

SAFE SUMMER SITES

Use of Funds Presentation



Milwaukee Common Council



01



OPPORTUNITY

The problem we're solving



Too many young people have limited access to safe, welcoming places during summer evenings and weekends.



Exposure to violence, isolation, and neighborhood instability can increase when positive options are not nearby or relevant.



Many existing spaces close early, offer limited hours, or do not consistently meet the needs of youth ages 12–20.



Families need trusted community hubs that offer connection, enrichment, food, support, and a sense of belonging.

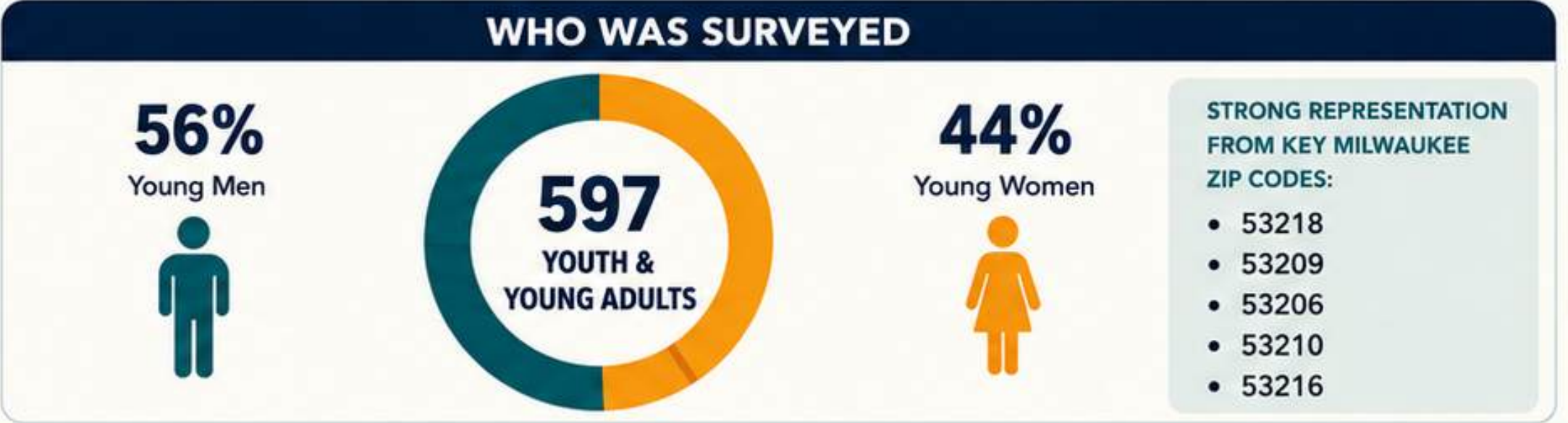


This is the opportunity: create safe, youth-centered spaces at the times and in the places they are needed most.



WHAT WE LEARNED FROM MILWAUKEE YOUTH

The voices of youth guide our work. In 2025, 597 youth and young adults shared their experiences, challenges, and ideas for creating safer and stronger communities.



“Youth are navigating violence as a constant reality—shaped by conflict, access to guns, pressure, and limited safe spaces. At the same time, they are clear about what works: relationships, opportunity, structure, and trusted support.”

02



WHAT IS A **SAFE SUMMER** SITE?



A youth-centered response for summer evenings and weekends



Safe Summer Sites are free, trusted community spaces where young people can gather during the hours they need them most — especially evenings and weekends.



Open during high-need summer hours

Evenings and weekends when young people are most likely to need safe places to go.



Youth-centered programming

Recreation, enrichment, creativity, mentoring, healing, and fun.



Trusted adults on site

Staff, partners, and community leaders who create structure, support, and safety.



Basic needs and connection

Food, belonging, positive peer connection, and pathways to additional support.



Located in priority neighborhoods

Placed where access gaps are greatest and where summer investment can make the biggest difference.



In short: **Safe Summer Sites keep young people connected, engaged, and safe during the summer hours that matter most.**



BOTTOM UP PUBLIC HEALTH MODELS WE ARE BUILDING FROM

Safe Summer Sites is grounded in trusted, community rooted models that have already delivered measurable impact in Milwaukee.

EvictionFreeMKE
Free legal help and more to stop evictions.

- Employed 20 community canvassers.
- Increased eviction representation by 20%+.
- Saved social services \$3.12 for every \$1 invested.

H M K E
healthy mke

- Award winning public health campaign.
- Connected 30,000+ residents to vaccines at their door.
- Built trust through direct neighborhood engagement.

**NEIGHBOR
TO
NEIGHBOR**

- Milwaukee's largest door to door campaign.
- Employed 50+ canvassers across Milwaukee.
- Built a powerful resident level outreach infrastructure.

GRINDING TO GLORY

- 2025 youth development model.
- Reached 400+ youth over 10 weeks.
- Ran out of the King Center and centered community based youth engagement.

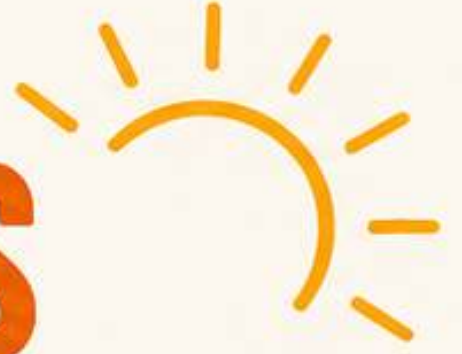


What these models show: trusted messengers, direct outreach, local relationships, and measurable results.

03



COLLABORATING PARTNERS



Working together to create safe, trusted, youth centered spaces across Milwaukee.



Children's
Wisconsin



**GREATER
MILWAUKEE
URBAN LEAGUE**



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES
**CHILDREN, YOUTH
& FAMILY SERVICES**



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
PARKS



**United
Neighborhood
Centers of
Milwaukee**



Along with a network of **50+** enrichment partners and existing working relationships across the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County.



Safe Summer Sites

04



WHERE THEY ARE IN THE CITY



Community and school based Safe Summer Sites across Milwaukee



- 1 Milwaukee Community Crossroads
- 2 Northcott Neighborhood House
- 3 Neu Life Community Development
- 4 Neighborhood House of Milwaukee
- 5 Journey House
- 6 Silver Spring Neighborhood Center
- 7 Andrew Douglas Middle School / Keefe Avenue School
- 8 Bay View High School
- 9 Madison High School
- 10 North Division High School
- 11 Obama SCTE
- 12 Pulaski High School
- 13 South Division High School
- 14 Washington High School



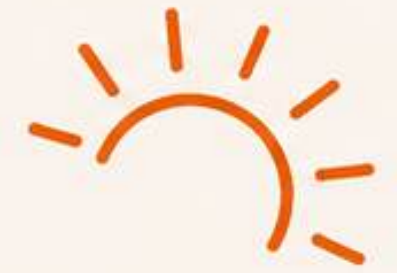
Safe Summer Sites



05



OPERATING MODEL



How Safe Summer Sites operate across the summer

June 22 - Aug 6



- 1 Monday - Friday**
MPS Twilight Centers
with extended hours



- 2 Saturdays**
Parks & United Neighborhood
Centers (UNCOM)



- 3 Sundays**
A push for rest, retreat,
and connection with family

Aug 6 - Aug 31



- 1 Monday - Saturday**
Parks & United Neighborhood
Centers (UNCOM)



- 2 Sundays**
A push for rest, retreat,
and connection with family



All sites operate from **5:30 PM - 10:30 PM** during operating days.



Also includes an interactive, adaptive **Community Peace Pop Up** model
for communities with high needs as needs are identified.



Core idea: Phased operations ensure youth have safe evening spaces throughout the summer.



06

USE OF FUNDS



How Safe Summer Sites funds would be invested

	Site Operations & Staffing	Site teams, youth workers, supervision, safety support, weekday non MPS coverage, weekend coverage, and late summer expanded coverage.	\$475,000
	Food & Family Engagement	Meals, snacks, hydration, and family support that help youth stay connected during evening and weekend programming.	\$215,000
	Youth Programming & Engagement	Sports, arts, healing circles, life skills, workforce exposure, youth incentives, and the end of summer closeout event.	\$180,000
	Community Peace Pop Ups & Adaptive Response	Flexible neighborhood based activations and rapid response when emerging needs, tensions, or attendance patterns shift.	\$80,000
	Communications & Outreach	Street outreach, youth ambassador promotion, print materials, digital outreach, and community awareness.	\$70,000
	Coordination & Administration	Central project management, partner coordination, contracting, payroll support, compliance, reporting, and implementation oversight.	\$115,000

TOTAL CASH BUDGET: \$1,135,000



Funds are weighted toward people, meals, and engagement — the direct service engine of Safe Summer Sites.



07 >>>

RAISED TO DATE

Confirmed cash commitments secured so far.



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES
**CHILDREN, YOUTH
& FAMILY SERVICES**

Milwaukee County

\$500,000



Children's
Wisconsin

Children's Wisconsin

\$100,000



Medical College of Wisconsin

\$35,000

TOTAL RAISED TO DATE: \$635,000



THE ASK

WE ARE SEEKING

\$500,000

to fill the gap and allow us to run through August 31 and fully ensure **6 days a week** program to create safe, relatable spaces for youth.

MONDAY-SATURDAY

5:30-10:30 PM

for young people ages 12-20.



>>>

THANK YOU



For considering this investment
in Safe Summer Sites.

Together, we can create safe,
relatable spaces for Milwaukee youth.

