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August 2026



Volunteers Needed for Project Homeless Connect

Project Homeless Connect brings a wide range of resources and services together under one roof for one day to support individuals experiencing homelessness. One of the event's most meaningful features is its volunteer advocate program, where each guest is paired with a volunteer. This one-on-one connection helps build community and ensures every guest is welcomed with dignity, respect, and compassion. The event also brings together government leaders, the justice system, healthcare providers, human service organizations, and community members to increase awareness of homelessness while connecting people to critical services.

Since 2009, Project Homeless Connect has been a cornerstone of the Milwaukee Continuum of Care, bringing together services, resources, and community partners to support individuals experiencing homelessness. Each year, the event serves more than 700 guests, helping many take important steps toward stable housing and long-term stability. Building on its success in Milwaukee, Project Homeless Connect expanded to Waukesha County in 2019, extending its reach to even more individuals in need.

United Way is currently recruiting hundreds of volunteers to help make this year's Milwaukee Project Homeless Connect a success. If you're interested in volunteering or would like to learn more, [click here](#).

Project Homeless Connect is also seeking volunteer barbers, hairstylists, and manicurists to donate their time and talents during the event. If you are interested or know someone who might, contact Krystina Kohler at KKohler@unitedwaygmwc.org.

Keeping People and Their Pets Together

National Dog Day is celebrated each year on August 26 as a way to honor dogs, promote adoption, and raise awareness about their welfare. It is also an opportunity to recognize the important role dogs play in people's lives.

Dogs can provide comfort, protection, companionship, and a sense of stability during difficult times. For people experiencing homelessness, that bond can be especially meaningful. Research has found that pets can give people experiencing homelessness a sense of responsibility and purpose, encourage them to seek healthcare, and even help reduce substance use. An estimated 10–25% of people experiencing homelessness have a pet, and for many, their animal companion is a trusted source of unconditional love and support.

Unfortunately, having a pet can also create barriers to accessing housing and services. Only about 22% of homeless shelters in the United States allow pets, which can leave people facing the difficult choice between accessing shelter and staying with their animal companion. Research shows that even when people are encouraged or required to separate from their pets in order to access services, many choose to remain with their animals instead. Nearly half of women experiencing domestic violence who have pets report delaying entry into a shelter because they fear leaving their pet behind.

This strong human-animal bond is important for homeless service providers and Continuums of Cares (CoCs) to recognize. Creating more pet-inclusive services and housing options can help providers engage people experiencing homelessness while supporting their emotional well-being and reducing barriers to housing and stability.

If you or someone you know is experiencing homelessness or housing instability and has a pet, support may be available through the **Wisconsin Humane Society** (WHS). WHS works with individuals and families facing financial or housing challenges who may need assistance caring for or keeping their pets. Contact the Wisconsin Humane Society to learn more about available resources and support.



MYTH BUSTED

Research from a Canada-based study suggests that pets belonging to people experiencing homelessness or housing instability are generally healthy. Their overall health and the medical conditions they experience are comparable to those commonly seen in pets living in stable housing.



When Temperatures Rise, Cooling Sites Can Help

Did you know that extreme heat contributes to at least *1,500 deaths* in the United States each year?

Hot weather can be especially dangerous for young children, older adults, and individuals with certain health conditions. As temperatures rise, it's important to stay hydrated and spend time in air-conditioned spaces whenever possible. If you need a place to cool off, several public locations throughout the Milwaukee area are available as Cooling Sites. These sites provide a safe, air-conditioned environment to help residents stay healthy during periods of extreme heat.



Click on the button below to visit the City of Milwaukee Health Department's Health Info page to learn more!

[Find a Site](#)



NOFO Competition Update

Due to court order, the 2026 CoC NOFO and its August 26, 2026 application submission deadline are no longer in force as HUD is unable to accept applications at this time.

HUD will communicate further guidance and additional updates as they become available

Help Shape the Future of Milwaukee



Looking for a career that makes a difference? Several MCHH member organizations are currently hiring for positions that help individuals and families experiencing homelessness and housing instability.

Check out employment opportunities with some of our member organizations below. Click on an organization's name to learn more about available positions.

- **Cathedral Center**
- **Center for Veterans Issues**
- **Guest House**
- **Outreach Community Health Centers**
- **Sojourner Family Peace Center**
- **Walker's Point Youth & Family Center**

Join a team that is making a difference every day while helping build a stronger, more compassionate Milwaukee community.

The Milwaukee Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (MCHH) brings together housing providers, emergency shelters, and supportive service organizations united by a shared goal—to prevent and end homelessness in Milwaukee.



Milwaukee Coalition on Housing & Homelessness | [Contact Us](#) | [FAQs](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

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