



RACIAL EQUITY



BUDGET TOOL

2027 BUDGET CYCLE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview	3
Milwaukee County Strategic Focus Area	4
Instructions	5
Racial Equity Budget Tool Questions	6
Strategic Focus Area 1: Create Intentional Inclusion	6
Strategic Focus Area 2: Bridge the Gap	6
Strategic Focus Area 3: Invest in Equity	7

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Glossary	8
Appendix B: Frequently Asked Questions	9
Appendix C: Resources By Strategic Focus Area	14
Appendix D: Public Participation Model	15

By achieving racial equity, Milwaukee is the healthiest county in Wisconsin.

MILWAUKEE COUNTY VISION STATEMENT

Overview

Racism has been and is a public health crisis in Milwaukee County. According to the County Health Rankings, Milwaukee County has consistently been, one of the lowest-ranked counties for health in Wisconsin and, according to Federal Reserve Economic Data, Milwaukee County is one of our nation's most racially segregated areas.

According to 2019 statistics, a white person lives, on average, nearly 14 years longer than a black person and the infant mortality rate is nearly three (3) times higher for black infants compared to white infants. Race is a social construction with no biologic basis, yet racism may produce an assigned societal value based on the way a person looks that has resulted in race being a consistent predictor of a person's quality and length of life.

Racism (not race) is a leading indicator of health because it structures access to opportunity like housing, education, employment, food, safety, and care. When access to opportunity is structured unequally, health outcomes follow that pattern. Other forms of oppression (i.e., ableism, sexism, etc.) operate through similar pathways, and when they intersect with racism, the impact on health compounds.

When we examine and correct the structural barriers created by racism, such as inequitable housing policy, underinvestment in neighborhoods, food apartheid, or unequal access to capital, we are also strengthening the infrastructure that also affects women, people with disabilities, older adults, Veterans, immigrants, and others who face systemic barriers in Milwaukee County.

The Racial Equity Budget Tool (REBT) enables departments to critically assess the impacts of budget decisions. The tool is structured around Milwaukee County's strategic focus areas to help departments and decision makers be better stewards of public resources.

Milwaukee County's Racial Equity Budget Tool (REBT) is designed to:

Make intentional connections between the strategic plan and the budget.

Use racial equity as the key guiding principle for important decisions regarding investments or disinvestments.

Initiate conversations on topics related to the three-year strategic objectives among department leaders and employees.

Provide baseline data on departmental efforts to inform enterprise-wide decisions.

Milwaukee County Strategic Focus Areas

In 2019, Milwaukee County launched its first strategic plan in 20 years. This plan explicitly recognizes that racism is a public health crisis and leads with the vision that: **By achieving racial equity, Milwaukee is the healthiest county in Wisconsin.**

As part of the strategic plan, Milwaukee County leaders have committed to use a racial equity budget tool to ensure resource allocations advance the strategic focus areas and vision. The questions in this budget tool were guided by the strategic plan and were informed by best practices from other jurisdictions and the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE).

1. Create Intentional Inclusion

- Reflect the full diversity of Milwaukee County at every level of County government.
- Create and nurture an inclusive culture across the Milwaukee County government.
- Increase the number of Milwaukee County contracts awarded to minority- and women-owned business.

2. Bridge the Gap

- Determine what, where, and how we deliver services based on the resolution of health disparities.
- Break down silos across Milwaukee County government to maximize access to and quality of services offered.
- Apply a racial equity lens to all decisions.

3. Invest in Equity

- Invest “upstream” to address root causes of health disparities.
- Enhance Milwaukee County’s fiscal health and sustainability.
- Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities.

Instructions

1. Submit only one REBT per department.

The REBT should reflect an analysis of the suite of budget decisions per department. Within answers to each question, **details may be provided at the division level**, as determined appropriate. Decision points should be analyzed as part of the comprehensive effort that your department is undertaking in addressing racial equity in programs, plans, policies, and power structures. Since departments are often tasked with cutting their budgets to reflect a reduction from their previous fiscal year's budget, a REBT should also include an analysis of how proposed reductions may or may not burden Black and Brown individuals and communities.

2. Keep the focus on the analysis of departments' improvements, reductions, and overall budget.

The REBT will focus on a racial equity analysis of decisions for new policies, programs, and plans under consideration, and the department's ongoing commitment to racial equity.

3. Use demographic data to help your department determine benefits and burdens of new decisions and overall budget.

State and federally collected demographic data resources are provided in [Appendix C](#). Departments are encouraged to

use any data they collect on their service users throughout the completion of the REBT. Data from other relevant and credible sources a department may have is also acceptable.

4. REBT technical assistance information and opportunities.

If you have questions related to the 2027 REBT, please attend one of the Strategy, Budget and Performance Open Office hours and bring the questions. All persons who may be expected to assist the department director in completing the REBT will be encouraged to participate.

- If you understand the question, but have difficulty determining how to answer a question, please contact your Budget Analyst for assistance.
- The Office of Equity should only be contacted on questions related to the racial equity components (glossary, concepts, etc..) that are unclear and cannot be addressed by your Budget Analyst. Send correspondence via email to equityoffice@milwaukeecountywi.gov.



RACIAL EQUITY BUDGET TOOL

Department:

Date Submitted:

Please note: each response field below has a 2,500-character limit.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA 1: CREATE INTENTIONAL INCLUSION

1. What activities are you doing to attract and retain a diverse and inclusive workforce in your department? What are the associated costs of these activities?

Fleet Management has shifted toward an equity-centered workforce development model by intentionally hiring less-experienced candidates—many from minority backgrounds—into Assistant Mechanic positions. These employees receive hands-on training through structured mentorship with experienced lead mechanics, creating a supported pathway into skilled trades roles.

Beginning in 2025, Fleet expanded its outreach by partnering with local high schools to introduce students—particularly those in automotive programs—to career opportunities within the County. These efforts have been well-received by students and educators and help diversify the future talent pipeline.

As part of the 2027 budget, Fleet is ~~establishing-creating two part-time seasonal~~ Assistant Mechanic ~~seasonal~~ positions for high-school students enrolled in mechanic training programs. This initiative creates an equity-based apprenticeship pathway designed to reduce barriers to entry, increase representation in the trades, and build a long-term, diverse workforce for Fleet Management.

2. How do you use professional development and advancement opportunities to promote equity in your department's workforce? What resources are used to support these opportunities for professional development and advancement?

Fleet Management is committed to promoting equity by ensuring that all employees—especially those entering the trades from underrepresented backgrounds—have access to the tools, training, and mentorship needed to advance in their careers.

To reduce financial barriers that often limit advancement in the skilled trades, Fleet invests in shared shop tools at each location. This reduces out-of-pocket expenses for mechanics and assistant mechanics, many of whom are early in their careers and may not have the resources to purchase specialized equipment. Providing shared tools not only supports equity but also improves efficiency, safety, and job readiness across the department.

Fleet also uses structured mentorship as a core professional development strategy. Newer employees, particularly those from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, are paired with senior mechanics who provide hands-on training, coaching, and exposure to increasingly complex repair work. This mentorship model helps employees build confidence, develop technical skills, and prepare for advancement into higher-level mechanic positions.

Together, these investments—shared tools, hands-on training, and mentorship—create a more equitable pathway for employees to grow within Fleet Management and support long-term workforce diversity.

3. Our employees can be a great resource for innovation and knowing what is working well and what needs work. Have you engaged a diverse group of frontline employees to inform decisions about your proposed budget changes? If yes, how was input solicited, who was involved, and what were the results?

Fleet Management's budget is closely aligned with the operational needs of the user departments we support, which limits the amount of discretionary spending available for internal initiatives. Even within these constraints, Fleet recognizes that frontline employees, particularly mechanics, assistant mechanics, and shop support staff—are essential partners in identifying where targeted investments can improve equity, efficiency, and service delivery.

To ensure diverse perspectives are included, Fleet solicited input through informal shop-floor conversations, small-group discussions, and one-on-one check-ins across multiple shifts. These conversations intentionally included newer employees and staff from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, who often have firsthand insight into barriers related to tools, training, and workflow.

While Fleet's budget is largely driven by service requirements, this engagement ensured that the discretionary components of the budget directly reflect the needs and lived experiences of frontline employees.

4. Are you tracking contracts with minority and women-owned business? If yes, please share percentages of each. If no, why not?

Fleet Management currently manages one contract that includes 12% Targeted Business Enterprise (TBE) participation. This reflects the department's commitment to supporting diverse vendors whenever possible within the scope of its limited contracting authority.

All other procurement activities—such as parts purchasing, equipment acquisition, and contracted services—are handled through Countywide procurement processes, including sealed bids, Requests for Proposals (RFPs), and joint purchasing agreements. These centralized processes ensure compliance with procurement regulations, promote transparency, and incorporate the County's established mechanisms for tracking and encouraging participation from minority- and women-owned businesses.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA 2: BRIDGE THE GAP

5. How and when have service users, in diverse and inclusive communities, and other key stakeholders been engaged to inform decisions about changes in funding levels for services provided in your requested budget (who was involved, what was the forum, what were the results)?

Fleet Management's budget is closely aligned with the operational needs of the user departments we support. Because funding levels are largely determined by the specific service requirements and priorities communicated by these departments, Fleet has limited discretion in reallocating resources or independently adjusting service levels.

While Fleet does not directly engage with the broader public or service users in diverse communities, we maintain regular communication and collaboration with key departmental stakeholders throughout the budget development process. These stakeholders—such as Sheriff, Parks, Highways, and Facilities—serve diverse and inclusive communities across Milwaukee County and therefore represent the needs of those communities in their operational planning.

6. Describe ways in which demographic and economic data were used to prioritize resource distribution. (Data can include sources found in the resources section of this tool, department collected data, or any other relevant data from other sources.)

a. Please provide specific examples of data and how that influenced decision making.

b. Are there gaps in the data that need to be addressed to better understand disparities in equity?

Fleet Management does not independently allocate resources or determine funding levels. Instead, Fleet aligns its services with the operational needs of the user departments we support. Many of these departments—such as Parks, Sheriff, and Health and Human Services—use demographic and economic data to guide their service priorities. Fleet's resource distribution is therefore indirectly shaped by the data-driven decisions of these departments, which serve diverse communities across Milwaukee County.

7. a. How does your budget reflect efforts to work across departments to break down silos to maximize access to and quality of services offered?

b. How does this help us achieve the vision of achieving equity and health?

Fleet Management collaborates closely with all user departments to optimize fleet size, improve vehicle utilization, and reduce operating costs. Since Fleet's budget is directly tied to the operational needs of these departments, our work naturally breaks

down silos and supports coordinated service delivery across the County.

Through joint planning, lifecycle analysis, and ongoing operational meetings, Fleet works with departments such as Sheriff, Parks, Highways, and Facilities to ensure that vehicles and equipment are right-sized for their missions. By helping departments avoid unnecessary fleet expansion and by improving utilization of existing assets, Fleet enables them to redirect savings toward enhancing service quality and expanding public access.

These collaborative efforts ensure that Fleet's budget supports efficient, integrated operations rather than isolated decision-making within individual departments.

Right-sizing fleets and improving vehicle utilization directly support Milwaukee County's vision of achieving equity and health by:

- Maximizing resources for departments serving diverse communities
 - When departments can reinvest savings into frontline services, residents—especially those in historically underserved neighborhoods—benefit from improved access and reliability.
- Supporting uninterrupted service delivery
 - Efficient fleet management ensures that vehicles used for public safety, parks, and infrastructure remain available and dependable, reducing service gaps that disproportionately affect communities of color and low-income residents.
- Strengthening countywide coordination
 - Cross-department collaboration ensures that operational decisions are aligned with broader equity goals rather than being made in isolation.
- Promoting responsible stewardship of public funds
 - Cost savings achieved through right-sizing and improved utilization help departments invest in programs that advance community health, safety, and opportunity.

8. What are the expected benefits and potential unintended consequences to disadvantaged communities of your proposed budget changes?

- a. What analysis did you do to determine the expected benefits and potential unintended consequences?
- b. What will your department do to mitigate unintended consequences resulting from your proposed budget changes?
- c. What are the demographic impacts of any fines and fees assessed by your department? Are there disproportionate impacts on any particular groups?

Fleet Management operates solely as an internal service department and does not provide direct services to the public, so the proposed budget changes are not expected to have direct impacts on disadvantaged communities. Instead, Fleet's influence is indirect—our work affects the departments that deliver frontline services. By optimizing fleet usage, improving operator training, and reducing vehicle-related costs, Fleet helps user departments redirect savings toward community-facing programs, which can ultimately benefit underserved populations. To avoid any unintended service disruptions, Fleet collaborates closely with departments during the fleet planning process to ensure that vehicle availability aligns with operational needs.

Although no formal demographic analysis was conducted, Fleet relies on feedback from user departments to understand potential impacts on the communities they serve. To mitigate any unintended consequences, Fleet emphasizes proactive maintenance, flexible scheduling, and close coordination to minimize downtime and maintain service reliability. Fleet does not assess any fines or fees to the public, so there are no direct demographic or disproportionate impacts associated with fees from this department.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA 3: INVEST IN EQUITY

9. If your department were to receive some additional funding for addressing equity, what specific strategic plan priority would you address, what would be the project/activity and intended outcome, and how much would it cost?

If additional funding were provided to advance equity, Fleet Management would prioritize establishing a paid

internship program focused on mechanics, welders, and body shop technicians. This initiative aligns with Milwaukee County's strategic priority of expanding equitable access to career pathways, particularly in skilled trades where entry barriers are often high for underrepresented and economically disadvantaged individuals.

The program would provide interns with hands-on training, mentorship from experienced technicians, and all necessary tools and equipment, significantly reducing the financial burden typically associated with entering these fields. By offering paid, structured learning opportunities, Fleet would create a more inclusive pipeline into high-demand technical roles and support long-term workforce diversification.

The estimated cost is approximately \$20,000 per intern annually, covering wages, tools, safety gear, and training materials. This investment would help remove economic barriers, strengthen Fleet's future workforce, and support Milwaukee County's broader goals of racial equity and economic mobility.

10. What is your department doing to dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities, including meeting multilingual needs, accessibility barriers, food apartheid, financial empowerment or other factors that impact the stability and wellbeing of people in Milwaukee County?

Fleet Management actively works to dismantle barriers by prioritizing the hiring and in-house training of less experienced candidates, including individuals from minority and underrepresented backgrounds. By focusing on skill development rather than requiring extensive prior experience, Fleet helps reduce traditional entry barriers to the skilled trades—an area where financial, educational, and exposure gaps often limit access for disadvantaged communities.

In addition, Fleet conducts outreach to local high schools, including those serving diverse and economically challenged neighborhoods, to broaden awareness of career opportunities in mechanics, welding, and body shop work. These efforts help students understand the pathways available in the skilled trades and provide early exposure to stable, well-paying careers that do not require a four-year degree.



Appendices

Appendix A:
Glossary

Appendix B:
Frequently Asked Questions

Appendix C:
Resources by Strategic Focus Area

Appendix D:
Community Engagement Frameworks

APPENDIX A

GLOSSARY

Communities of color: In the context of the Milwaukee County Racial Equity Budget Tool, the term communities of color is interchangeable with Black and Brown communities and inclusive of all non-white populations of color.

Historically marginalized communities: A collective term for referencing communities that have historically experienced inequities where they learn, live, and work that were/are not optimal due to disenfranchisement, disinvestment, marginalization, racism, and other systems of oppression.

Diversity: Diversity includes all the ways in which people differ, and it encompasses all the different characteristics that make one individual or group different from another. It is all-inclusive and recognizes everyone and every group as part of the diversity that should be valued. A broad definition includes not only race, ethnicity, and gender — the groups that most often come to mind when the term “diversity” is used — but also age, national origin, religion, disability, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, education, marital status, language, and physical appearance. It also involves different ideas, perspectives, and values.

Diverse group: As it relates to question 5, an intentional effort to include individuals from different racial, ethnic, gender, and social backgrounds proportionate to the diversity of the department.

Economic data: Numerical data collected based on service delivery criteria determined by departments.

Equity: The just, fair, and impartial treatment, acceptance, or behavior of people without favoritism or discrimination. Equity means righting wrongs, doing what’s right, and giving people what they need to thrive, which is different from equality, which means everyone gets the same thing regardless of circumstance or need.

Food Apartheid: Inequity in the food system on the basis of race, class, and geography that are the result of discriminatory planning and policy decisions.

Frontline employees: A grouping of Milwaukee County employees that serves as the initial point of contact for service users or a range of employees from all levels of the

workforce with emphasis on the inclusion of direct service rendering staff.

Inclusion: Assurance that the culture, values, and opinions of individuals and groups are represented in the decision-making processes.

Inclusive workforce: A workplace environment that recognizes the contributions of all employees, while valuing their social status, race, gender, or other demographic classifications.

Key stakeholders: Both internal and external individuals, agencies, or organizations who participate in the planning, development, implementation and decision-making process of an activity, process, or service delivery. (AMOP: Key stakeholders are service users, the workforce, partners, governing boards, donors, suppliers, taxpayers, regulatory bodies, policy makers, funders, and local and professional communities.)

Multilingual needs: The ability of Milwaukee County departments to address linguistic needs for all service users through staffing, documentation, and other communication platforms.

Professional advancement: Opportunities for staff to build their capacity and ascend or pursue lateral movement to further advance their career trajectory.

Racial data: Demographic data collected by Milwaukee County departments that identifies the race/ethnicity of service recipients.

Racial equity: The just and fair inclusion of all people in society, regardless of their race/ethnicity, with unfettered ability to participate, prosper, and reach their full potential. Racial equity is achieved when race no longer determines one’s health and socioeconomic outcomes and when everyone has what they need to thrive and decide what’s best for themselves, their families, and their communities, no matter where they live.

Service user: Current or potential user of Milwaukee County services.

Unintended consequences: Outcomes of a purposeful action that are not intended or foreseen.

APPENDIX B

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PURPOSE

1) What is the purpose of using this tool?

The Racial Equity Budget Tool (REBT) has many intended purposes:

- It is about making an intentional connection between the strategic plan and our budget. We cannot sufficiently change our institution if we do not think critically about how and what we are spending money on.
- Whether we are making investments or disinvestments, we must do so with racial equity as the key guiding principle to those important decisions.
- It is meant to spur conversation on topics related to the strategic focus areas among department leaders and employees so we are all challenging ourselves to think critically about our efforts to advance the vision.
- This tool is an opportunity to baseline departmental efforts to make informed enterprise-wide decisions.

These are only some of the many answers to why we are using a tool to assess budget decisions.

2) What other jurisdictions have used a racial equity budget tool? Where did the budget tool questions come from?

Milwaukee County's REBT builds on the success of other jurisdictions in implementing a budget tool. Jurisdictions Milwaukee County looked to for guidance include the City of Seattle, the City of Portland (Ore.), King County (Wash.), and the City of San Antonio. Resources from the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) were also used. The questions are largely framed around Milwaukee County's strategic plan.

3) How does this tool work when departments must make budget cuts year over year? What is the point of doing this when departments don't have a lot of latitude about what disinvestments to make?

Milwaukee County's structural deficit and budget challenges

are no secret. However, Milwaukee County still has an annual budget of over \$1 billion. Whether the County is making disinvestments or investments, those decisions must be made with racial equity at the forefront of decision-makers' minds. Departments should think critically about their current assumptions and spending versus shifting investments to address root-causes of inequities.

COMPLETING THE TOOL

4) Are there right answers to the questions?

Responses to this tool will inform our future action to see where Milwaukee County can improve on the path to health and racial equity. There are no right answers to the questions, and each department is starting in a different place, serves different people with different needs, and faces a different set of barriers and opportunities. While there are no right answers, the information provided in the tool will be used for decision making throughout the budget process and will be available to the public. Therefore, answers should be robust, defensible, and easy to understand. Your department's answer may look very different than another department's answer and that is okay as long as the answers address the question.

5) What if there are inequities to other groups other than racial groups? Should we be talking about those inequities in our analysis?

Yes! Milwaukee County is race forward, but not race exclusive. If there are other inequities identified in your analysis, please include them.

6) Does every department complete one tool, or is it one tool for each division?

Please submit one tool per department. Responses can be broken down at the division level within your department's tool, as appropriate. All questions should be completed.

7) Who is responsible for filling out the budget tool?

The department head is ultimately responsible for the content in the REBT. It is up to department leadership to determine who in their department is most appropriate to be involved in completing questions in the tool, which will differ

from department to department. Likely people to include are department leaders, fiscal staff, and administrative staff.

8) Is this tool supposed to imply that we should be taking actions on each of these items? Are the questions meant to be directives to departments?

A budget is a reflection of priorities. Ultimately, Milwaukee County's budget should reflect our values and advance our vision and strategic plan. However, we acknowledge our organization is on a journey to continuously improve our efforts toward health and racial equity. The REBT is meant to spur conversations among department leaders and

staff about what they are and are not able to do in a given budget year to advance the vision. To that end, the tool is not an absolute directive to departments. We fully expect that some departments' answers to some of the questions will be that they are not doing anything this year with an explanation about why that is the case. Looking ahead

to future years, departments will be expected to show how their budgets help Milwaukee County make progress toward its vision.

9) How do I use this when my work is statutorily required?

What services Milwaukee County provides is often statutorily required. However, how we do our work usually is not a directive. This tool is meant to challenge us all to think about how to do the enormous part of our work that is within our discretion and control.

10) Is there a standard approach all departments are expected to take to answer the questions?

No. Answer the questions based on the approach your department currently takes on these items.

11) What type of analysis is expected for

each of the questions?

It depends on what your department is currently doing in each area. Please use the diverse expertise and experiences of staff in your department to determine the most appropriate way for your department to answer the questions.

12) What part of the budget is this tool being applied to?

The REBT will focus on an equity analysis of decisions for new policies, programs, and plans under consideration, and the department's ongoing commitment to equity. Your department is asked to identify what considerations are considered in the overall budget to maximize equitable outcomes.

USING THE DATA

13) Who will receive the data departments provide in the REBT? Who will be expected to answer questions about the information provided?

Responses to the REBT will be publicly available and will be presented to the County Board. If any decision-makers (e.g., County Executive, County Board Supervisors, department directors) have questions about the information provided in the REBT, the department should be prepared to answer them. We are all partners in Milwaukee County's strategic planning effort to achieve racial equity, and the budget tool is in-part meant to inform and focus conversations around strategic priorities, understanding that not all questions have known answers or solutions.

APPENDIX B

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

14) What if someone questions the analysis, conclusions, or recommendations made in the budget tool?

Like all research and analysis, there will be questions and critiques and we should embrace these important conversations. The work presented in the budget tool should be defensible, but most of these questions do not have a clear right or wrong answer. If someone finds something wrong in the analysis, then we need to fix it. However, if it is a question about the interpretation and meaning of the analysis, then we can make space for different perspectives to find the best path forward with the information we have available.

15) Will the budget tool submissions be scored?

No, the REBT submissions will not be scored. However, they will be made available to the public and reviewed by the County Executive's office, the Office of Equity, the Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget and the County Board.

LOGISTICS

16) When will the budget tool be due?

The REBT is due on July 15 — the same due date as the requested budget.

Commented [SC1]: Update with 2027 Budget Due Date

17) Where do I go if I have questions?

If you understand the question, but have difficulty determining how to answer a question, please first try to problem solve within your department by looping in additional experts (e.g., people leaders, frontline staff, etc.).

If you need assistance understanding what the question is asking, contact your Budget Analyst for assistance.

The Office of Equity should only be contacted on questions related to racial equity components (glossary, concepts, etc.) that are unclear and cannot be addressed by your budget analyst. Send correspondence via email to equityoffice@milwaukeecountywi.gov.

APPENDIX C

RESOURCES BY STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA 1: **Create Intentional Inclusion**

- [2020 Milwaukee County Workforce Audit](#)

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA 2: **Bridge the Gap**

- [American Community Survey](#) (from US Census Bureau – descriptions below from US Census Bureau)
 - [Data Profiles](#) have the most frequently requested social, economic, housing, and demographic data. Each of these four subject areas is a separate data profile. The data profiles summarize the data for a single geographic area, both numbers and percent, to cover the most basic data on all topics. (Can compare state/County/Municipal data. With some effort, can get zip code level data.)
 - [Narrative Profiles](#) are short, analytic reports derived from the ACS 5-year estimates. Each Narrative Profile covers 15 different topic areas and provides text and bar charts to display highlights of selected social, economic, housing, and demographic estimates for a selected geographic area. (Easy to get zip code level data)
- [Personal Income Data](#) (Bureau of Economic Analysis) Per Capita Personal Income by State/County, 2016 – 2018 for the entire nation.
- Per Capita Income by County
- [Public School Enrollment](#) (Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction)
- [Private School Enrollment](#) (Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction)
- [State of Wisconsin WBE/MBE/DVE](#) This provides a list of all Woman/Minority/Disabled Vets Business Enterprise information. You can search by business name, by product/service, and by location.
- [Milwaukee County Diversity and Compliance Website \(B2GNow\)](#) Links to certified lists for the State of Wisconsin ACDBE/DBE/SBE Directory and the Milwaukee County approved DBE/SBE vendors (training available on using system).

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA 3: **Invest in Equity**

- [Community Engagement Toolkit](#)

Additional County Resources

- [Strategic Plan \(Objectives\)](#)
- [Health and Equity Framework](#)

Disparities in Food Access

- [Food Apartheid](#)
- [Food Access](#)

APPENDIX D

Community Engagement Frameworks & Guidance

Community Engagement connection to the REBT Tool and Budget Alignment

These frameworks help guide users of the REBT tool to think critically about how budget decisions align with the strategic plan and advance racial equity. By applying the continuum, staff can assess whether their fiscal choices reflect appropriate levels of community involvement, ensure that decisions are informed by community priorities, and understand the equity impacts of how resources are allocated. This supports intentional, equity-centered budgeting rooted in community voice and shared responsibility.

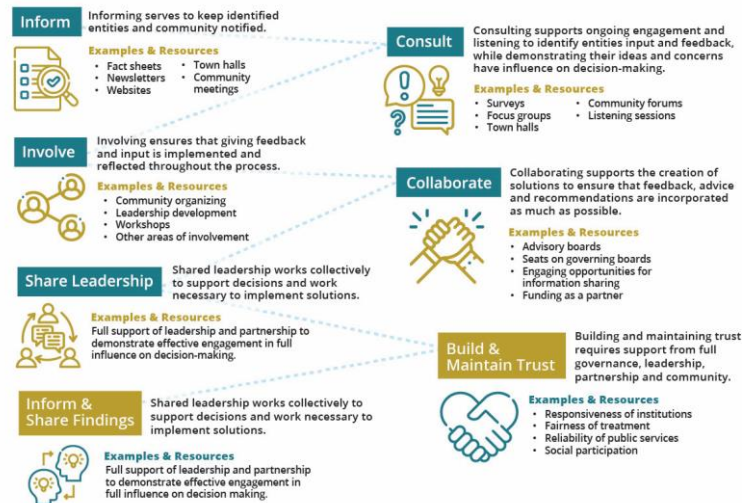
Summary of the Community Engagement Frameworks

The Community Engagement Continuum & Breaking Down the Path outlines five levels of engagement—Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate, and Share Leadership, supported by practices that build trust and ensure findings are shared transparently. At the early stages, engagement focuses on providing information and gathering feedback through tools like fact sheets, surveys, and town halls. As engagement deepens, community members help shape decisions, co-create solutions, and participate in shared leadership structures such as advisory boards or governing bodies. Across all stages, trust-building, transparency, responsiveness, and partnership are essential for meaningful and equitable involvement.

Community Engagement Continuum



Breaking Down the Path



For future assistance, please access OOE's Technical Assistance program by sending us an email at OOEAssist@milwaukeecountywi.gov For direct self-serving tools around our Community Engagement efforts, please visit the [Office of Equity Community Engagement web page](#)

ON THE COVER



“ WELCOME TO THE PEOPLE’S HOUSE ”

Artist: Tia Richardson

Commissioned in 2020. Used with permission of the artist.



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
HEALTH & RACIAL EQUITY

ONE COUNTY ONE VISION

By achieving racial equity, Milwaukee
is the **healthiest county in**
Wisconsin.

County.milwaukee.gov/vision

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