



RACIAL EQUITY



INCORPORATED
1835

BUDGET TOOL

2027 BUDGET CYCLE

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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.
- Breakdown 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

Date Submitted:

Department:

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?

The Milwaukee County Clerk's Office, including the Election Commission, continues to prioritize workforce diversity and inclusion as a core component of its hiring and retention practices. Under the leadership of Clerk Christenson, the office has fostered a workplace culture that values equity, representation, and cultural competence, consistent with Milwaukee County's commitment to advancing racial equity.

To attract a diverse workforce, the Clerk's Office utilizes equitable recruitment and hiring practices, promotes an inclusive work environment, and emphasizes the importance of serving the diverse communities of Milwaukee County. These efforts have enabled the department to consistently attract a broad and diverse pool of qualified applicants whenever vacancies occur. As a result, no additional recruitment expenditures have been necessary beyond standard position posting and hiring processes.

To retain a diverse and inclusive workforce, the department strives to create a workplace where employees feel valued, respected, and connected to the mission of public service. The office recognizes the importance of representation in delivering responsive constituent services and maintaining public trust. Currently, the public-facing division of the office is comprised entirely of African American and Latino employees, and all Latino staff members are bilingual in English and Spanish, enhancing accessibility for Milwaukee County residents.

Additionally, since assuming responsibility for Legislative Assistants, the Clerk's Office has incorporated considerations of community representation and cultural competence into its hiring process. New hires are selected not only for their professional qualifications, but also for their ability to effectively engage with and understand the diverse populations within the districts they serve.

The activities described above are incorporated into the department's existing recruitment, hiring, and management practices and do not require dedicated or additional funding. Accordingly, the associated cost of these diversity and inclusion efforts is minimal and is absorbed within the department's normal operating budget.

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?

The Milwaukee County Clerk's Office promotes workforce equity by ensuring that all employees have access to meaningful professional development, skill-building, and advancement opportunities. Staff are encouraged to utilize Milwaukee County's Learning and Development resources available through Dayforce, and the department allocates funding each year to support participation in both internal and external training programs, conferences, and educational opportunities.

To expand access to career growth, the department collaborates with Human Resources partners to identify

professional development resources that help employees build new competencies and prepare for future leadership roles. The office also utilizes cross-training and job-shadowing opportunities to provide employees with exposure to different functions within the department. For example, Legislative Assistants may shadow Committee Coordinators to gain experience and better understand pathways for advancement.

In addition, all promotional and employment opportunities are communicated department-wide to ensure transparency and equitable access. By encouraging interested employees to pursue new roles and develop additional skills, the department seeks to create a workplace culture where advancement opportunities are available to all staff members, regardless of their current position.

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?

The Milwaukee County Clerk's Office actively seeks input from employees at all levels to help inform operational and budgetary decisions. Staff members representing different functions within the office are encouraged to share perspectives on current processes, resource needs, and opportunities for improvement. Feedback is gathered through team discussions, individual conversations, and written requests for recommendations. This year, several employees had as their development goal to learn about and get more involved in the budgeting process of the Clerk's Office. They were provided several learning sessions where they were afforded the opportunity to provide suggestions and feedback regarding the offices' 2027 budget.

Frontline employees play a critical role in this process because of their direct experience delivering services and managing daily operations. Their insights help identify both successful practices and areas where additional resources or process changes may be needed. Employee feedback is reviewed and incorporated, when appropriate, into budget planning and departmental priorities. In addition, office leadership regularly engages division supervisors and managers to obtain their perspectives on fiscal needs, operational challenges, and potential budget adjustments. This collaborative approach helps ensure that budget decisions are informed by a broad range of employee experiences and operational expertise.

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

The Clerk's office enters into a very limited number of vendor agreements, most of which are longstanding contracts for specialized services where there are few qualified providers available, such as election equipment and support services. The office aims to always intentionally engaged diverse vendors when opportunities have arisen. For example, as part of previous voter education and outreach initiatives, the office contracted with Forever Changed Consulting and CW2 Consulting, both minority- and women-owned businesses. The Milwaukee County Clerk's Office recognizes the importance of supplier diversity and will continue to consider equity and inclusion when selecting vendors for future projects, particularly those related to voter outreach and public engagement.

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)?

The County Clerk's Office serves a broad and diverse population and actively incorporates stakeholder feedback into service delivery and budget planning. Throughout the year, service users are invited to share their experiences and recommendations through the Office's Customer Satisfaction Survey, which is accessible electronically through QR codes displayed at service locations, providing an inclusive and convenient alternative to paper-based feedback methods. Survey responses are regularly reviewed and used to identify service needs, operational improvements, and funding priorities. In addition, the Clerk's Office engages with community-based organizations, advocacy groups, and other stakeholders representing diverse populations to better understand barriers to civic participation and access to services. Feedback gathered through these forums has informed decisions related to resource allocation, service enhancements, and initiatives designed to improve equitable access to voting and other Clerk's Office services.

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?

Because the majority of services administered by the County Clerk's Office are required by state statute or county ordinance, opportunities to reallocate resources across programs are limited. One area where discretionary funding decisions can be made is voter education and outreach. To guide these investments, the Office reviewed voter participation data alongside demographic information to identify communities with lower voter turnout rates and populations that may face greater barriers to electoral participation.

For example, voter history and demographic data were used to target outreach and public awareness efforts in areas with historically lower levels of voter engagement. As a result, advertising and educational resources were concentrated in those communities to increase awareness of voter registration requirements, acceptable forms of identification, polling locations, and other election-related information. This data-informed approach shaped the County Clerk's voter education campaigns conducted in advance of the 2020 Presidential Election, the 2022 Midterm Election, and the 2024 Presidential Election, and will continue to inform planning and budgeting for outreach efforts during the 2026 election cycle.

While voter participation and demographic data provide valuable insight into where engagement gaps exist, additional information would help better understand the underlying causes of those disparities. Data related to language accessibility, transportation challenges, digital access, disability status, and community-specific barriers to voting could further strengthen outreach strategies and ensure resources are directed to residents who face the greatest obstacles to participation.

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?

The County Clerk's Office and Election Commission continue to prioritize collaboration across Milwaukee County departments to improve service delivery and reduce organizational silos. Through partnerships with departments countywide, we use internal communication channels such as the "What's Up Milwaukee County" newsletter to recruit and inform employees about opportunities to serve as Election Day poll workers, helping ensure that elections are adequately staffed and accessible to all residents.

Our budget also supports ongoing voter education and outreach efforts that engage both County employees and community members, strengthening awareness of voting rights and participation opportunities. These investments promote equitable access to the democratic process, particularly for historically underrepresented populations, and support civic engagement as a key social determinant of community well-being.

In addition, we work closely with the Register of Deeds Office to identify operational efficiencies and coordinate language access services, helping residents with limited English proficiency navigate County services more effectively. The transfer of Legislative Aide positions to the Clerk's Office has further enhanced coordination between the County Board and Clerk's Office, creating a more integrated approach to constituent services, improving responsiveness, and ensuring residents receive timely assistance regardless of where they enter County government.

By fostering partnerships across departments, expanding language accessibility, and strengthening civic participation, this budget advances Milwaukee County's vision of achieving equity by reducing barriers to government services and promoting inclusive access for all residents. These efforts also contribute to healthier communities by ensuring that residents can engage with public institutions, access critical information, and participate fully in decisions that affect their lives.

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?

The Clerk's Office's budget is a cost to continue budget used to carry out state-mandated services and therefore any changes to it would affect the majority of individuals in Milwaukee County.

b. What will your department do to mitigate unintended consequences resulting from your proposed budget changes?

The Clerk's Office's would adjust its service delivery models to ensure that any unintended consequences are addressed.

c. What are the demographic impacts of any fines and fees accessed by your department? Are there

disproportionate impacts on any particular groups?

The marriage license fee and the passport processing fee are both regressive as the same amount applies to all applicants regardless of their financial and social status.

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?

Any additional funds for racial equity would be directed towards voter education and outreach. We would also allocate funds toward additional interpreting resources in our front office. Finally, we would invest the resources in aiding new employee search so that we get a more diverse range of candidates. This would involve advertising open positions more widely than the County currently has resources to do.

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?

We have three Spanish speaking employees in our front office that deals most with the public. We employ two new bilingual Legislative Aides that speak Spanish. We have an interpreting service phone line used to communicate with customers that do not speak English. It is important to ensure that all customers who walk through our door are treated with respect, dignity, and the best level of service possible, regardless of their age, culture, faith, ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation, language, ability, or social class.



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.*

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.

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](#)

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.

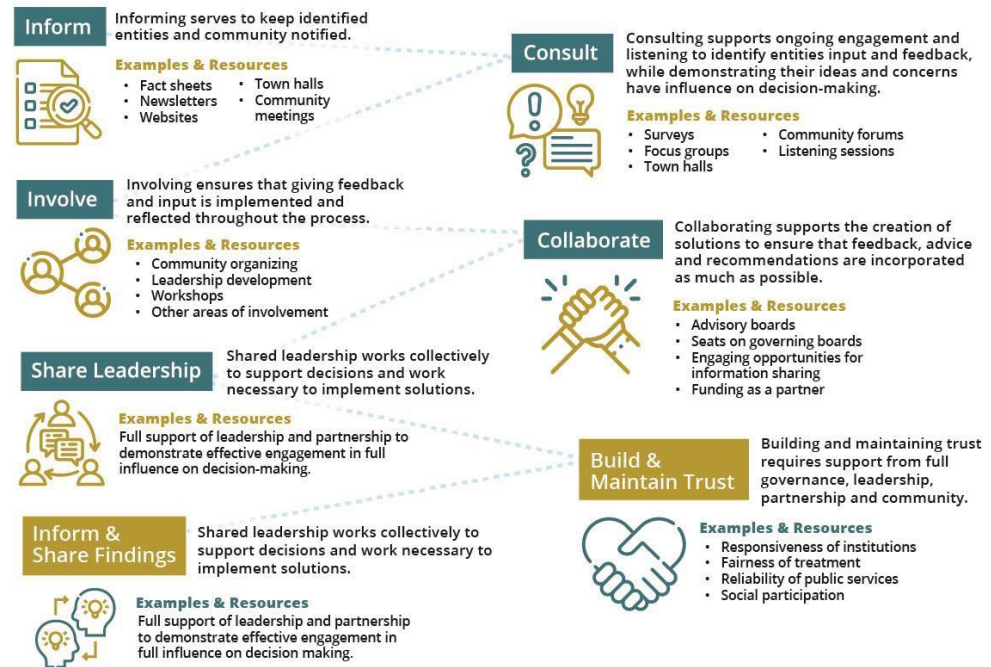
Summary of the Community Engagement Frameworks

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

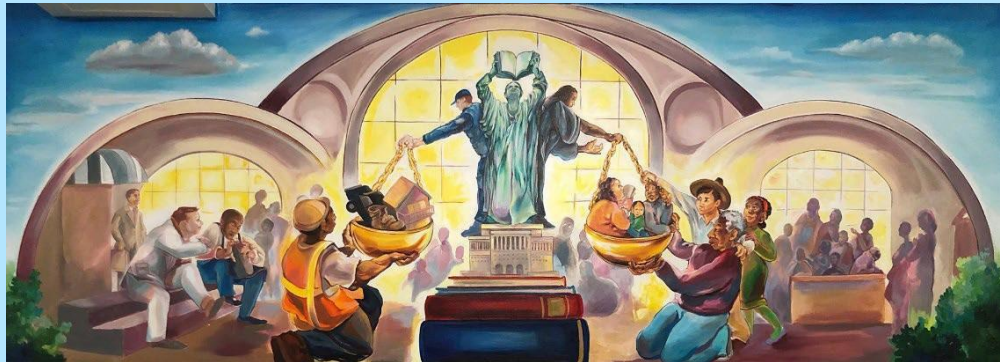


Breaking Down the Path



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.



ONE COUNTY ONE VISION

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

County.milwaukee.gov/vision

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