

MOVING HEALTH FORWARD



Wisconsin Partnership Program
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH



+ COMMUNITY
+ EDUCATION
+ RESEARCH

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2024 – JUNE 30, 2025



The University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) is home to the Wisconsin Partnership Program, a grantmaking program within SMPH established as the result of a generous endowment gift from Blue Cross Blue Shield United of Wisconsin's conversion to a stock insurance corporation.

The Wisconsin Partnership Program expresses its continued gratitude for this gift to benefit the people of Wisconsin.

KEY

NACHP

Native American Center for Health Professions

OAC

Oversight and Advisory Committee

PERC

Partnership Education and Research Committee

SMPH

School of Medicine and Public Health

WFAA

Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association

WPP

Wisconsin Partnership Program



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Supplement:
Grantmaking Activity
Fiscal Year 2025

Message to Partners

Dear Partners,

Thank you for your interest in the Fiscal Year 2025 annual report of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health's (SMPH) Wisconsin Partnership Program (WPP). We are pleased to present WPP's grantmaking activities of the past year, highlighting the remarkable work of grant recipients and the positive impact that together we are making to improve the health of the people of Wisconsin.

Guided by the timeless principles of the Wisconsin Idea, WPP's investments in community partnerships, education and research continue to benefit the people of our state regardless of where they live. This work positively impacts the health of patients and populations across rural, urban and tribal communities.

For example, collaborative research teams use Wisconsin Partnership Program funding to harness the power of interdisciplinary research to tackle complex health challenges. Their findings inform treatment and care for a wide range of diseases.

WPP also supports the development of our talented and promising early-career SMPH faculty. Grants to new investigators and postdoctoral trainees enable the pursuit of innovative research and the generation of preliminary data that lay the groundwork for future research and extramural funding.

CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE

WPP continues its strong legacy of creating vital pathways to medical and public health education. These investments are preparing future physicians, strengthening public health leadership capacity and addressing critical health workforce needs.

When our communities are healthier, Wisconsin is healthier. As such, WPP community grant funding reaches broadly across our state's varied geographic regions and communities. Community grant recipients are leading numerous and varied projects focusing on health issues such as nutrition and food security, housing stability, maternal and child health, health care access and more. Their work is improving health outcomes and helping communities thrive.

In alignment with the Universities of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Partnership Program and the UW School of Medicine and Public Health continue to navigate the evolving landscape as we pursue our vision that everyone in Wisconsin will live healthy and full lives. We are proud to work with you to strengthen our communities, propel research and discovery, and provide innovative medical and public health education.

Thank you for your partnership and for sharing in our bold vision of a healthy Wisconsin for all.



Nita Ahuja

MD, MBA

A red handwritten signature of Nita Ahuja.

Robert Turell Distinguished Chair in Medical Leadership
Dean, School of Medicine and Public Health
Vice Chancellor for Medical Affairs
University of Wisconsin–Madison



Amy J.H. Kind

MD, PhD

A red handwritten signature of Amy J.H. Kind.

Executive Director, Wisconsin Partnership Program
Associate Dean for Social Health Sciences and Programs
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

WPP OVERVIEW

The Wisconsin Partnership Program (WPP) is a grantmaking program within the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) committed to improving health and advancing health equity in Wisconsin through investments in community partnerships, education and research. WPP defines health equity as the attainment of the highest level of health for all people.

Since 2004, the Wisconsin Partnership Program has awarded **692 GRANTS** totaling **\$322 MILLION**. These awards have resulted in a remarkable return on investment, with grantees leveraging more than \$963 million in additional funding from other sources to sustain the projects.

In fiscal year 2025, WPP celebrated **20 YEARS** of grantmaking by reflecting on our proud history and sharing the achievements and impact of grant partners across Wisconsin.

\$963 M

**ADDITIONAL FUNDING LEVERAGED
BY GRANTEES TO SUSTAIN PROJECTS.**

VISIT OUR [ANNIVERSARY WEBPAGE](#) TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT WPP'S HISTORY AND VISION FOR
THE FUTURE.

VISION

Everyone in Wisconsin will live healthy and full lives

MISSION

To bring about lasting improvements in health and well-being and advance health equity in Wisconsin through investments in community partnerships, education and research

VALUES

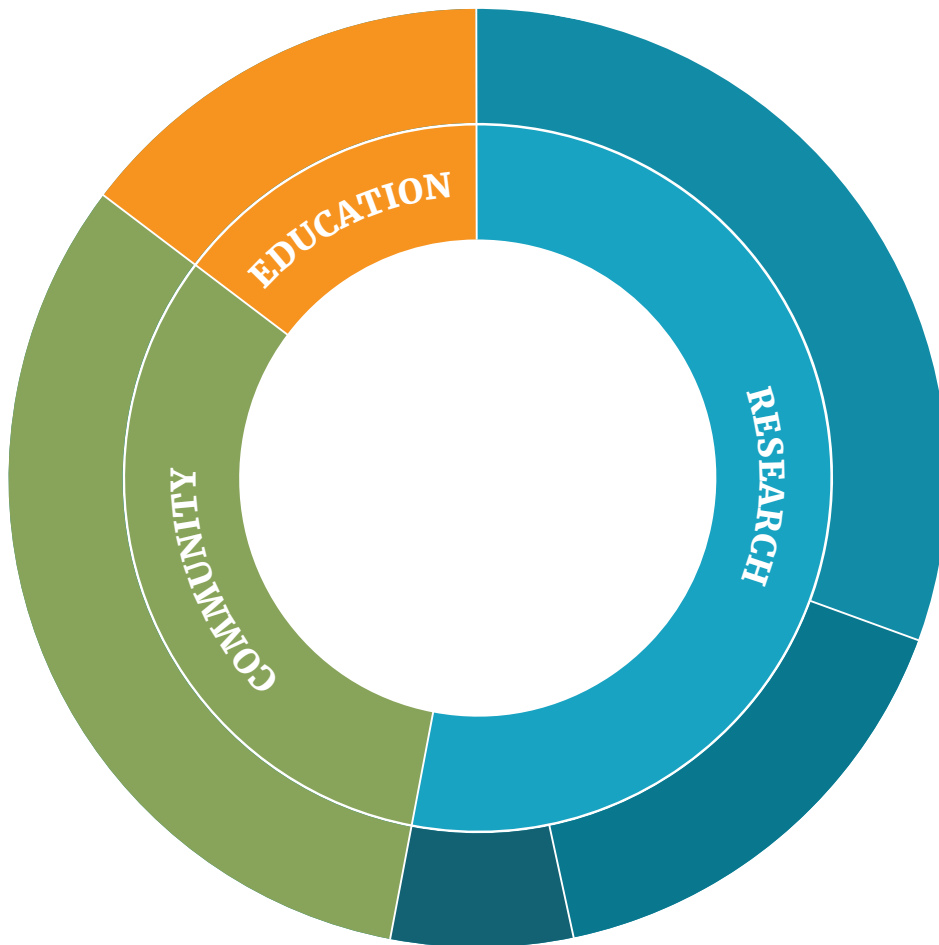
- ✔ **ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**
- ✔ **CREATIVITY AND FLEXIBILITY**
- ✔ **MULTI-SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS**
- ✔ **SUSTAINABILITY**



The Wisconsin Partnership Program operates within a robust governance structure. Two governance committees composed of community members and University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health faculty guide its work and its processes for reviewing and awarding grants to advance its mission. The Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) directs and distributes funds for public health initiatives (community grants). The Partnership Education and Research Committee (PERC) allocates funds for education and research initiatives to improve health and advance health equity.

GRANTS AWARDED BY TYPE

2004 – June 30, 2025



\$171.2 M

RESEARCH

100.2 M

Clinical & Translational

51.0 M

Public Health

20.0 M

Basic Science



\$103.6 M

COMMUNITY



\$47.1 M

EDUCATION, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

WPP POINTS OF PRIDE

The Wisconsin Partnership Program (WPP) advances its mission to improve health and advance health equity through a strong portfolio of grant programs that propel medical research, enhance health education and workforce development and support community partnerships. The work of WPP and its grantees touches all corners of the state, across a wide range of health challenges, communities, populations and geographic areas.



JANUARY 1
2004 – 2025

692

TOTAL NUMBER
OF GRANTS MADE

\$322M

TOTAL DOLLAR
AMOUNT AWARDED

GRANTS AWARDED



384
COMMUNITY



255
RESEARCH



53
EDUCATION

\$963M

TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT
LEVERAGED IN FUNDING DERIVED
FROM WPP-FUNDED PROJECTS

FISCAL YEAR 2025

56

TOTAL NUMBER
OF GRANTS MADE

\$20.4m

TOTAL DOLLAR
AMOUNT AWARDED

48 TOTAL ONGOING GRANTS

32 GRANTS CONCLUDED



500

NUMBER OF ARTICLES, PRESENTATIONS
OR OTHER DISSEMINATION OF FINDINGS
OF WPP PROJECTS



458

NUMBER OF ATTENDEES AT WPP-HOSTED
LEARNING AND NETWORKING EVENTS


\$86m

AMOUNT OF FUNDS LEVERAGED BY WPP GRANTEES FROM
FEDERAL AGENCIES OR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS TO SUSTAIN
OR EXPAND THEIR WORK

A photograph of three people smiling in a kitchen. On the left is a woman with dark hair wearing a grey cardigan over a black t-shirt with a colorful circular graphic. In the center is a woman with dark hair wearing a dark hoodie and a green apron. On the right is a man with glasses and a goatee wearing a dark green zip-up hoodie. The background shows a kitchen with windows and hanging dried herbs.

STRENGTHENING
THE HEALTH OF

WISCONSIN COMMUNITIES



The Wisconsin Partnership Program's community engagement extends throughout the state through broad partnerships with Wisconsin non-profits, technical colleges, tribal colleges, public health organizations, and across the Universities of Wisconsin, creating strong partnerships and community-led initiatives to address Wisconsin's diverse health care needs.

Through its community grant programs, WPP tackles root causes of health disparities and strengthens the capacity of local organizations to address the state's most pressing health challenges. Our practices are integrated with the time-honored tradition of the [WISCONSIN IDEA](#), and our shared belief that the university should improve people's lives beyond the boundaries of the classroom, throughout the state of Wisconsin and beyond. Guided by this principle, WPP community grant programs spark and strengthen collaborations between community and university partners to create meaningful, statewide impact.



Wisconsin community-based organizations are using WPP community grant funding to catalyze efforts to solve numerous and diverse health challenges facing our state.

A sampling of current WPP-funded community projects include, but are not limited to, a focus on the following.

- ✔ Addressing rural health care workforce needs
- ✔ Advancing maternal and child health
- ✔ Expanding the public health and public safety workforce
- ✔ Fostering youth well-being and social-emotional development
- ✔ Improving quality of life for people with Alzheimer's disease
- ✔ Increasing access to care for individuals with substance abuse disorders in rural Wisconsin
- ✔ Promoting housing stability to support safety and health
- ✔ Promoting nutrition and access to healthy food

VIEW THE [SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTMAKING ACTIVITY REPORT](#)
FOR A FULL LIST OF COMMUNITY GRANTS

In fiscal year 2025, the Wisconsin Partnership Program awarded **21 NEW GRANTS** and supported an additional **26 ACTIVE GRANTS** through its community grant programs. These grants seek to improve health and reduce health disparities by addressing a broad array of health challenges affecting Wisconsin's rural, tribal and urban communities.

Health needs vary across communities and geographic regions, as do the approaches to solving them. As such, WPP's community grant programs are strategically designed to reach a wide statewide audience and support organizations of various sizes and capacities in their efforts to improve health.

WPP currently offers a number of community grant programs. The Community Impact Grant Program provides two levels of funding to support both large and smaller organizations, and a new community capacity grant program launched as part of WPP's 20th anniversary celebration, supports small or newer organizations in building capacity and addressing infrastructure needs.

Grant applicants undergo a competitive application and review process. Selected proposals demonstrate strong potential for success in achieving goals. As a result, WPP community grantees reflect diverse missions and distinct approaches to improve health and advance health equity across Wisconsin.

READ MORE

- ➔ Community Impact Grant Awards
- ➔ The 20th Anniversary Community Grant Awards
- ➔ View the full range of WPP community grants in our Supplemental Grantmaking Activity Report

WPP
PUBLISHES
OUTCOME
REPORTS FOR
CONCLUDED
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CAN VIEW
THESE ON OUR
FUNDED
PROJECTS 
PAGE



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

The following examples were selected from a broad range of initiatives that demonstrate how community grant recipients are leading work to transform the health of their communities. Visit our [FUNDED PROJECTS](#) page to view the full range of funded projects and outcome reports.



From Seeds to Table: Celebrating Traditional Culinary Practices in Modern Oneida Life

Members of the Oneida Nation are learning how to integrate traditional food practices into their modern lives thanks to a project led by Ukwakhwa, Inc. (Oneida for 'Our Foods'). Ukwakhwa is using their WPP grant for the project *From Seeds to Table* to promote nutrition, cultural knowledge, and address the health challenges including diabetes and obesity. By hosting maple camps and field planting days; and through providing nutritious, culturally appropriate food and courses on traditional meal preparation, Ukwakhwa is improving health outcomes and building a sustainable framework for traditional health-promoting food practices.

[READ THE STORY](#)

Ukwakhwa's WPP-funded project also brings in Indigenous chefs like Ho Chunk chef Elena Terry for monthly food prepping classes, where intergenerational participants learn healthy recipes and go home with several meals for their tables or freezers.

Building a Public Safety Career Pathway

A strong and skilled public safety workforce is vital to community health and safety. The Madison Fire Department (MFD), which responds to **35,000 CALLS** annually, is using a WPP grant to create a new career development pathway for students interested in fire service. MFD, in collaboration with academic partner, Michael Spigner, MD, assistant professor, UW–Madison Berbee Walsh Department of Emergency Medicine, is developing and piloting this community-based, career pathway. This new pathway creates a two-year, full-time, paid internship with structured mentorship and support to complete an associate degree program at Madison College. Upon successful completion of the pathway, participants will be eligible for full-time employment with the fire department.



WATCH: INSIDE THE FIRE/EMS PATHWAY INTERNSHIP



Promoting Health and Safety for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care

How can we better support young people as they transition out of foster care? This is a challenge that Workforce Resource Inc., is addressing with support from a WPP community grant. In partnership with UW-River Falls, the grant team is developing a care model that includes crisis intervention services for youth participating in their *Independent Living for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care* and *Anti-Human Trafficking* programs. The project addresses participants' urgent health needs, builds resilience and promotes education opportunities and stable housing for this often-overlooked population. To date the project has served more than **200 YOUTH** across 27 primarily rural Wisconsin counties and five tribes.

[READ THE STORY](#)



PROMOTING

EDUCATION INNOVATIONS

AND PATHWAYS



The Wisconsin Partnership Program's education investments at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health are advancing education innovations and developing training pathways to recruit and prepare the next generation of physicians and public health leaders.

WPP's earliest education investments helped catalyze the transformation of the UW Medical School into the UW School of Medicine and Public Health. Today's investments address a wide range of health workforce needs across Wisconsin's diverse geographic regions. Grant recipients are delivering innovative and integrated strategies in medical and public health education and leading programs that strengthen the public health workforce and serve Wisconsin communities. As a result, SMPH graduates and program participants are well prepared to care for patients, tackle population health issues and address the broader health challenges and disparities impacting communities statewide.



The Wisconsin Partnership Program's investments in education initiatives address the health needs of Wisconsin's patients and populations by developing innovative training opportunities, addressing critical health workforce needs and preparing future physicians and public health practitioners.

Some examples include the following:

- ✓ Increasing Wisconsin's medical workforce through scholarships and pathway programs
- ✓ Master of Public Health Program*
- ✓ Preventive Medicine Residency program
- ✓ Transforming Medical Education curriculum innovations
- ✓ Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine (WARM)*
- ✓ Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine entering Rural Residency Program (WARMeRR)
- ✓ Wisconsin Population Health Service Fellowship Program

* indicates past start-up support

Since 2004, the Wisconsin Partnership Program has allocated more than **\$47 MILLION** to education and workforce development initiatives at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health.

During fiscal year 2025, WPP supported the progress of four ongoing education initiatives. These investments are building health workforce capacity across our state and creating education and training pathways and opportunities for current and future SMPH students.

WPP-funded education initiatives have helped transform SMPH's medical and public health curriculum, impacting more than **1700 GRADUATES** to date. A current project is reaching tribal communities and those interested in serving tribal communities to help future health professionals explore careers in the health sciences. An accelerated training track in rural medicine supports medical students' goals to serve rural regions of the state; and other initiatives are providing training so medical and public health leaders are better equipped to serve our state's nonprofit organizations, governmental health agencies and health systems.

[VIEW THE FULL RANGE OF WPP EDUCATION GRANTS IN OUR SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTMAKING ACTIVITY REPORT](#)



EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

The following selected examples demonstrate how WPP's investments in education initiatives are driving innovations in medical and public health education, addressing critical health workforce needs and promoting health for patients and populations.

View our [FUNDED PROJECTS](#) to view the full range of WPP funded projects and outcome reports.



Addressing Wisconsin's Rural Health Care Needs

The Wisconsin Partnership Program has a strong track record of supporting solutions to address Wisconsin's critical rural health workforce needs. WPP provided essential start-up funding for SMPH's Wisconsin Academy of Rural Medicine (WARM), which now boasts **327 GRADUATES**. More recently, WPP funding supported an accelerated rural training track at the SMPH that reduces the training time for doctors interested in practicing medicine in rural parts of the state. Thanks to these investments, graduates like Shane Hoffman can pursue their dreams to care for patients in Wisconsin's rural communities.

[READ: MEET SHANE HOFFMAN](#)

Meeting the Health Needs of Wisconsin's Tribal Communities

The WPP-funded initiative Improving Indigenous Health through Mentorship, Academic EngGagement and Innovation (IIMAGIN) led by SMPH's Native American Center for Health Professions (NACHP) continues its work to expand the recruitment of students interested in the health sciences professions.

As part of its programming, IIMAGIN has developed a Visiting Student Opportunity, which offers rotations for visiting medical students to explore a specialty of interest and learn more about UW–Madison residency programs. Eight UW Health departments host students through this initiative. The program is open to third- and fourth-year medical students who are enrolled with a federally recognized tribe and/or have demonstrated a strong commitment to American Indian/Alaska Native communities.

Medical students and prospective residents like Shelby Snyder (Navajo and Southern Ute), a fourth-year medical student at the University of Washington, have the opportunity to learn more about UW's residency programs and connect with NACHP as a resource for prospective residents. Shelby completed a four-week sub-internship in the UW School of Medicine and Public Health's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, reaffirming her desire to pursue an OB-GYN residency.



[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT](#)



Building Wisconsin's Health Care Leaders

WPP funding supports medical and public health training pathways like the SMPH Preventive Medicine Residency Program. Dr. Maria Mora Pinzon, a 2017 graduate of the Preventive Medicine Residency Program, and assistant professor in the SMPH Department of Medicine, is leveraging her training to advance health services research in dementia care. Dr. Mora Pinzon shares that her training in preventive medicine provides a powerful lens through which she approaches the growing public health challenge of dementia. She currently leads a research team piloting a new elective course at SMPH to support Latino health by providing dementia care.

[READ: MEET DR. MARIA MORA PINZON](#)



SCIENTIFIC

DISCOVERY

& PROPELLING

RESEARCH



The Wisconsin Partnership Program invests in research that spans a broad continuum, from fundamental investigations in the basic sciences, to clinical and translational and public health research aimed at bringing laboratory discoveries into clinical and community application.

WPP's research grant programs support innovative approaches to understand and solve complex health challenges. These grant programs help early-career SMPH faculty advance their research, enabling them to obtain data and insight necessary to pursue additional external funding. Other WPP funding mechanisms support interdisciplinary team science to examine new ways to solve intractable health challenges; establish research infrastructures; or develop highly responsive, time-critical projects to address pressing health needs.



WPP-funded research grants support a wide range of projects to address the multitude of health challenges facing Wisconsin's patients and populations.

Examples of some of the current WPP research projects focus on the following issues:

- ✓ Combatting pulmonary fibrosis
- ✓ Developing cancer therapies
- ✓ Diagnosing rare genetic disorders
- ✓ Improving access to health care
- ✓ Reducing infant mortality
- ✓ Reducing opioid misuse and abuse
- ✓ Treating aspiration pneumonia
- ✓ Treating diabetes and obesity
- ✓ Understanding Alzheimer's disease

VIEW THE [SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTMAKING ACTIVITY REPORT](#)
FOR A FULL LIST OF RESEARCH GRANTS

In fiscal year 2025, WPP awarded **FIVE STRATEGIC GRANTS** to support novel research programs at the School of Medicine and Public Health.

During fiscal year 2025, the Wisconsin Partnership Program awarded **34 NEW GRANTS** and supported an additional **16 GRANTS** through its research grant programs. These grants support scientific research that has the strong potential to advance understanding, generate findings that will inform future studies, and drive the development of new interventions and treatments, with the ultimate goal of improving health outcomes for the people of Wisconsin and beyond.

WPP's current research grant recipients are advancing scientific research and discovery to confront widespread diseases like diabetes and Alzheimer's disease as well as persistent public health challenges like obesity and cancer. Grantees are also tackling complex yet less common conditions that require better diagnostics, interventions and treatments, including pulmonary fibrosis and rare genetic disorders.

WPP offers funding mechanisms that support distinct partnership-aligned approaches to research by SMPH faculty and postdoctoral trainees. Funding has helped expand SMPH's strong research foundation and infrastructure to drive discoveries to improve health and health care in Wisconsin.

Through its Collaborative Health Sciences Program, WPP encourages innovative collaborations among interdisciplinary research teams. These grants support highly innovative projects that bring together different disciplines and new approaches to tackle complex health challenges. **EIGHT AWARDS** were made in fiscal year 2025.

WPP's New Investigator Program has contributed to launching the careers of 91 assistant professors across SMPH through grants totaling \$10 million. Researchers have gone on to leverage an additional \$56 million in funding to sustain or expand their projects. **SEVEN AWARDS** were made in fiscal year 2025.

Building on a strong tradition of supporting early-career faculty, WPP was proud to launch the 20th Anniversary Postdoctoral Grant Program in fiscal year 2025. This grant program is designed to foster the professional development of SMPH postdoctoral trainees, a group that has less access to grant funding, yet represents significant workforce potential for Wisconsin. **FOURTEEN GRANTS** were awarded this cycle. Following the tremendous response and early success of the grant program, WPP has established it as an annual funding opportunity.

READ MORE

- ➔ View the 20th Anniversary Postdoctoral Grant Awards
- ➔ View the Fiscal Year 2025 Collaborative Health Sciences Grant Awards
- ➔ View the Fiscal Year 2025 New Investigator Grant Awards
- ➔ Read More About Research Grant Programs
- ➔ View the full range of WPP research grants in our Supplemental Grantmaking Activity Report

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PAGE

A full-page photograph of two women walking towards the camera in a bright, modern office hallway. The woman on the left has long blonde hair, wears glasses, a light grey blazer over a white top, and a stethoscope around her neck. She is smiling and looking at the other woman. The woman on the right has short brown hair, wears glasses, a dark navy blazer over a black t-shirt with white text, and dark trousers. She is also smiling and looking at the first woman. The hallway has large windows on the right, a patterned carpet, and a potted plant on the left. A teal graphic overlay with a white diamond pattern is on the left side of the image.

RESEARCH IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS



Finding Better Cancer Treatments

Dr. Marina Sharifi is a breast cancer medical oncologist and assistant professor in the Department of Medicine. In her practice, she cares for patients with breast cancer and also sees the need for a better way to determine which treatment plan will work best for each individual patient. With support from a WPP New Investigator Grant, Dr. Sharifi is developing a blood test that can better match the best treatment option to an individual patient, to better predict how their cancer will respond or resist the treatment.

[READ WPP'S Q & A WITH DR. SHARIFI](#)



Improving Lupus Care through Community Collaboration

Systemic Lupus Erythematosus is a chronic autoimmune disease that affects 1.5 million people in the United States, including 28,000 in Wisconsin. Living with lupus requires complex care, and many patients experience gaps or disparities in care due to numerous factors. Dr. Christine Bartels, a professor in the Department of Medicine, is using a Collaborative Health Sciences Grant from WPP to work with a team of medical providers and community partners, including Miss Mary Wells, co-founder, Lupus Support Group for Women of Color, to improve care for lupus patients. Together they are gathering feedback and piloting ideas to address facilitators and barriers to care. A new intervention they co-created has already reduced the number of patients overdue for care by 90 percent. They are expanding their work with a new federal grant that focuses on access to eye testing, to prevent damage potentially caused by a common lupus treatment.

[READ WPP'S Q & A WITH DR. BARTELS AND MISS WELLS](#)

Supporting the Next Generation of Researchers



A new Wisconsin Partnership Program (WPP) postdoctoral grant program, launched in fiscal year 2025, is designed to provide crucial funding to support the work and career development of postdoctoral trainees, postdoctoral fellows, clinical fellows and research associates at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health.

In collaboration with the supervising mentor who nominated them, grant recipients like Jea Woo Kang, PhD, are using their awards to conduct research projects or pursue professional development opportunities to advance their careers.

Dr. Kang, a research associate working in the lab of Barbara Bendlin, PhD, professor, Department of Medicine, is using a WPP Postdoctoral Grant to advance his research in exploring how the gut microbiome may be linked to Alzheimer's disease. If successful, this study could help identify new and potentially targetable gut microbes linking the gut microbiome composition to biomarkers related to Alzheimer's disease, potentially informing future treatments.

[READ WPP'S Q & A WITH DR. KANG](#)



EVALUATION AND IMPACT

The Wisconsin Partnership Program's evaluation strategy has two primary focus areas:

- ✓ Understanding how WPP support facilitates the work of our grantees; and
- ✓ Providing evaluation support for grantees as needed.

How We Evaluate

Evaluation is a key component of WPP's work and draws on data from multiple sources. Several key data sources help us better understand the impact of WPP funding on the health and well-being of people across the state of Wisconsin while also enabling review and improvement of internal processes and procedures to best support applicants, grantees and others.

The data used for WPP evaluation cross several thematic areas. Examples include:

- ✓ Sustainability measures: leveraged funding from external funders; organizational changes that enable the work to be sustained
- ✓ Knowledge-sharing measures: dissemination of information about the work through academic publications and other media
- ✓ Reach and impact measures: number of people served; populations served; counties of impact
- ✓ Quality and process improvement measures: grantee feedback on events and grant programming



Evaluation Support

A strong evaluation program is critical for tracking the progress and outcomes of WPP-funded projects, and data collected helps demonstrate a project's proof-of-concept for future funding and sustainability. WPP's evaluators provide varying levels of evaluation support to all grantees based upon their specific needs for project evaluation. This evaluation is vital in helping grant recipients build their evaluation capacity to expand or sustain their projects.

Grantees funded through WPP's Community Impact Grant Level One Program receive intensive academic partner-level evaluation support. This includes consultations on survey tools, assistance with evaluation and report writing, training opportunities and research assistance. All other grantees are able to consult with WPP evaluation staff as needed.

WPP Evaluation support helped us immediately get our project off to a great data start! Through the access to high quality academic support, we were able to find the right data points to help begin our project data collection. Strong evaluation is key to seeing what works in creating an innovative program to transform the early childhood field. We hope to add our findings to raise the level of understanding of what works and what is a good public investment.



Barb Tengesdal ■ PhD

Executive Director, First 5 Fox Valley;
WPP-funded project: Advancing the Help Me Grow
Model with Family-engaged Developmental Modeling

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT](#)



Convening and Capacity-Building

In fiscal year 2025, WPP offered several opportunities for connection and capacity-building across the state.

In October 2025, WPP hosted its 20th anniversary celebration. A grantee showcase highlighted the work and progress of several grant recipients and a reception honored WPP's proud history and impact. Over **190 PEOPLE**, including current and former grant recipients and staff, university and community leaders and distinguished members of the public attended the events.

WPP's Community Connections series continued this year with three in-person and one virtual event held in April 2025. These events provided opportunities for both future and current grantees to learn, network and familiarize themselves with WPP's grant offerings.



✔ WPP GRANT WRITING STRATEGIES AND TACTICS:

This statewide virtual learning event focused on strategies and tools for effectively developing grant applications. Amy Washbush, PhD, associate director, Center for Community and Nonprofit Studies at UW–Madison’s School of Human Ecology led this session and **173 PEOPLE** representing nearly 100 Wisconsin-based organizations attended.

✔ COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS IN-PERSON EVENTS:

This year WPP traveled to La Crosse, Green Bay and Kenosha to host in-person information sessions. Each session promoted upcoming WPP community grant funding opportunities and featured a presentation by a local WPP grant recipient. Attendees heard firsthand about the experience of working on a WPP-funded project and learned how WPP projects are positively impacting their respective communities. In total, **89 PEOPLE** attended across the three locations.



Sharing Outcomes and Impact

The Wisconsin Partnership Program provides outcome reports for each concluded project after grantees submit their final reports. The outcome reports include significant achievements of each project as well as key outcomes and are published on the [FUNDED PROJECTS](#) section of the WPP website.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The financial resources that support the Wisconsin Partnership Program grants were provided by the conversion of Blue Cross Blue Shield United of Wisconsin and also include funds generated from investment earnings.

All funds are in the custody of and managed by the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association (WFAA). Every month, funds are transferred to the UW School of Medicine and Public Health to reimburse expenditures in accordance with the Order of the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and the five-year expenditure plans.

INVESTMENTS

Current investments consist of participation in the WFAA Short Term Investment Portfolio (STIP). The primary investment objective of the STIP is to preserve the capital and provide liquidity when dollars are called. The STIP is invested in high-quality, short- and medium-term fixed income securities, as well as a small portion that is invested in highly diversified equity investments. Noncurrent investments consist of participation in the WFAA Endowment Investment Portfolio (EIP). The primary investment objective of the EIP is to maximize long-term real returns commensurate with stated risk tolerance, thereby maximizing long-term purchasing power of the funds, net of distributions for current spending needs. Endowment fund distributions to the spendable funds are based on the WFAA spending policy, which is applied to the market value of the endowment funds.

WFAA INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT FEE

WFAA assesses an Institutional Advancement Fee (IAF) on all funds participating in the EIP, including Wisconsin Partnership Program funds, as a primary source of revenue for WFAA operations. This assessment, and its usage, is determined by the WFAA board of directors, and is not controlled by the Wisconsin Partnership Program. Effective July 1, 2024, WFAA lowered the IAF from 1.0% to 0.9%. The IAF for fiscal year 2025 and 2024 was \$3,879,977 and \$3,914,948, respectively, and is shown under expenses on the Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets on page 48.

WFAA decreases the Institutional Advancement Fee by 30 basis points on cumulative fund amounts above \$250 million per qualified relationship. Partnership Program funds exceed the established level, and savings from this fee reduction are fully allocated to the Oversight and Advisory Committee for public health initiatives. These savings were \$543,326 and \$424,484 for fiscal years ending June 30, 2025 and 2024, respectively.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

GRANTS PAYABLE

Grants payable amounts are recorded as of the date of approval by the Oversight and Advisory Committee or Partnership Education and Research Committee.

The liability reflects the total amount of the grant award, less any payments or adjustments made on or before June 30, 2025. Any subsequent modifications to grant awards are recorded as adjustments of grant expenses in the year the adjustment occurs.

NET ASSETS

Temporarily Restricted: Funds consist of interest and investment income earned by the funds invested in the STIP or EIP at WFAA and the cumulative net gains or losses related to the permanently restricted funds that are invested within the EIP. These funds are available to support program expenditures.

Permanently Restricted: The portion of the gift proceeds originally allocated to permanently endow the Wisconsin Partnership Program. These funds have been invested in the EIP of the Foundation and the corpus is not available to support program expenditures.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

OAC REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF THE ALLOCATED PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS

As outlined in its founding documents, the Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) annually reviews and assesses the allocation percentage for public health initiatives and for education and research initiatives. The OAC took up this matter on October 23, 2024. It was moved to retain the allocation of 35 percent for public health initiatives and 65 percent for education and research initiatives, and the motion was unanimously passed.

SUPPLANTING POLICY

Based on the non-supplanting determination made by the School of Medicine and Public Health Chief Financial Officer, the Dean of the School of Medicine and Public Health has attested to compliance with the supplanting prohibition in this Annual Report. The UW-Madison Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration has also attested that UW-Madison and the UW System have complied with the supplanting prohibition.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The following financial reports consolidate activities of the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association and the UW School of Medicine and Public Health for the fiscal years ending June 2025 and June 2024.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS

	June 30, 2025	June 30, 2024
ASSETS		
UW SMPH Cash	\$ (1,711,857)	\$ (1,296,427)
Current Investments	16,221,532	19,130,816
Noncurrent Investments	464,115,604	414,655,660
Total Assets	478,625,279	432,490,049
LIABILITIES		
OAC Grants Payable	11,503,861	15,022,424
PERC Grants Payable	20,847,974	11,768,814
Total Liabilities	32,351,835	26,791,238
NET ASSETS		
Temporarily Restricted	162,657,177	122,082,544
Permanently Restricted	283,616,267	283,616,267
Total Net Assets	446,273,444	405,698,811
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 478,625,279	\$ 432,490,049

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	Year Ended June 30, 2025	Year Ended June 30, 2024
REVENUES		
Interest Income	\$ 408,942	\$ 392,190
Change in Fair Value of Endowed Funds	64,312,752	51,440,406
Total Revenues	64,721,694	51,832,596
EXPENSES		
WFAA Institutional Advancement Fee	3,879,977	3,914,948
Less: WFAA IAF Rebate	(543,326)	(424,484)
OAC Initiatives		
Administrative Expenses	650,008	613,155
Grant Expenses	2,432,143	3,075,683
PERC Initiatives		
Administrative Expenses	1,207,157	1,138,715
Grant Expenses	16,521,102	4,938,082
Total Expenses	24,147,061	13,256,099
Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets	40,574,633	38,576,497
Net Assets - Beginning of year	405,698,811	367,122,314
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 446,273,444	\$ 405,698,811

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

GRANT AWARD COMMITMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

	Net Grant Awards*	Inception to date Disbursements	Outstanding Grant Commitments
PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES			
Grants awarded from Inception to FY2024	\$ 105,678,603	\$ 97,716,943	\$ 7,961,660
FY2025 Awards	3,648,094	105,893	3,542,201
Subtotal	109,326,697	97,822,836	11,503,861
MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH INITIATIVES			
Grants awarded from Inception to FY2024	\$ 183,760,469	\$ 178,582,217	\$ 5,178,252
FY2025 Awards	16,785,402	1,115,680	15,669,722
Subtotal	200,545,871	179,697,897	20,847,974
TOTAL	\$ 309,872,568	\$ 277,520,733	\$ 32,351,835

* Reflects grants awarded less any lapsed awards returned to the Wisconsin Partnership Program

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS (UW SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH)

	FY2025	FY2024
BALANCE, JULY 1	\$ (1,296,427)	\$ (1,474,833)
CASH RECEIPTS		
Payments received from the UW Foundation	14,834,383	16,178,151
Total Assets	14,834,383	16,178,151
CASH DISBURSEMENTS		
Public Health Initiatives	5,950,706	6,119,404
Medical Education and Research Initiatives	7,441,942	8,128,471
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION		
Salaries	1,192,655	1,097,666
Fringe Benefits	419,216	388,725
Travel	15,936	29,008
Supplies and Services	89,016	72,977
Consultants and Contracts	123,754	131,311
Other Disbursements	16,588	32,183
Total Program Administration	1,857,165	1,751,870
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	15,249,813	15,999,745
Increase (Decrease) In Balance	(415,430)	178,406
BALANCE, JUNE 30	\$ (1,711,857)	\$ (1,296,427)

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Wisconsin Partnership Program and its Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) and Partnership Education and Research Committee (PERC) conduct their operations, grantmaking processes and stewardship responsibility in accordance with program requirements and the Insurance Commissioner's Order and Grant Agreement as well as federal, state and local laws and UW System and UW–Madison policies.

OAC and PERC follow standard Request for Proposal guidelines, requirements, multistep review processes and selection criteria throughout the grantmaking process. In addition, the Wisconsin Partnership Program evaluates the progress and outcomes of funded grants using annual and final reports, financial reports, presentations and site visits.

A commitment to social impact and belonging is integral to the Wisconsin Partnership Program's mission to serve the public health needs of Wisconsin and to reduce health disparities and advance health equity through community partnerships, education and research. This commitment ensures that broad perspectives are represented within WPP's goals, strategies and processes as the program advances this mission in communities across Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Partnership Program requires grant recipients to comply with relevant non-discrimination laws and statutes through applicant attestations and their memorandums of understanding.

OPEN MEETINGS AND PUBLIC RECORDS

As directed by the Insurance Commissioner's Order, the Wisconsin Partnership Program conducts its operations and processes in accordance with Wisconsin's Open Meetings and Public Records Laws. Meetings of the OAC and PERC and their subcommittees are open to the public. Committee agendas and minutes are posted on the Wisconsin Partnership Program's website.

WPP PROGRAM AND FINANCIAL AUDITS

In accordance with the Order of the Commissioner of Insurance, the Wisconsin Partnership Program obtains a program and financial audit every five years.

The latest audit engagements covering the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2023 were conducted by independent accounting firm Baker Tilly, US, LLP. The audit standards, specifications and selection of Baker Tilly, US, LLP were all approved by the Commissioner of Insurance. The UW School of Medicine and Public Health was pleased with the results. There were no findings, recommendations or exceptions noted. The program (Agreed Upon Procedures) and financial statement audit reports were shared with the UW System Board of Regents in February 2025.

VIEW [THE RESOURCES AND POLICIES](#) WEBPAGE

WPP LEADERSHIP

Two committees govern the Wisconsin Partnership Program: the Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) and the Partnership Education and Research Committee (PERC).

Oversight And Advisory Committee

The University of Wisconsin (UW) System Board of Regents appoints four representatives from the UW School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) and four community health advocates representing different health categories to the nine-member Oversight and Advisory Committee.

The Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance appoints one OAC member. Members serve four-year terms. One member of the Board of Regents and a representative of the UW–Madison Office of the Chancellor also serve as liaisons to OAC.

The primary responsibilities of OAC are to:

- ✔ Direct and approve available funds for community-engaged public health initiatives and public health education and training
- ✔ Provide public representation through the OAC's four health advocates
- ✔ Offer comment and advice on the PERC's grant allocations

WPP LEADERSHIP OAC

COMMUNITY HEALTH ADVOCATE APPOINTEES

Cedric Johnson*

Manager, Advocacy and Alliances
Exact Sciences

Aaron Perry

OAC Secretary, Founder and President
Rebalanced-Life Wellness Association

Kirstie Yu

Program Training Specialist
Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association

Sue Smith ▪ RN, MSN, CPM

OAC Vice Chair, Director/Health Officer
Wood County Health Department

Gregory Nycz

CEO, Family Health Center of Marshfield, Inc.

INSURANCE COMMISSIONER'S APPOINTEE

Jennifer Stegall*

Executive Senior Policy Advisor
Wisconsin Office of Commissioner of Insurance

Coral Manning

Senior Policy Advisor
Wisconsin Office of Commissioner of Insurance

UW SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH APPOINTEES

Manish Shah ▪ MD, MPH

OAC Chair
The Azita G. Hamedani Distinguished Chair
of Emergency Medicine; Professor, Berbee Walsh
Department of Emergency Medicine

Elizabeth Felton ▪ MD, PhD

Assistant Professor
Department of Neurology

Jon Audhya ▪ PhD

Senior Associate Dean for Basic Research,
Biotechnology and Graduate Studies

Amy Kind ▪ MD, PhD

Executive Director, Wisconsin Partnership Program
Associate Dean for Social Health Sciences and Programs

* Term ended during Fiscal Year 2025

Partnership Education And Research Committee

The Partnership Education and Research Committee (PERC) broadly represents the faculty, staff and leadership at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health and includes representatives from the Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC).

The primary responsibilities of PERC are to:

- ✔ Direct and approve available funds for faculty-initiated education and research initiatives to advance health and health equity
- ✔ Maintain a balanced portfolio of grant investments in population health
- ✔ Strengthen collaborations with communities and health leaders statewide

WPP LEADERSHIP PERC

SMPH LEADERSHIP

Jon Audhya ▪ PhD

PERC Chair

Senior Associate Dean for Basic Research,
Biotechnology and Graduate Studies

Elizabeth Petty ▪ MD

Senior Associate Dean

Academic Affairs and Professor,
Department of Pediatrics

Amy Kind ▪ MD, PhD

Executive Director, Wisconsin Partnership Program

Associate Dean for Social Health Sciences and Programs

DEPARTMENT CHAIRS

Beth Drolet ▪ MD

Professor and Chair, Department of Dermatology

Richard C. Keller ▪ PhD

Robert Turell Professor and Chair

Department of Medical History and Bioethics

FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES

Ryan Coller ▪ MD, MPH

Associate Professor, Pediatrics

Division Chief, Hospital Medicine and Complex Care

Yao Liu ▪ MD, MS

Associate Professor and William and Phyllis Huffman

Research Professor, Department of Ophthalmology
and Visual Sciences

Amy Fowler* ▪ MD, PhD

Associate Professor, Department of Radiology

Shigeki Miyamoto ▪ PhD

Professor, Department of Oncology

Thomas Grist ▪ MD

Professor, Department of Radiology

Ann Sheehy* ▪ MD, MS

Associate Professor, Department of Medicine

Christina Hull ▪ PhD

Professor, Departments of Biomolecular Chemistry
and Medical Microbiology and Immunology

* Term ended during Fiscal Year 2025

WPP LEADERSHIP PERC

OVERSIGHT AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTEES

Gregory Nycz

OAC Community Health Advocate
CEO, Family Health Center of Marshfield, Inc.

Manish Shah ▪ MD, MPH

OAC Chair
The Azita G. Hamedani Distinguished Chair
of Emergency Medicine; Professor, Berbee Walsh
Department of Emergency Medicine

WPP COMMITTEE LIAISONS

UW-MADISON OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

Ken Mount

UW SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS

Joan Prince ▪ PhD

Member, University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents



WPP Leadership and Staff

WPP staff work in partnership with the Oversight and Advisory Committee and Partnership Education and Research Committee to support WPP applicants and grantees across the award cycle by providing administrative and programmatic support and capacity building and learning opportunities.

WPP LEADERSHIP AND STAFF

WPP LEADERSHIP

Amy Kind ▪ MD, PhD

Executive Director, Wisconsin Partnership Program
Associate Dean for Social Health Sciences and Programs

Megan Miller ▪ MPA

Administrative Executive Director
Wisconsin Partnership Program
Chief Administrative Officer, Office of Social
Health Sciences and Programs

Justin Hajny ▪ MBA

Operations Associate Director

Tonya Mathison

Administrative Director

Jonathan Thomas

Finance Associate Director
Wisconsin Partnership Program

WPP STAFF

Lindsay Barone ▪ PhD

Director of Grantmaking
Evaluation and Learning, Office of
Social Health Sciences and Programs

Ashley Benitez

Communications Project Assistant

Aimee Haese ▪ MPH

Program Officer

Amy Strang Hermann

Project Coordinator

Kattia Jimenez

Program Officer

Nathan Kersten

Financial Specialist

Ryan King

Undergraduate Student Intern

Carli Kollross

Operations Project Assistant

Anne Pankratz

Communications Manager

Haley Powell

Administrative Assistant

Jaimee Prado ▪ MPH

Program Officer

Veronica Rueckert

Chief Communications Officer
Office of Social Health Sciences and
Programs

Stacie Vik

Executive Assistant

Olivia Voge

Internal Evaluator

Rob Warren

Post-Award Accountant III

Debbie Wu

Financial Manager



Wisconsin Partnership Program
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

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