

BUDGET SUMMARY

Category	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Budget	2027 Requested Budget	2026/2027 Variance
Expenditures					
Personnel Costs	46,621	1,110	0	0	0
Operations Costs	449,096	350,483	484,196	509,066	24,870
Debt & Depreciation	0	67,098	0	0	0
Interdepartmental Charges	53,346	65,325	56,274	56,429	155
Total Expenditures	\$549,063	\$484,015	\$540,470	\$565,495	\$25,025
Revenues					
Other Direct Revenue	107,332	110,105	128,000	152,429	24,429
Total Revenues	\$107,332	\$110,105	\$128,000	\$152,429	\$24,429
Tax Levy	\$441,730	\$373,910	\$412,470	\$413,066	\$596
Personnel					
Full Time Pos (FTE)	0.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Overtime \$	0	0	0	0	0
Seasonal/Hourly/Pool	0	0	0	0	0

Department Mission:

The mission of UW Madison, Division of Extension, Milwaukee County (hereafter Extension) is: "We teach, lead, and serve; connecting the people with the University of Wisconsin Madison and engaging them in transforming lives and communities." This aligns with Milwaukee County's mission: "We enhance the quality of life in Milwaukee County through great public service."

Department Vision:

The vision of Extension is to become a thriving, well-known, and sought-out educational resource that reflects the rich diversity of the communities in the county.

Department Description:

Extension is the community outreach Division of UW - Madison. The educational programs apply the research and resources of UW Madison to strengthen citizens, youth, families, non-profits, businesses, and communities. Programs are planned and implemented by developing partnerships with community organizations, building collaborations, and incorporating teamwork. The department designs and implements educational programs, conducts local research, trains leaders and volunteers, and builds partnerships for the benefit of citizens in Milwaukee County. Extension in Milwaukee County consists of FoodWise, Positive Youth Development, 4-H & STEM, Urban Agriculture and Gardening, Community Development, Financial Literacy, and Justice-involved Families. Extension has been a long-term partner of Milwaukee County Parks and uses County land for the Garden Rental Program. Extension also partners with Milwaukee County Community Reintegration Center, Milwaukee County Office of Equity, Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services and many community organizations and non-profits.

Staff consists of 15 educators & coordinators, three state specialists, and the Area Extension Director. Five of the Extension educator coordinators are partially funded by the County through a professional services contract. All remaining positions are funded entirely by UW Madison, Division of Extension.

Strategic Program Area: Univ of Wisconsin Extension

Service Provision: N/A

How We Do It: Program Budget Summary

Category	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Budget	2027 Budget	2026/2027 Variance
Expenditures	549,063	484,015	540,470	565,495	25,025
Revenues	107,332	110,105	128,000	152,429	24,429
Tax Levy	441,730	373,910	412,470	413,066	596
Full Time Pos (FTE)	0.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

*Activity Data

What We Do With It: Activity Data

Activity	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Target	2027 Target
4-H Club & STEM Youth Participation	292	441	425	425
Educational workshops provided to county residents, business leaders, and local government units focusing on strategic planning, business startups, enhancing workplace efficiency, AI, and housing development trends and analysis	0	30	100	200
FoodWise Community Partners	63	72	90	45
Number of Financial Literacy Workshops	12	27	51	100
Number of Full-Time Staff providing Community Garden services	2	3	4	4
Number of Garden Plots Rented	1,392	1,350	1,400	1,650
Number of Municipal Employees enrolled in Certified Public Manager courses	14	23	50	50
Number of Participants (Youth and Adults) receiving nutrition education lessons	2,955	4,400	1,582	2,200
Number of Participants - Financial Literacy Workshops	170	195	360	550
Number of Participants - RentSmart Workshop	522	524	600	700
Number of RentSmart workshops taught	11	14	20	30
Number of Residents in Urban Beekeeping Certification Course	21	23	25	25
Number of underserved Zip Codes receiving 4H & STEM programming engaged	9	15	10	10
Number of Youth in Growing Connections Program	65	42	56	60
Professional Development workshops taught to residents, local government officials, and business leaders	0	50	75	100

How Well We Do It: Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Target	2027 Target
Percent of 4H participants that identifies as Black	42%	44%	44%	45%
Percent of 4H participants that identifies as Hispanic/Latinx	23%	29%	25%	25%
Percent of Beekeepers Students of Color	15%	15%	50%	50%
Percent of Certified Public Manager Graduates Who Felt Prepared to Become Leaders in Their Local Government	90%	95%	95%	95%
Percent of Community Development Business Courses and Professional Development Courses participants felt confident to address their business startup or AI Knowledge goals	0%	85%	90%	90%
Percent of community gardeners of Color	36%	35%	40%	40%
Percent of EFNEP 3rd - 5th graders reporting increasing physical activity	70%	63%	75%	75%
Percent of Financial Literacy Participants Expressed Confidence in Applying What They Learned to Improve Their Life Situation	84%	90%	95%	95%
Percent of FoodWise audience who identify as Black	40%	38%	50%	40%
Percent of FoodWise audience who identify as Hispanic/Latinx	0%	41%	50%	42%
Percent of Growing Connections participants that identify as Black	40%	74%	25%	50%
Percent of Growing Connections participants that identify as Hispanic/Latinx	41%	26%	70%	50%
Percent of RentSmart Participants Report They Understand Tenant Responsibilities	95%	95%	95%	95%
Percent of RentSmart Participants Report Understanding How Finances Affect Getting or Keeping Rental Property	85%	95%	95%	95%

Strategic Overview:

Extension supports the County's strategic plan to find the root causes and challenges for the residents of disinvested neighborhoods and deliver resources to address issues. This department constantly analyzes local needs, identifies emerging community issues, and delivers university research-based educational programs to address those needs. Outreach extends to and supports underserved youth, families, businesses, and non-profits in ways that support health, finances, leadership, and quality of life.

Strategic Implementation:

Extension leverages County tax levy and community partnerships with diverse funding sources to strengthen and broaden our services and increases access to those services for diverse audiences.

Through intentional efforts, Extension has increased diversity within its team and has added Justice-Involved programming to our educational services. Details on the implementation of our services are listed below.

Strategic Programs:

The Community Development program equips small business owners and those with essential skills in entrepreneurship and leadership. Through interactive workshops, participants gain peer mentorship, practical tools, and valuable networking opportunities with fellow entrepreneurs across the County. Additionally, data collection and analysis are used to help businesses and local governments in decision making. The Certified Public Manager program provides comprehensive management development training, focusing on both current management theory and practical application to address the unique demands and challenges of the public management profession.

Extension works to ensure Milwaukee County residents and community service partners have equal access to our research-based Financial Security programs, services, and resources. Extension works with audiences who have been historically underserved and impacted by systemic racism, the legal system, and economic inequities. Extension acknowledges the importance of engaging in dialogue with these audiences to ensure their needs and challenges are addressed and develops programming to break down barriers and proposes realistic strategies for building financial well-being. The Financial Security program provides workshops to educate individuals and families on the importance of budgeting, credit and debt management, financial goal setting, financial security, and planning for unexpected life events. Through the RentSmart program, participants are assisted with understanding tenants' rights and responsibilities, strategies for effective communication with landlords, and the importance of understanding the rental application; thus, helping them secure safe, affordable, and sustainable housing. The measured impact of this program is determined by conducting surveys before, during, and 3-6 months after the training.

4-H offers youth (K5-Grade 12) research-based curricula that promotes active, hands-on learning, leadership opportunities and skill building through hands-on activities. 4-H provides free to minimal cost opportunities to ensure accessibility to all families that want to participate. 4-H programming is provided through various methods with a focus on reaching communities that have been historically underserved. Opportunities include 4-H Spark series led by 4-H Educators at schools/youth organizations focused on a variety of topics including archery, chess, creative writing, Lego Play, Lego Robotics, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, math). There are 4-H clubs led by parents at schools and community centers, where they lead a variety of topics. Additionally, there are 4-H Community Clubs that are open to any youth in the County. 4-H Youth Development provides educational opportunities for youth to discover their sparks while developing life skills and gaining knowledge.

STEM programs and equipment can be expensive and therefore inaccessible for partners and families. Milwaukee 4-H has made it a priority to provide accessible STEM opportunities that allow youth in the county to grow their skills and explore science. 4-H STEM programming this year includes hands-on science labs, robotics, and a Lego Play series. These STEM series provide a four-to-eight-week educational opportunity in partnership with schools and after school programs, for 1st-8th grade youth to develop skills as problem solving, creativity and critical analysis while expanding interest in topics such as science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) through hands on activities.

The Growing Connections program works to empower youth from historically underserved communities to explore their strengths, create positive change through the community placemaking, connect to food and the local ecology through gardening, develop a sense of agency through leadership opportunities, and understand the impact of programming on themselves and their communities through developmental and participatory evaluation. Growing Connections collaborates with schools, youth-serving organizations and community stakeholders to develop, implement and evaluate programming for middle and high school students throughout the entire year. Collaboration is at the heart of the program, resulting in increased capacity for collaborating organizations as well as additional opportunities for young people they serve.

Additional Program Details:

According to the 2022 County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, Milwaukee County is one of the most "unhealthy" counties in Wisconsin, ranking 70 out of 72. Some behaviors included in health rankings are adult obesity, food environment, physical inactivity, and access to exercise opportunities. Milwaukee County adults have a higher rate of obesity (32.7%) than Wisconsin (30%) and the United States (28%) and over 76% of County residents have inadequate fruit and vegetable consumption each day. In addition, the County has higher rates of physical inactivity than the state of Wisconsin, where many of the Milwaukee census tracts report up to 40% of residents as "physically inactive." In addition, 19% of Milwaukee County adults and 29% of children live at 100% of the federal poverty level, compared to 11% of Wisconsin's population. In the City of Milwaukee, over 25% of the population is at or below the federal poverty level, and nearly 10% of those residents experience economic hardship, despite having a full-time job. About 54% of children and 26% of all residents in the county participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP.) Fifty-eight percent of children qualify for free or reduced-priced school lunches in the County, and 83% of children meet the federal qualifying standard to receive free or reduced lunch. Fifty-seven percent of Milwaukeeans live in census tracts with low access to healthy foods. In addition to the context above, we continue to experience the negative impacts of COVID-19 on community health and food landscapes.

To address these significant health disparities in Milwaukee County, the Extension FoodWise program provides evidence-based nutrition education to Milwaukeeans with limited financial resources by partnering with schools and a variety of community organizations to reach FoodShare-eligible groups of youth and parents/caregivers. FoodWise helps make healthy choices easier for individuals and families with low incomes, supporting positive changes in diet quality, physical activity, food resource management, food safety, and overall nutrition security. FoodWise direct education is funded by the USDA Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) grant.

FoodWise also collaborates with community partners to support policy, systems, and environmental change (PSE) efforts that improve access to fresh, affordable, and culturally preferred foods. The USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) supports PSE work in Milwaukee by funding collaborative efforts with local organizations to build healthier food environments. Key efforts include collaborating with five schools to grow parent-led school garden leadership, alongside supporting the Healthy Schools Academy and Farm to School initiatives. The program also helps improve food garden spaces at a local senior center and an affordable housing site. SNAP-Ed funds were eliminated by the U.S. Congress for 2026, resulting in seven FTE FoodWise educator positions being lost in Milwaukee County.

The Extension Urban Agriculture and Community Gardens program maintains and administers garden spaces on County-owned land, allowing Milwaukee County residents from all backgrounds access to the nutritional, social, and economic benefits of cultivating gardens to grow healthy, culturally-relevant foods. Along with land access by way of seven community garden sites across the County, Extension supports the healthy well-being of more than 2,000 County residents by connecting them with information, training, and research based technical support to grow bountiful and nourishing gardens.

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