk, and social isolation.
6. Increase referrals and connections to treatment and community resources.
7. Develop a sustainable, replicable Veteran-civilian peer recovery model.

SCOPE OF WORK AND KEY ACTIVITIES

1. Recruit participants from Milwaukee County priority ZIP codes.
2. Recruit, train, and supervise Veteran Peer Mentors.
3. Conduct weekly peer mentoring sessions and BattlePeer check-ins.
4. Facilitate trauma-informed healing groups.
5. Conduct community healing workshops and overdose prevention events.
6. Provide warm referrals and wraparound support services.
7. Evaluate program outcomes in partnership with the Medical College of Wisconsin and Marquette University VITAL Lab.

TARGET POPULATION AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

Target Population

- Adults and families affected by opioid use disorder.
- Veterans and justice-involved individuals.
- Residents of ZIP codes 53204, 53205, 53206, 53208, and 53215.
- African American and Hispanic communities disproportionately affected by overdose.

Expected Community Impact:

- Increased recovery engagement and retention.
- Reduced overdose risk and substance use.
- Improved behavioral health and social connectedness.
- Stronger collaboration between Veterans and civilians.
- Expanded access to culturally responsive recovery services.
- A scalable peer recovery model for Wisconsin and beyond.



Street to Stability: 2026 Application Overview

PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

Street to Stability expands Inner Beauty Center's existing trauma-informed outreach and drop-in services to reduce opioid overdose deaths, promote healthier coping strategies, and connect women experiencing exploitation, human trafficking, substance use, homelessness, and instability with life-saving resources and long-term support. By meeting women where they are—both physically and emotionally—the program builds trusting relationships that serve as the foundation for healing, stability, recovery, and self-directed change.

INTENDED OUTCOMES

The initiative focuses on five primary goals:

1. Reducing overdose risk through increased access to naloxone, fentanyl test strips, and overdose prevention education.
2. Expanding relationship-based outreach that engages women who are disconnected from traditional systems of care.
3. Increasing the use of healthy coping strategies through trauma-informed support and practical wellness resources.
4. Improving access to housing, healthcare, substance use treatment, mental health services, employment, and other community resources through individualized advocacy and warm handoffs.
5. Empowering participants to move toward long-term safety, stability, and independence.

SCOPE OF WORK AND KEY ACTIVITIES

To accomplish these goals, Inner Beauty Center will strengthen and expand its current outreach model through five integrated strategies. Weekly mobile outreach will be conducted in areas where women experiencing exploitation and homelessness are most likely to be found, providing food, hygiene supplies, clothing, naloxone, fentanyl test strips, and overdose prevention education. Outreach staff will build consistent, compassionate relationships through nonjudgmental engagement, recognizing that trust is often the first step toward meaningful change. The project will also expand drop-in center services by increasing opportunities for one-on-one advocacy, peer support, healthy coping resources, and individualized case management in a safe, welcoming environment. Participants will receive assistance navigating complex systems while staff provide transportation support, warm handoffs, and ongoing advocacy to connect women with treatment programs, recovery services, mental health care, healthcare providers, housing resources, employment assistance, and other community partners. Peer mentors with lived experience will play a key role in outreach and engagement, helping reduce stigma, inspire hope, and demonstrate that recovery and stability are possible.

TARGET POPULATION

Street to Stability serves women throughout Milwaukee County who are experiencing or are at risk of commercial sexual exploitation, human trafficking, substance use disorders, homelessness, and other significant barriers that contribute to poor health outcomes and increased overdose risk. Many participants have experienced severe trauma and remain disconnected from traditional healthcare and social service systems, making relationship-based outreach essential to reaching this underserved population.

COMMUNITY IMPACT:

Success will be measured through outreach records, participant engagement, service referrals, and follow-up outcomes, with a focus on reducing overdose risk, increasing participants' confidence in healthier coping strategies, and strengthening connections to long-term care and support. Through compassionate, trauma-informed outreach, Street to Stability seeks to save lives while creating sustainable pathways from survival to healing and lasting stability.



Manna Behavioral Services

2026 Application Overview

PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

Module 1: Every 3rd Saturday, AODA Education/Mental Wellness Workshops. Module 2: Understanding Addiction and Identifying Triggers. Module 3: Trauma-Informed Coping. Module 4: Community, Fatherhood/Motherhood, and Purpose. Module 5: Building Your Recovery Network and Certificate Ceremony.

INTENDED OUTCOMES:

1. Serve approximately 220 unduplicated individuals (140 workshop participants, 100 individual counseling clients with significant overlap, 120 family members, and 80 community/family attendees at Week 4 certificate ceremonies).
2. Complete 8 Saturday workshop cycles (32 sessions, 64 program hours) with a 75% Workshop completion rate.
3. Deliver approximately 1,050 individual counseling sessions and approximately 200 family counseling sessions over 24 months.
4. Connect 70% of enrolled participants to at least one wrap-around service.
5. Document meaningful gains in relapse-prevention knowledge through pre/post workshop surveys administered at the start of Week 1 and the end of Week 6 of each cycle.

SCOPE OF WORK AND KEY ACTIVITIES

- Individual Counseling
- Group Counseling
- Community workshops
- Trauma Resilience Counseling
- Healing Circles
- Referral and Consultation Services

TARGET POPULATION AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

Through individual counseling, group therapy, community workshops, and reentry support, we empower individuals to achieve long-term healing and self-sufficiency. Our programs are designed to address the unique challenges faced by individuals affected by trauma; substance use disorders, mental health concerns, poverty, violence, and systemic inequities.

Manna Behavioral Services is committed to serving individuals and families in historically underserved communities by providing accessible, culturally responsive behavioral health and supportive services to the following populations:

- Single mothers and fathers who are rebuilding their lives.
- Individuals and families experiencing substance use disorders, mental health challenges, and unresolved trauma.
- Youth and adults who are at risk of involvement with the criminal justice system due to adverse childhood experiences, community violence, or limited access to prevention and intervention services.



Mental Health America of Wisconsin

2026 Application Overview

PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

This project is Opioid and Substance Use Prevention Program for Youth and Families. The Better Ways to Cope (BWTC) project will strengthen substance use prevention efforts for Milwaukee youth by implementing a comprehensive, school- and community-based prevention program that addresses both the risks of substance use and the underlying mental health and trauma-related factors that contribute to unhealthy coping behaviors. The program seeks to increase knowledge of opioids, fentanyl, vaping, and other substances; build social-emotional skills and healthy coping strategies; strengthen family engagement; and improve early identification and referral to behavioral health and community services. By the end of the 24-month project period, the program aims to establish a sustainable prevention framework that can continue to benefit schools and communities beyond the grant period.

SCOPE OF WORK AND KEY ACTIVITIES

Mental Health America of Wisconsin (MHA) will implement a multi-tiered prevention initiative in partnership with Milwaukee Public Schools and community organizations. Key activities include:

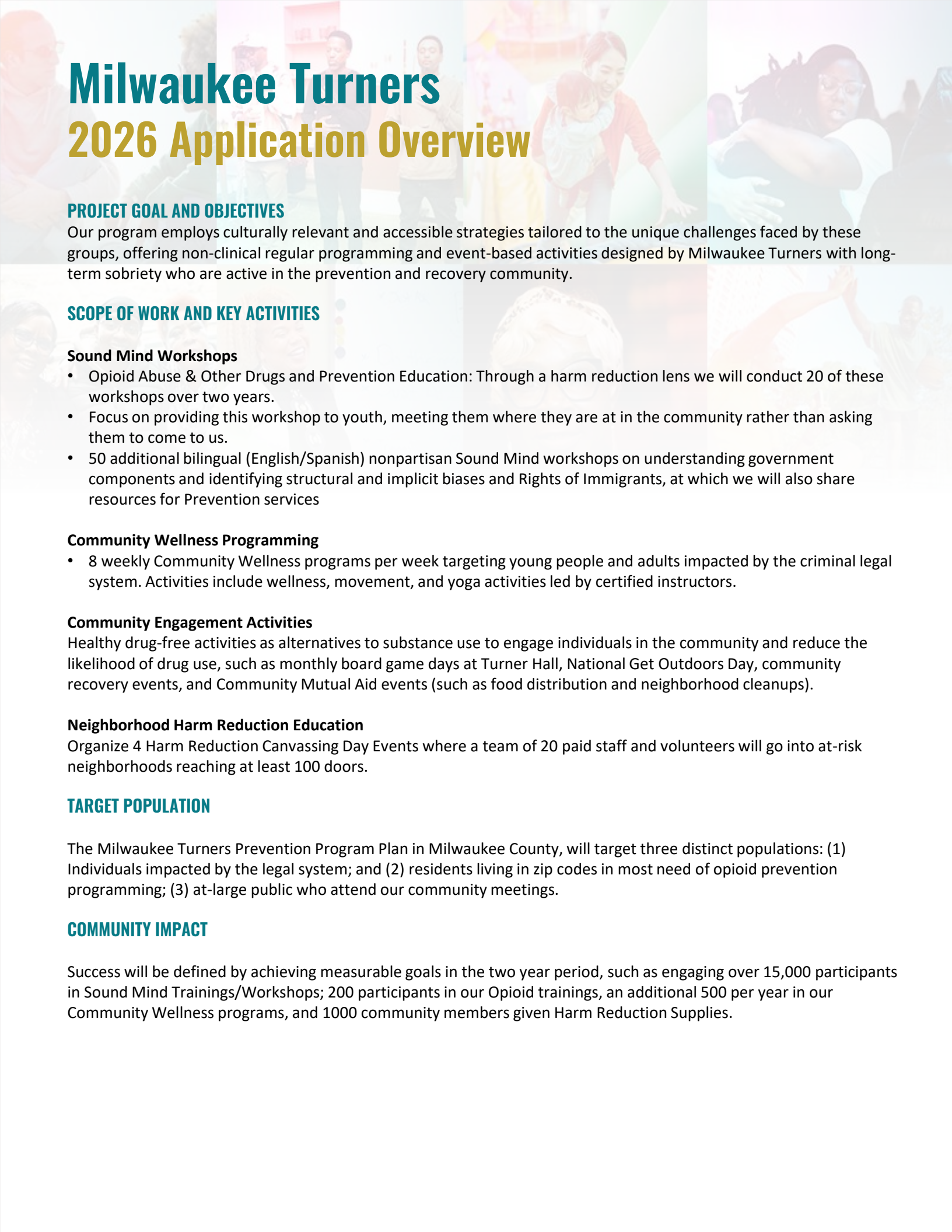
- **Youth Prevention Education:** Deliver 4–6-session classroom workshops focused on opioid, fentanyl, vaping, and polysubstance use prevention, peer pressure, trauma-informed coping, emotional regulation, and healthy decision-making.
- **Social-Emotional Learning (SEL):** Integrate skill-building activities that promote resilience, self-esteem, healthy relationships, communication, stress management, and emotional wellness.
- **Family Education and Engagement:** Provide evening workshops, PTO presentations, and community education sessions to help parents and caregivers recognize early warning signs of substance use, communicate effectively with youth, and access available resources.
- **Community Collaboration and Referral:** Strengthen partnerships with schools, healthcare providers, and community organizations to ensure students and families have timely access to behavioral health, healthcare, and supportive services when additional intervention is needed.

TARGET POPULATION

Street to Stability serves women throughout Milwaukee County who are experiencing or are at risk of commercial sexual exploitation, human trafficking, substance use disorders, homelessness, and other significant barriers that contribute to poor health outcomes and increased overdose risk. Many participants have experienced severe trauma and remain disconnected from traditional healthcare and social service systems, making relationship-based outreach essential to reaching this underserved population.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Success will be measured through outreach records, participant engagement, service referrals, and follow-up outcomes, with a focus on reducing overdose risk, increasing participants' confidence in healthier coping strategies, and strengthening connections to long-term care and support. Through compassionate, trauma-informed outreach, Street to Stability seeks to save lives while creating sustainable pathways from survival to healing and lasting stability.



Milwaukee Turners

2026 Application Overview

PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

Our program employs culturally relevant and accessible strategies tailored to the unique challenges faced by these groups, offering non-clinical regular programming and event-based activities designed by Milwaukee Turners with long-term sobriety who are active in the prevention and recovery community.

SCOPE OF WORK AND KEY ACTIVITIES

Sound Mind Workshops

- Opioid Abuse & Other Drugs and Prevention Education: Through a harm reduction lens we will conduct 20 of these workshops over two years.
- Focus on providing this workshop to youth, meeting them where they are at in the community rather than asking them to come to us.
- 50 additional bilingual (English/Spanish) nonpartisan Sound Mind workshops on understanding government components and identifying structural and implicit biases and Rights of Immigrants, at which we will also share resources for Prevention services

Community Wellness Programming

- 8 weekly Community Wellness programs per week targeting young people and adults impacted by the criminal legal system. Activities include wellness, movement, and yoga activities led by certified instructors.

Community Engagement Activities

Healthy drug-free activities as alternatives to substance use to engage individuals in the community and reduce the likelihood of drug use, such as monthly board game days at Turner Hall, National Get Outdoors Day, community recovery events, and Community Mutual Aid events (such as food distribution and neighborhood cleanups).

Neighborhood Harm Reduction Education

Organize 4 Harm Reduction Canvassing Day Events where a team of 20 paid staff and volunteers will go into at-risk neighborhoods reaching at least 100 doors.

TARGET POPULATION

The Milwaukee Turners Prevention Program Plan in Milwaukee County, will target three distinct populations: (1) Individuals impacted by the legal system; and (2) residents living in zip codes in most need of opioid prevention programming; (3) at-large public who attend our community meetings.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Success will be defined by achieving measurable goals in the two year period, such as engaging over 15,000 participants in Sound Mind Trainings/Workshops; 200 participants in our Opioid trainings, an additional 500 per year in our Community Wellness programs, and 1000 community members given Harm Reduction Supplies.



ProSay

2026 Application Overview

PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

ProSay's project seeks to reduce opioid overdoses, substance-related supervision violations, and unnecessary reincarceration among people who use drugs (PWUD) who are on Wisconsin Department of Corrections supervision in Milwaukee County. Through supervision-specific peer advocacy, harm reduction education, crisis intervention, and individualized planning, the program addresses the unique barriers faced by individuals on probation, parole, and extended supervision while promoting long-term stability, health, and successful community reintegration.

The project aims to achieve measurable improvements in health, stability, and community outcomes for individuals on Department of Corrections supervision in Milwaukee County. By the conclusion of the grant period, ProSay will serve participants from at least 50% of Milwaukee County zip codes, with 80% of participants reporting increased knowledge of overdose prevention and 80% reporting improved coping skills. The program seeks for 85% of participants to avoid supervision violations or revocation and 85% to maintain stable housing and employment, while 70% reduce or eliminate substance use through ongoing peer advocacy and harm reduction support. Building on ProSay's existing success, the program will strive to maintain zero participant-reported overdose events among active participants and keep the reincarceration rate at or below 15%, significantly lower than Wisconsin's reported three-year recidivism rate of approximately 30%. Together, these outcomes reflect the project's commitment to improving individual well-being, reducing justice system involvement, and creating safer, healthier communities.

SCOPE OF WORK AND KEY ACTIVITIES

The project aims to achieve measurable improvements in health, stability, and community outcomes for individuals on Department of Corrections supervision in Milwaukee County. By the conclusion of the grant period, ProSay will serve participants from at least 50% of Milwaukee County zip codes, with 80% of participants reporting increased knowledge of overdose prevention and 80% reporting improved coping skills. The program seeks for 85% of participants to avoid supervision violations or revocation and 85% to maintain stable housing and employment, while 70% reduce or eliminate substance use through ongoing peer advocacy and harm reduction support. Building on ProSay's existing success, the program will strive to maintain zero participant-reported overdose events among active participants and keep the reincarceration rate at or below 15%, significantly lower than Wisconsin's reported three-year recidivism rate of approximately 30%. Together, these outcomes reflect the project's commitment to improving individual well-being, reducing justice system involvement, and creating safer, healthier communities.

TARGET POPULATION AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

The project aims to achieve measurable improvements in health, stability, and community outcomes for individuals on Department of Corrections supervision in Milwaukee County. By the conclusion of the grant period, ProSay will serve participants from at least 50% of Milwaukee County zip codes, with 80% of participants reporting increased knowledge of overdose prevention and 80% reporting improved coping skills. The program seeks for 85% of participants to avoid supervision violations or revocation and 85% to maintain stable housing and employment, while 70% reduce or eliminate substance use through ongoing peer advocacy and harm reduction support. Building on ProSay's existing success, the program will strive to maintain zero participant-reported overdose events among active participants and keep the reincarceration rate at or below 15%, significantly lower than Wisconsin's reported three-year recidivism rate of approximately 30%. Together, these outcomes reflect the project's commitment to improving individual well-being, reducing justice system involvement, and creating safer, healthier communities.



United Community Center (UCC)

2026 Application Overview

PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

UCC's mission is to strengthen individuals, families, and the community by providing access to high-quality, culturally responsive services that promote health, well-being, and self-sufficiency. This mission is carried out daily in the Human Services department that delivers the full continuum of substance use disorder treatment. UCC operates one of the most comprehensive SUD treatment continuums in Milwaukee County, including residential treatment facilities, day treatment, and outpatient services. UCC is one of only two residential programs with a full-time Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioner/Prescriber on site.

Expand access — Serve a minimum of 120 unduplicated clients with psychiatric evaluation/medication management.

On-call crisis support — Provide evening/weekend psychiatric coverage to reduce unnecessary ER visits.

"Mind Matters" education — Deliver 22 group sessions across four residential sites.

Improve stabilization & retention — Target 60% treatment completion and 75% retention beyond 15 days through in-house prescription services, enabling timely medication management without emergency intervention.

Reduce language/cultural barriers — 100% of Spanish-speaking clients served in their preferred language.

SCOPE OF WORK AND KEY ACTIVITIES

UCC will contract a bilingual (English/Spanish) Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP), Dr. Guillermo Palacios, DNP, PMHNP-BC, to deliver integrated psychiatric services including evaluation, diagnosis, medication management, and on-call crisis support, within UCC residential SUD facilities, including evenings and weekends. The project also introduces monthly psychoeducational group sessions around mental health.

TARGET POPULATION AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

Milwaukee County residents in residential SUD treatment at UCC. Milwaukee's South Side, home to UCC's residential Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment facilities, continues to carry a disproportionate share of the county's opioid overdose burden. Fatalities in the 53204 and 53215 zip codes rose from 60 (2023) to 75 (2024), even as countywide deaths declined. A key driver of poor outcomes is the lack of after-hours psychiatric access for clients with co-occurring mental health conditions, gaps that currently force costly ER transfers, disrupt treatment, and client who face barriers in emergency settings.



COMMUNITY

We are proud to regrant funds to community organizations across Milwaukee County. We support local influencers, community leaders, and service providers with helping Milwaukee County residents finding better ways to cope.

PREVIOUSLY FUNDED AGENCIES

FUNDING CATEGORY

FUNDED AGENCY

INFORMATION DESSIMINATION

Leading the dissemination of primary prevention supplies and information across Milwaukee County.

SAMAD's House

Fresh Start

PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL

Identifying individuals exposed to multiple risk factors for substance misuse and assessing whether their behavior can be reversed through education, basic needs services, or alternative activities.

Five Point Neighborhood Association

Social Development Commission

Wisconsin Community Services

PREVENTION

Activities that work to educate and support individuals and communities to prevent the use and misuse of drugs and the development of substance use disorders.

Changing Hands Mentoring, Inc.

Community Advocates Public Policy Institute

Hmong American Friendship Association

Mental Health America of WI-Community Mental Health & Wellness Alliance

Safe and Sound



COMMUNITY

We are proud to regrant funds to community organizations across Milwaukee County. We support local influencers, community leaders, and service providers with helping Milwaukee County residents finding better ways to cope.

PREVIOUSLY FUNDED AGENCIES

FUNDING CATEGORY

FUNDED AGENCY

HARM REDUCTION

Harm reduction is an evidence-based approach that is critical to engaging with people who use drugs and equipping them with life-saving tools and information to create positive change in their lives and potentially save their lives.

Benedict Center
City of Cudahy Health Department
Samad's House
Vivent Health

TREATMENT

To change thoughts and behaviors and manage physical dependence on drugs or alcohol. There is often a need for more than one type of treatment in combination with medication and therapy.

Outreach Community Health Centers

Serenity Inns

RECOVERY

Recovery is a process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential.

Great Lakes Dry Hootch
INPOWER Solutions LLC
Manna Behavioral Health
Milwaukee Turners, Inc.



COMMUNITY

We are proud to regrant funds to community organizations across Milwaukee County. We support local influencers, community leaders, and service providers with helping Milwaukee County residents finding better ways to cope.

PREVIOUSLY FUNDED AGENCIES

FUNDING CATEGORY

FUNDED AGENCY

FATHERS

Living with a substance use disorder who have minor child(ren)

Guest House of Milwaukee

Fathers Making Progress

PREGNANT WOMEN

Living with A substance use disorder

Wisconsin Community Services

MOTHERS

Living with a substance use disorder who have minor child(ren)

Meta House

Community Advocates

Uniting Garden Homes



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PREVIOUSLY FUNDED AGENCIES

FUNDING CATEGORY

FUNDED AGENCY

COMMUNITY-BASED PROCESSES

Providing ongoing networking activities and technical assistance to community groups, coalitions, and prevention agencies.

MERA Response Team
True Skool
INPOWER Solutions LLC
Black Space

ALTERNATIVE

Investing in alternative activities and promoting them as safe place for youth and adults to have fun without drugs.

Neu - Life Community Development
All 4 Kids
Trans Center for Youth
Changing Hands

EDUCATION

Facilitating evidence-based and evidence-informed presentations across Milwaukee County.

Community Advocates Public Policy Institute
MISPIBO Fitness
Fresh Start
MACK Theatre Group
Running Rebels

NOTES





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

Better Ways to Cope

Amy Moebius – Health Prevention Coordinator
Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Services
Community Access to Recovery Services
1230 W Cherry St, Milwaukee, WI 53205
414-870-7168

Better Ways to Cope

CAMPAIGN | DHHS

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