



# Healthiest Wisconsin 2020

## Aligning Policies and Systems for Better Health



### An Invitation

On behalf of more than 1,500 partners, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services invites your active and sustained engagement in implementing *Healthiest Wisconsin 2020: Everyone Living Better, Longer* - Wisconsin's public health agenda.

No one agency, organization or community alone has the resources to solve current and emerging health problems and protect, promote and improve the health of the 5.7 million people in Wisconsin. However, these achievements are doable in a system of partners working together under a shared framework. We believe *it takes the work of many to improve the health of all*.

---

### What is *Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 (HW2020)*?

*HW2020* is a ten-year plan (2010 – 2020) anchored in an agreed-upon framework that includes a vision, a mission, goals, focus areas, objectives and outcomes. It is designed to protect, promote, and improve health throughout Wisconsin in the communities where we live, grow, work, learn and play.

*HW2020* is a “call to action” covering 23 focus areas that address current and emerging issues facing the health of the public. These 23 focus areas are distributed over three major categories that influence health:

1. Crosscutting focus areas – health disparities; and social, economic and educational factors.
2. Health focus areas; and
3. Infrastructure focus areas.

### What are the goals of *Healthiest Wisconsin 2020*?

1. Improve health across the life span.
2. Eliminate health disparities and achieve health equity.

These two broad goals set a high standard and establish an ideal of what we can aspire to together. All of the *HW2020* focus area objectives are directly linked to these two goals. Whether you work on only one focus area (e.g., access to high-quality health care); on two or more related focus areas (chronic disease; nutrition; physical activity); or on a crosscutting area such as “social, economic, and educational factors that influence health,” you can make a contribution to working toward these aspirational goals.

### Who are the partners to *Healthiest Wisconsin 2020*?

The *Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 Partnership Model* is shown on page 3. The 18 sectors / systems shown in the outer ring of the model make up Wisconsin's public health system. Do you see your agency or organization in this model? If so, you are part of Wisconsin's public health system.

## What are the outcomes expected from *Healthiest Wisconsin 2020*?

*Healthiest Wisconsin 2020* identifies seven major outcomes as the hoped-for results of its work. These outcomes focus on people, communities, and the organized systems (health care, environment, education, commerce) that affect people's health in Wisconsin.

1. Reduce disease, injury, and adverse health conditions due to risky behaviors.
2. Reduce preventable illness and disability.
3. Reduce preventable death.
4. Align policies and systems for better health.
5. Eliminate health disparities.
6. Achieve health equity.
7. Strengthen Wisconsin's public health system.

## Why Should Partners Align with *Healthiest Wisconsin 2020*?

*Healthiest Wisconsin 2020* embodies and links to the best available evidence to ensure that everyone in Wisconsin lives better and longer. *Healthiest Wisconsin 2020* identifies priority objectives based on actions that offer the greatest returns on investments to improve lifelong health, to eliminate health disparities and achieve more equal opportunities for people to live, learn, grow, work and play in conditions which protect and promote health.

## Why is working together through partnerships important?

Although partnerships take time and effort, they are worthy of our investment. Partnerships can transform and make a difference in lasting ways. Collaborative partnerships that focus on prevention and health promotion are vitally needed at the local, regional and statewide levels. Partnerships help us align policies and systems for better health because they:

- Engage diverse voices of people and organizations to learn and solve problems together!
- Provide needed capacity for healthy communities.
- Allow a more complete understanding of the complexity and interaction of factors that protect, promote and threaten health.
- Help to uncover solutions and innovations that might otherwise be hidden when we work alone.
- Conserve resources and contain rising health care costs.
- Decrease silos of thinking and action, thus reducing unnecessary duplication.

## How do I get started?

- Go to the *Healthiest Wisconsin 2020* website (<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hw2020/>) to learn more. Here you can access the main plan; find the focus areas brochure and frequently asked questions; review evidence-based practices; access the County Health Rankings, *What Works for Health*, and *Healthy People 2020*; and learn more about the action plans contained in the 23 focus area profiles.
- Select one or more focus areas from the *HW2020* agenda that are a good fit with your goals and plans.
- Review and submit the non-binding *HW2020* Endorsement form available at: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forms/F0/F00355.doc> Here you can tell us about your interests, become a champion of *HW2020* to improve the public's health, and provide leadership by spreading the word through communications with your partners and networks.
- Contact your local health department or the Wisconsin Division of Public Health (e-mail [dhshw2020@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:dhshw2020@dhs.wisconsin.gov)) to identify opportunities that can make a difference.

# Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 Partnership Model

