



# MARATHON COUNTY EXTENSION, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

Date & Time of Meeting: **Thursday, July 6, 2023 at 3:00pm**

Meeting Location: **Courthouse Assembly Room, Courthouse, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI 54403**

Committee Members: Rick Seefeldt, Chair; Becky Buch, Vice-Chair; Bobby Niemeyer, Crystal Bushman  
Kim Ungerer, David Baker, Tom Rosenberg

**Marathon County Mission Statement:** Marathon County Government serves people by leading, coordinating, and providing county, regional, and statewide initiatives. It directly or in cooperation with other public and private partners provides services and creates opportunities that make Marathon County and the surrounding area a preferred place to live, work, visit, and do business. (Last updated: 12-20-05)

**Committee Mission Statement:** Provide the leadership for implementation of the Strategic Plan, monitoring outcomes, reviewing, and recommending to the County Board all policies related to educational and economic development initiatives of Marathon County.

Persons wishing to attend the meeting by phone may call into the **telephone conference beginning five (5) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number:**

**Phone#: 1-408-418-9388      Access Code: 146 235 4571**

When you enter the telephone conference, **PLEASE PUT YOUR PHONE ON MUTE!**

The meeting will also be broadcasted on Public Access or at <https://tinyurl.com/MarathonCountyBoard>

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Public Comment (15 Minutes)** (Any person who wishes to address the committee during the "Public Comment" portion of the meetings, must provide his or her name, address, and the topic he or she wishes to present to the Marathon County Clerk, or chair of the committee, no later than five minutes before the start of the meeting. All comments must be germane to a topic within the jurisdiction of the committee.)
4. **Approval of the June 1, 2023, Extension, Education and Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes**
5. **Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination**
  - A. Continued Discussion regarding 2024 Annual Budget and policy recommendations from the committee
    1. Review Mandatory / Discretionary Program document
    2. Review of Rates and Fees document
    3. Review of 5-Year Departmental Expense /Levy document
6. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, Resolution, or Policy**
  - A. How does the Committee intend to complete its work called for under the revisions of the Strategic Plan relative to access to affordable high-quality childcare and safe and affordable housing
    1. Presentation from Aaron Ruff and the Marathon County Dream Up! Core team.
    2. Letter of Support from the Greater Wausau Prosperity Partnership
7. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**
  - A. UW-Extension Program and Budget Overview
  - B. Historical Society Presentation
  - C. MCDEVCO'S Monthly Report
  - D. Library Monthly Report
  - E. UW - Extension Monthly Report
  - F. UWSP - Wausau Report
8. **Next Meeting Date & Time, Announcements and Future Agenda Items**
  - A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion.
  - B. Next meeting: Thursday, August 3, 2023, at 3:00pm
9. **Adjournment**

\*Any Person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation in order to participate should call the County Clerk's Office at 261.1500 or email [countyclerk@co.marathon.wi.us](mailto:countyclerk@co.marathon.wi.us) one business day before the meeting.

**SIGNED** \_\_\_\_\_ s/s Rick Seefeldt  
Presiding Officer or Designee

EMAILED TO: Wausau Daily Herald, City Pages, and other Media Groups

EMAILED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE & TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTICE POSTED AT THE COURTHOUSE**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE & TIME: \_\_\_\_\_



# MARATHON COUNTY EXTENSION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA WITH MINUTES

Date & Time of Meeting: **Thursday, June 1, 2023, at 3:00pm**

Meeting Location: **Courthouse Assembly Room, Courthouse, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI 54403**

Rick Seefeldt	Present
Becky Buch	Present
David Baker	WebEx
Bobby Niemeyer	WebEx
Tom Rosenberg	Present
Kim Ungerer	Present (3:20p.m)
Crystal Bushman	Excused

Staff Present: Administrator Lance Leonhard, Kurt Gibbs, Dejan Adzic, Ann Lemmer, Alison Leahy, Leah Giordano, Jeremy Solin. Dr. Ozalle Toms, Kimm Weber

Others Present: Dr. Keith Hilts, Diana White, Aaron Ruff, Kelly Borchardt, Elsa Duranceau

1. **Call Meeting to Order** – Chair Seefeldt called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Public Comment:** Peter Weinschenk, Edgar, WI asked for support of a TIF Task Force
4. **Approval of the May 4, 2023, Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes** - Motion by Rosenberg, Second by Buch to approve the minutes. Motion carried on voice vote, unanimously.
5. **Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination**
  - A. Continued Discussion regarding 2024 Annual Budget and policy recommendations from the committee
    1. Review Mandatory / Discretionary Program document
    2. Review of Rates and Fees document
    3. Review of 5-Year Departmental Expense/Levy documentDiscussion was had on the above agenda items with questions being asked and answered. Baker makes request for presentations from some programs.
  - B. Discussion and Possible Action by EEED to forward to County Board for Consideration
    1. Tax Incremental Financing Evaluation: Discussion was had with questions being asked and answered. Motion made by Rosenberg, second by Buch in support of TIF, sending it to the full County Board. Motion carried on a voice vote unanimously.Agenda was taken out of order with no objections. (7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 7E, 7F, 6A1, 6A2, 8A, 8B, 9)
6. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, Resolution, or Policy**
  - A. How does the Committee intend to complete its work called for under the revisions to the Strategic Plan relative to access to affordable high-quality childcare and safe and affordable housing
    1. By August 31, 2023, with the input from non-EEED Supervisors and other Marathon County Stakeholders, the EEED Committee will prepare recommendations for Marathon County Government's role in supporting affordable high-quality childcare: Aaron Ruff from the Dream UP! Core Team will be putting together a presentation to help with the EEED deadline of August 31, 2023. Questions were asked and answered.
    2. By August 31, 2023, with the input from non-EEED Supervisors and other Marathon County Stakeholders, the EEED Committee will prepare recommendations for Marathon County Government's role in supporting safe affordable housing options: Discussion was had.
7. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**
  - A. Wausau School District Dr. Hilts and Diana White: Diana White and Dr Hilts talked about how the merge of the schools will benefit students, staff, and families. Questions were asked and answered.
  - B. Aaron Ruff Public Health Educator, Marathon County Health Department, Dream Up! Core Team: Aaron Ruff stated that 12 childcare centers will be given a \$5,000 Grant and stated that they will support and help the EEED committee where they can. Kelly Borchardt also talked about childcare. Questions were asked and answered.

- C. MCDEVCO's Monthly Report: Kimm Weber gave the report for MCDEVCO.
  - D. Library Monthly Report: Leah Giordano from the Library gave her monthly report and talked about the summer events being held for children at the Marathon County Public Libraries.
  - E. UW-Extension Monthly Report: Jeremy Solin gave updates on some of the programs at the UW-Extension.
  - F. UWSP – Wausau Report: Dr Ozalle Toms gave her report saying applications and enrollment is up.
8. **Next Meeting Date & Time, Announcements and Future Agenda Items**
- A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion.
  - B. Next meeting: Thursday, July 6, 2023, at 3:00pm
9. **Adjournment**
- Motion by Name, Second by Name to adjourn. Motion Carried on voice vote, unanimously.  
Meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by Kelley Blume, Deputy County Clerk

DRAFT





MARATHON  
COUNTY



# Child Care in Marathon County

JULY 2023



# Result

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**All working families in Marathon County have accessible, affordable, quality child care in their community.**

# Indicators

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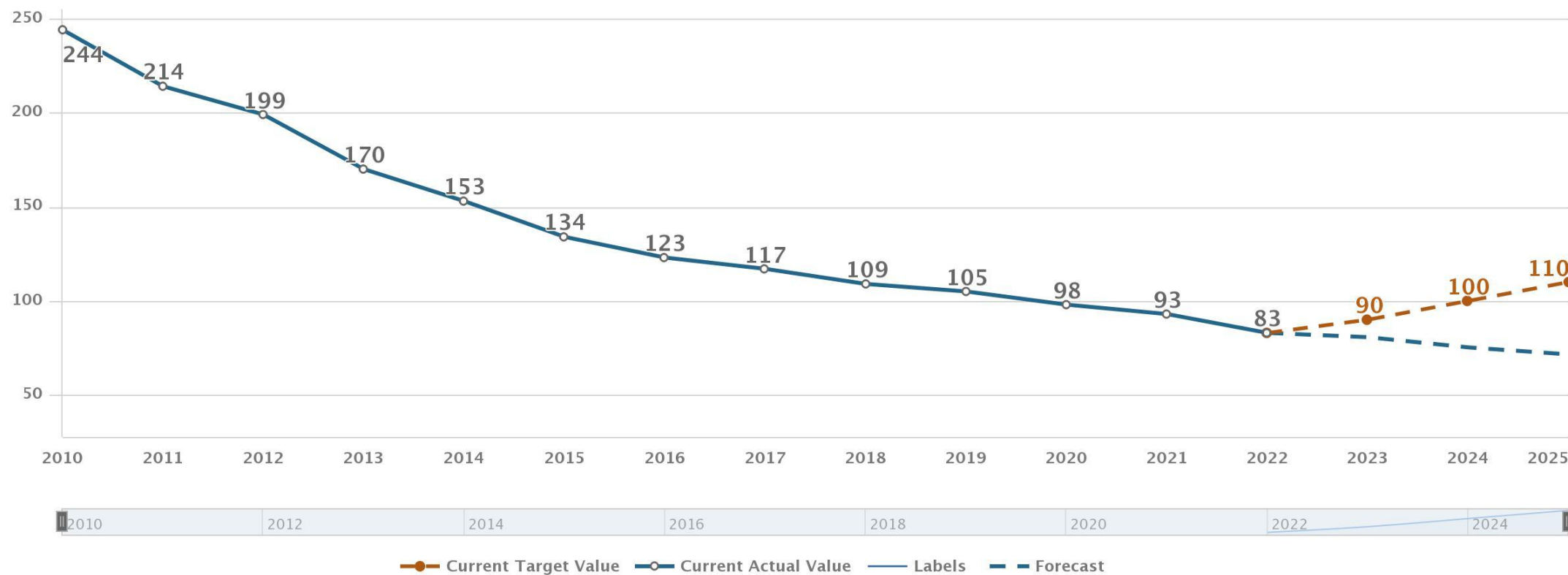


1. Number of regulated child care providers in Marathon County.
2. The total number of child care slots of regulated child care providers in Marathon County.



# Turning the Curve

Regulated Child Care Providers in Marathon County

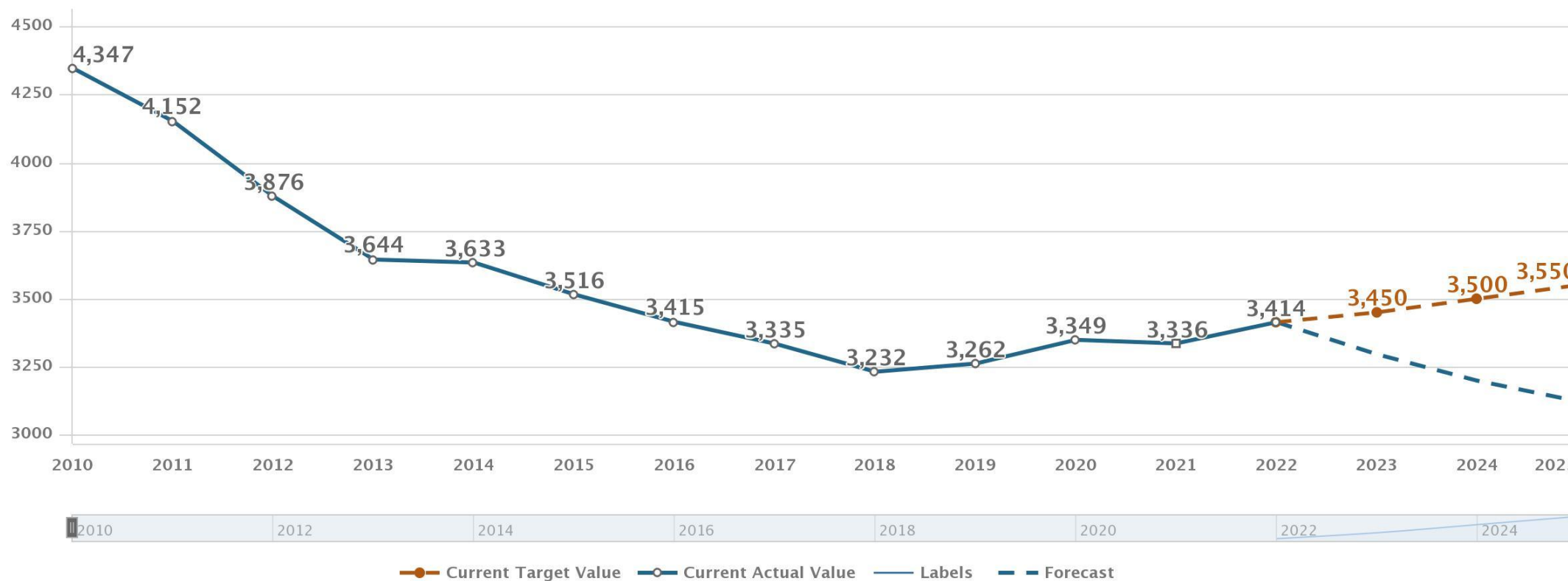






# Turning the Curve

Total Capacity of Child Care Providers in Marathon County





# Dream Up! SMART Goals

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**By November 1, 2023, invest in and retain the current child care providers in Marathon County.**

**By November 1, 2023, establish alternative child care business models in Marathon County, partnering local employers with child care providers.**



# Dream Up! Budget

Activity	Budget
Coordination and facilitation of the Marathon County Dream Up! Core Team by Aaron Ruff, Public Health Educator, Marathon County Health Department.	\$7,500
Coordination and communication by Childcaring, Inc. with local child care centers in Marathon County to create awareness of the opportunity, distribute funds, and gather follow-up data.	\$5,000
Childcaring, Inc. will provide training & consultation to prospective or current child care providers.	\$2,500
Childcaring, Inc. will distribute \$5,000 to 12 child care providers in Marathon County to aid with staff retention compensation, program supplies/equipment, or minor renovations.	\$60,000
Total	\$75,000





# Marathon County's Current Role

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- **Marathon County is serving as the fiscal agent for the Dream Up grant.**
- **Aaron Ruff, Public Health Educator with the Marathon County Health Department is providing staff support to the Dream Up! core team.**
  - Results-Based Accountability (RBA) Process facilitation
  - Marathon County Dream Up! Core Team coordination & meeting facilitation
  - Dream Up! grant administration & monthly reporting

The graphic features a dark blue rectangular box with the year '2023' in a white, handwritten-style font on the left, and the words 'MARATHON COUNTY' in a small, white, sans-serif font above the word 'LIFE Report' in a larger, white, sans-serif font on the right. The background of the entire graphic is a photograph of a playground with green and blue equipment under a blue sky with light clouds.

# 2023 MARATHON COUNTY LIFE Report

CALL TO ACTION:

## Child Care

The child care business model is broken. Since COVID-19, the influx of federal relief funding has been a vital lifeline to support child care providers, however this funding is temporary and could cause a potential fiscal cliff in the near future. It is extremely difficult for child care providers to provide quality care and education on parent fees/tuition alone. **Child care needs additional long-term public and private investment so children can have high-quality care and education, parents remain in the workforce, and those who work in child care can earn enough to support their own families.**

View the Child Care page at:  
<https://www.marathoncountypulse.org/stories/index/view?alias=LIFEeducation&pid=56189843242>

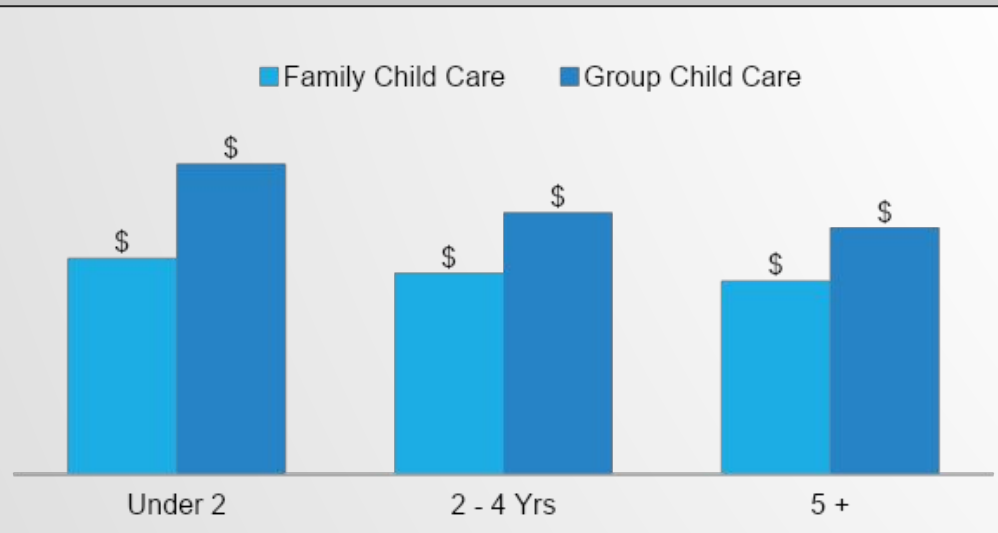
**Why Does  
Child Care  
Cost So Much  
But Providers  
Make So Little?**





## HIGH COST OF CARE – Marathon County

2022 Average Child Care Rates per Week



**\$125 - \$350 per week**

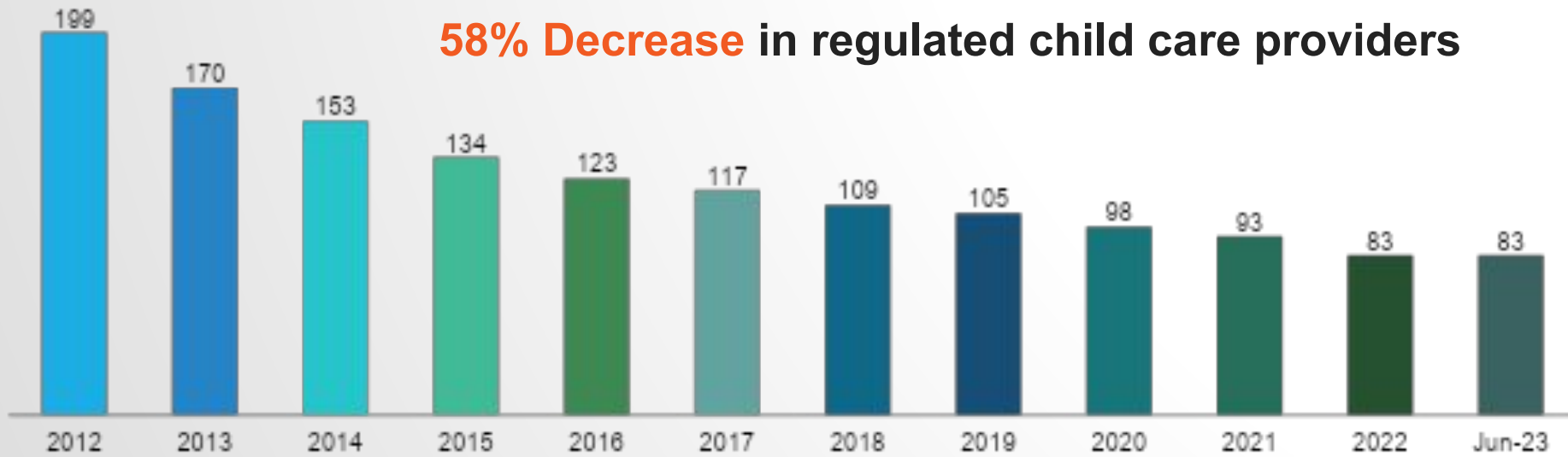
A family with a child age 0-1 receiving care in a group child care setting will pay **3 times the affordable amount.**

The Federal Government defines affordable care as no more than 7% of a family's yearly income should be spent on child care.

**1 infant = \$13,000 per year or 2 children = \$23,972**

**Average annual cost of public college tuition in WI: \$12,676**

## AVAILABILITY OF REGULATED CHILD CARE IN MARATHON COUNTY



### Turn Over is Especially High in Family Child Care

50% of zip codes in Marathon County are consider a “child care desert” – areas with little or no access to quality child care

02/07/2022

## CHILD CARE CAPACITY

Type of Care	Total #	Total Capacity
Licensed Group Center	25	1,982
Licensed Camp	2	288
Licensed Preschool	2	70
Licensed School Age	8	259
Licensed Exempt	1	200
Head Start	3	180
Licensed Family Child Care	33	264
Certified Family Child Care	9	54
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>3,497</b>



## CHILD CARE ISSUES

### Workforce Shortage:

- Lack of applicants
- Low wages and few benefits
- Lack of value and respect for early childhood profession
- Burnout
- Lack of longevity of staff

### Need for Long Term Support:

- Loss of DCF temporary COVID Relief funding

### Lack of Availability:

- Lack of staff
- Wait lists as long as 30 infants
- Wait times longer than 1 year
- Building and classroom closures
- High turnover of family child care providers

*Marathon County parent:*

*“We moved here in June and continued to drive our daughter to Stevens Point until mid-August when we fortunately found care on a coincidence. We are grateful for how it worked out for us, but it's scary about the lack of care available. It puts parents in a tough situation. Everyone deserves to have a safe place for their kids when they are working.”*

## WHY REGULATION IS NEEDED

- Protect children from risk of harm while in out-of-home care.
- Teach providers about important aspects of child care.
- Inform parents about what they can expect from child care.

These rules determine whether a child care program will become regulated or will continue to be regulated.

## WHEN REGULATION IS REQUIRED

**Anyone providing care and supervision for four (4) or more children, under age 7 years, for less than 24 hours a day must be licensed by the Department of Children and Families.**

Exceptions to this rule are:

- A parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, step-parent, brother, sister, first cousin, nephew, niece, uncle, or aunt of a child, whether by blood, marriage, or legal adoption, who provides care and supervision for the child
- Public and parochial schools
- Care provided in the home of the child's parent for less than 24 hours per day
- Counties, cities, towns, school districts and libraries that provide programs for children primarily intended for social or recreational purposes
- A program that operates not more than 4 hours per week
- Group lessons to develop a talent or skill such as dance or music, social group meetings and activities, group athletics
- A program where the parents are on the premises and are engaged in shopping, recreation or other non-work activities
- Seasonal programs of 10 days or less duration in any 3-month period, including day camps, vacation bible school, and holiday child care programs
- Emergency situations
- Care and supervision for no more than 3 hours a day while the parent is employed on the premises

## BENEFITS OF REGULATION

- Professionalism
- Commitment and Stability
- Business Benefits
- YoungStar
- Child Care Subsidy
- USDA Food Program
- T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship
- Networking/Provider Support
- Referrals
- Workshops/Training
- Lending Library
- Quarterly Newsletter



# Child Care Counts

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Wisconsin's Department of Children and Families first introduced Child Care Counts in May 2020 as a way to support child care businesses, and by extension families, during the pandemic.

This program distributes funds directly to providers — not directly to individual families or teachers — on a monthly basis, allowing many to have a consistent source of revenue outside the price parents pay for care.



# Child Care Counts in Marathon County

Since May 2020, \$10,641,766 was paid to 88 child care providers in Marathon County through Child Care Counts.

Athens	\$138,807
Birnamwood	\$13,760
Edgar	\$407,723
Hatley	\$16,522
Kronenwetter	\$556,930
Marathon	\$217,707
Marshfield	\$55,172
Merrill	\$9,150
Mosinee	\$670,346
Rothschild	\$459,564
Schofield	\$1,254,073
Spencer	\$62,985
Stratford	\$244,350
Wausau	\$5,072,264
Weston	\$1,462,413
Total	\$10,641,766



# State Budget

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- The Wisconsin Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance (JFC) voted to finalize JFC's state budget without including any funding to continue the Child Care Counts program beyond early 2024.



# Impact on Child Care Providers



# Impact on Workforce

# Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce







# Economic Development

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- [Wisconsin Economic Development Institute Child Care Fact Sheet](#)
- [Child Care in Wisconsin and Its Impact on Workforce and the Economy, Wisconsin Economic Development Institute](#)

# WEDI Child Care Report - Key Points



- 
- Childcare providers must balance their operating budgets. They cannot charge more for their services than working families can afford to pay. They also cannot cut overhead costs such as food, utilities, and facility rent. The only option to balance their budget is to cut staffing costs, resulting in lower pay and fewer benefits for staff.
  - Facing an already tight labor market, childcare providers are struggling to hire workers. Childcare employees are often highly educated and there are many job options outside of the childcare industry that offer higher pay and better benefits.
  - Worst-case scenario, a lack of staff will cause childcare providers to close their doors. Statewide there has been a 26% decrease in the number of regulated child care facilities. Programs either consolidate or close.
  - From the business perspective, businesses are reporting the childcare crisis is affecting their ability to recruit and retain employees.

# Connection to Marathon County Strategic Plan

**Objective 3.3 Ensure that every person makes it to adulthood with health, stability, and growth opportunities.**

**H)** Develop policies that support affordable, high-quality child care.

## **Outcome Measure**

**4)** By December 31, 2024, the capacity to deliver affordable high-quality child care to children in Marathon County will increase.

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**Objective 10.6 Ensure the future availability of a skilled and flexible workforce prepared to meet the needs of both existing and emerging industries and technologies**

**C)** Develop policies that support affordable, high quality child care to enhance workforce availability.

## **Outcome Measure**

**3)** By August 31, 2023 with input from non-EEED Supervisors and other Marathon County stakeholders, prepare recommendations for Marathon County Government's role in supporting affordable high-quality childcare.



**What is the roadmap for  
Marathon County governments  
role in supporting child care?**

# Amid looming ‘child care cliff,’ states scramble to bolster programs

By [Molly Bolan](#),  
Assistant Editor, Route Fifty

Connecting state and local government leaders

JUNE 24, 2023

## Billions in federal subsidies for child care providers are set to run out in September, causing as many as 3.2 million children nationwide to lose their daycare spots. Plus, more news to use from around the country in this week's State and Local Roundup

*You're reading Route Fifty's State and Local Roundup. To get the week's news to use from around the country, [you can subscribe here](#) to get this update in your inbox every Friday.*

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It's Saturday, June 24, and we'd like to welcome you to the weekly State and Local Roundup. There's plenty from this past week to keep tabs on, with a judge striking down Arkansas' ban on gender-affirming care, CalPERS announcing it's the latest agency to be affected by the MOVEit software hacking, and the adoption of a new (controversial) state vegetable in Oregon. But first, we'll start with the looming “child care cliff.”

For states, it has been a whirlwind of federal pandemic-era programs and funds winding down.

The [additional Medicaid money](#) given to states to pause disenrollments ends in December. The [funds for emergency rental assistance](#) are drying up. The program that provided [free universal school meals](#) ended this school year. And now child care stabilization funds are set to run out, which states and advocates say the loss of could have major impacts for the greater economy.

In 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act made nearly \$40 billion in emergency aid available for child care. The funds went to helping providers pay for rent, lowering tuition rates and increasing wages for workers. But that support is set to end on Sept. 30, and researchers say that when that happens, 3.2 million children could lose their daycare spots as roughly 70,000 programs are expected to close and 232,000 caregivers are expected to lose their jobs, according to a [new report](#) from the left-leaning think tank The Century Foundation.

Researchers predict that the loss in tax and business revenue from the so-called child care cliff will likely cost states \$10.6 billion annually in economic activity as millions of parents would have to reduce their hours or leave the workforce altogether to care for their children. Those parents are projected to lose a collective \$9 billion annually in earnings.



A huge share of those households are living paycheck-to-paycheck, the report noted, meaning any disruption to employment caused by the loss of child care could push families into food insecurity or housing instability.

Some states will be affected more than others, according to the report. Researchers predict that the number of licensed programs could be cut in half in Arkansas, Montana, Utah, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and West Virginia. In more than a dozen other states, the number of licensed programs could drop by a third.

New York and Texas are projected to see some of the greatest losses: The report says they could lose thousands of child care programs, leaving hundreds of thousands of children without daycare.

Even before the pandemic, the child care industry was struggling. The average annual cost of sending one kid to daycare is about \$10,000, but can run as high as \$20,000 in some states. For many households, that sum is more than the cost of housing. Wages for workers in the industry are stagnating, hitting an average of \$13.50 an hour. The additional federal support made child care affordable to many, allowing them to join the workforce.

“When these resources swiftly and suddenly disappear,” the report noted, “this funding cliff will once again place the sector in danger, as it will be forced to contract, shedding caregivers and care slots in a cascade that will not only upend millions of families’ child care arrangements but also hurt regional economies.”

For Trina Averette, a family child care provider in Ohio, the federal support provided her with nearly \$36,000. It allowed her to stay in business because she was able to pay her employees more and cover the rising costs of products. For example, disposable gloves—a critical accessory for changing diapers and cleaning—jumped from about \$10 to \$46 during the pandemic.

“Prices rose quite a bit,” Averette said in a webinar with The Century Foundation Thursday. “[The federal funding] actually, literally helped so that we could continue our business.”

Still, Averette lost one of her highly trained employees to a better paying job, a challenge child care providers are constantly navigating. Since February 2020, [more than 90,000 providers](#) have left their jobs, according to the Center for American Progress.

Given the industry’s struggles, most states were already looking for ways to bolster child care programs. The additional aid helped many of them expand access in their states. Now, they are looking for ways to continue building on that progress after the federal aid ends in September.

Michigan, for instance, launched its [Caring for MI Future initiative last year](#), using Child Care and Development Block Grants to support existing providers and help new providers get their start. Over the last year, the initiative has created hundreds of new programs and expanded nearly 2,000 existing programs.

[In Montana](#), Gov. Greg Gianforte signed into law a measure that will provide a \$7 million annual boost to a program that helps low-income families pay for child care. State Democrats have touted the law as “the most significant investment in child care in the state’s history.” Earlier this year, [Minnesota](#) approved a \$750 million investment to help child care workers attract and retain employees, expand program openings and lower the cost of tuition for families.

Some states are getting particularly creative in their search for revenue to support child care. In New Mexico, for instance, voters approved a constitutional amendment making child care a constitutional

right. To fund the effort, the state takes a percentage of money from oil and gas leases. Louisiana, Maryland and Missouri, meanwhile, have opted to fund early childhood education by taking funds raised through sports betting.

Not all states are replacing the loss of federal funds, though. [In Wisconsin](#), for example, the GOP-controlled state legislature voted last week to end funding for a child care subsidy program that provided about \$600 million to nearly 5,000 child care providers during the pandemic. Democratic Gov. Tony Evers had proposed using more than \$300 million in state money to make the program permanent. With state funding slashed, The Century Foundation expects Wisconsin will lose more than 2,000 child care programs, impacting about 87,000 children.

But even where states are making major investments, it won't be enough to replace the historic funding from the American Rescue Plan Act, the report noted. Some lawmakers in Congress want to change that and are pushing to increase support at the federal level.

The [Child Care for Working Families Act](#), reintroduced by Democratic senators Tim Kaine of Virginia and Patty Murray of Washington, would make child care free to extremely low-income families and ensure that all families aren't paying more than 7% of their income for child care, Kaine said during Thursday's webinar. But following the debt deal to freeze spending earlier this month, it is unclear if the legislation will receive support.

It will take significant investments at all levels of government—as well as collaboration with nonprofits, unions and families—to avoid the disaster of a crumbling child care industry, said Julie Kashen, a senior fellow and director of women's economic justice at The Century Foundation.

“Going over the cliff is not inevitable,” she said during the webinar.

# THE LACK OF AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE CHILDCARE IS HURTING BUSINESSES AND THE ECONOMY

**\$4.2 to \$6.4 billion**

is the estimated long-term economic impact of Wisconsin's childcare crisis.<sup>1</sup>



**75%**

of Wisconsin employers say that the state economy is impacted by a parent's ability to find affordable, high-quality childcare.<sup>1</sup>

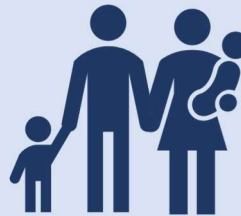
## FAMILIES CANNOT AFFORD THE TRUE COST OF CARE, DRIVING DOWN REVENUE FOR PROVIDERS



Wisconsin families with **ONE** infant are spending

**20%**

of their annual income on childcare.<sup>1</sup>

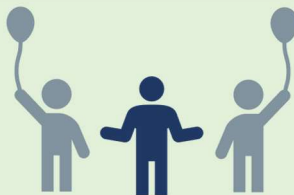


The typical family with an infant and a four-year-old are spending

**33%**

of their annual income on childcare.<sup>1</sup>

There are more than **THREE** children under age 5 for every **ONE** licensed childcare slot.<sup>1</sup>



of Wisconsin residents live in childcare deserts.

In rural Wisconsin, this number is nearly **80%**.<sup>1</sup>

**80%**

of Wisconsin's early childhood educators have some form of higher education.<sup>1</sup>



**\$11 to \$13**

an hour is the average wage of an early childhood educator.<sup>1</sup>



Licensed Family Provider	Average Recommended Salary: \$37,728	Average Current Salary: \$24,272
Licensed Group Center	Average Recommended Salary: \$44,582	Average Current Salary: \$29,387

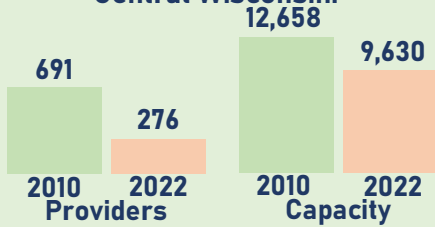
■ Average Recommended Salary  
■ Average Current Salary<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup><https://www.raisingwisconsin.org/economic-impact/>

<sup>2</sup><https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/wishares/ccdbg/2022-ccmarket-survey-results-report.pdf>

## CHILD CARE PROVIDERS ARE STRUGGLING TO MEET DEMAND, AS THEIR WORKFORCE IS UNDERPAID

Since 2010, the number of providers has decreased **60%** and capacity has decreased **24%** in **Central Wisconsin**.<sup>3</sup>



In 2022, in the 14-county North Wisconsin area, **77%** of providers reported higher rates of staff turnover or shortages.

**25%** of licensed capacity is unutilized in West-Central Wisconsin due to lack of staff and closed classrooms.<sup>4</sup>

In rural Northern Wisconsin:

**77%** of providers have a waiting list

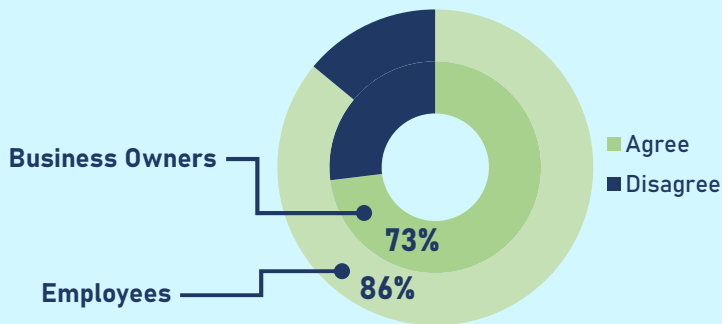
**18%** of providers are facing closure due to low staffing<sup>5</sup>

**15%** of licensed capacity is unutilized

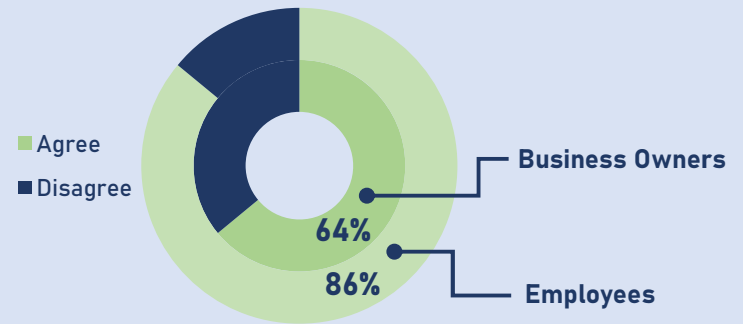
## CHILD CARE IS A BUSINESS ISSUE

Approximately **4 out of 5** Wisconsin employers say the state economy is impacted by parent's access to affordable, high-quality childcare.

Without access to affordable childcare, Wisconsin businesses will face workforce/labor shortages now and in the future.<sup>6</sup>



It's important for Wisconsin businesses to support childcare for their employees.<sup>6</sup>



**74%**

of parents have missed work due to lack of childcare, according to a 2020 survey of Dodge and Jefferson County.<sup>8</sup>

**65%**

of employers believe providing employees with childcare resources is a strategy that should be considered to address labor shortages.<sup>6</sup>

**22%**

of Eau Claire and Chippewa County employers had an employee leave their job due to a lack of childcare, according to a 2022 survey.<sup>7</sup>

## THE WISCONSIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

### OUR MISSION

The Wisconsin Economic Development Institute, Inc. (WEDI) is a non-profit, non-partisan foundation established under the Wisconsin Economic Development Association (WEDA) to conduct research and education designed to increase the effectiveness of economic development efforts.

### OUR VISION

A higher quality of life and increased access to wealth and opportunity for Wisconsin citizens through economic development.

<sup>3</sup><https://childcaring.org/>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.childcarepartnership.org/tools-data/documents/child-care-capacity-survey-results-w-summary-11-2022.pdf>

<sup>5</sup><https://www.wisconsinchild.org/>

<sup>6</sup><https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/childcare/pdf/pdg/wi-employer-2021-research-snapshot.pdf>

<sup>7</sup><https://www.uwgcw.org/>

<sup>8</sup><https://watertownhealthfoundation.com/index.html>

June 29, 2023

Marathon County Government  
Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee  
c/o Rick Seefeldt, Chair  
c/o Becky Buch, Vice-Chair  
500 Forest St.  
Wausau WI 54403

Re: Marathon County Government's role in supporting affordable high-quality childcare

Dear Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee,

The Greater Wausau Prosperity Partnership, Ltd. (GWPP), is a 501(c)3 organization, comprised of a collective group of business and community leaders coming together to lead efforts to enhance our ability to develop a stronger, more competitive economic development platform for the Greater Wausau Region.

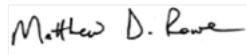
Wisconsin families need access to high-quality, affordable childcare to participate in the workforce, and our businesses need a stable workforce to operate efficiently and grow. Wisconsin is at a workforce crossroads, presenting significant and pressing challenges for businesses. We recognize childcare shortages for children of all ages hinder working families' ability to enter, re-enter, or remain in the workforce. Without accessible, high-quality, and affordable childcare, attracting and retaining employees will remain a pressing challenge.

The lack of accessible, high-quality childcare impacts employers of every size and industry. Hiring demands across the state and across sectors continue to increase as Wisconsin's economy grows, but the labor pool is not growing at the same rate. Childcare challenges impact businesses in a variety of ways:

- High turnover
- Frequent absenteeism
- Productivity decline
- Recruitment challenges for high-need, highly skilled professionals
- Scheduling and shift changes, especially for those who work non-traditional hours

In closing, the Greater Wausau Prosperity Partnership encourages Marathon County Government to play an active role in collaborating with community partners to develop creative solutions for affordable high-quality childcare.

Respectfully,



Matt Rowe, Chair

Greater Wausau Prosperity Partnership



Chad Kane, Vice Chair

Greater Wausau Prosperity Partnership

Greater Wausau Prosperity Partnership  
Board of Directors

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Insurance Co S.I.

Matthew Rowe, Ruder Ware LLSC

John Skoug, Marathon Cheese Corp

Rich Totzke, Greenheck Group

Paul LaPree, Miron Construction Co Inc

Owen Jones, Tommy Docks

Nicole Williams, QPS Employment  
Group

David Eckmann, Greater Wausau  
Chamber of Commerce



# Extension Marathon County University of Wisconsin-Madison

2023 Budget Overview with 2022 Program Information

# Program Areas

- Agriculture
- Horticulture
- Natural Resources
- FoodWise
- 4-H





## Programming:

- Pesticide Applicator Training
- Badger Dairy Insights
- Reproduction Management
- Dairy and Beef Wellbeing Conference
- Planning Emergency Livestock Transportation Response (PELTR)
- Farm Stress

## Program Participants & Impacts:

- 541 program participants
- AI Program - improved herd genetics and saving farms breeding fees (\$100,242 over past 6 years)



## Programming:

- Gaining Ground Garden
- Public Outreach
- Media Outreach
- Youth Outreach

  Wausau Area Funeral Care Presents:  
 **Spices of Life**   
**Horticulture Therapy**

Learn how to plant and care for your own herbs at home & how gardening helps manage grief.

Class co-facilitated by Janel Wehr Horticulture Educator from UW-Madison Extension (Marathon County) and WAFH Aftercare.

**WHEN: Tuesday, April 25th, 2023**

**1:30-2:30 PM**

**WHERE: 212 River Dr. Wausau - UW Extension  
(rm#5)**

**Limited Seating**

**please RSVP by April 18th to save your spot.**

Christine Jones - Helke Funeral Home After Care Call: (715) 842-3993 email: christine@wausaucare.com

Mary Jarvis - Brainard Funeral Home After Care Email: mary@wausaucare.com call: (715) 845-5525



## Program Participants & Impacts:

- 150 participants
- 20 public programs
- 240 hours reported to ATTIC Services
- Extension Horticulture social media reached 1,037,221 with 10,772 engagements, 13,365 website visits (statewide)

## Program Participants & Impacts:

- Master Gardeners:
  - 2,710 volunteer hours
  - 657 continuing education hours
  - 61 participants
  - 11 community organizations served



## Programming:

- Nutrition Education
- Strong Bodies
- Farmers Market Access
- Culture and Nutrition
- Policy, Systems & Environment Work



## Program Participants & Impacts:

- 574 learners in a variety of settings
- Over 4,000 lbs of gleaned produce donated to emergency food systems
- Support of halal meat infrastructure for new refugee families



## Programming:

- Water Quality
  - Farm Profitability Conference
  - Fenwood Creek Needs Assessment
  - Agronomist Regenerative Agriculture
- Forest Landowner Education
  - Your Land, Your Legacy
  - Learn about Your Land



## Program Participants & Impacts: (statewide)

- 276 workshop participants
- 1,800 conference YouTube views
- Farmer-led watershed organization capacity building & strategic planning



## Programming:

- Membership Program
- Juntos
- 4-H Foodie
- School-based Programs
- Community Programs
- AmeriCorps 4-H Program Assistants

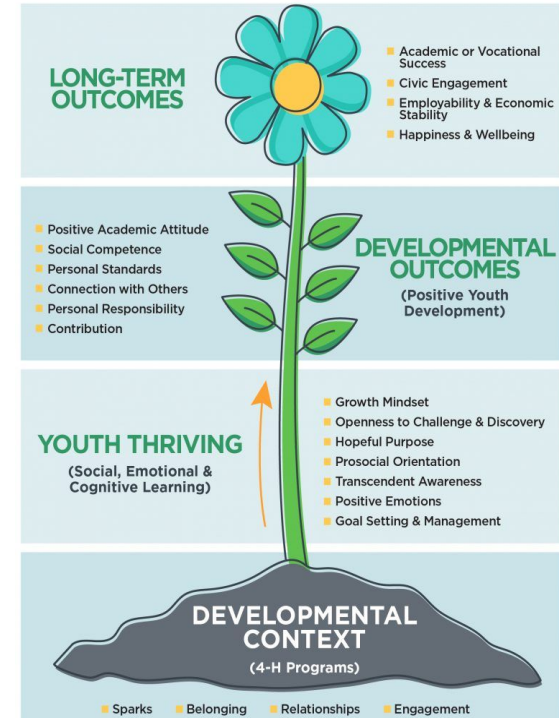




# 4-H/Youth Development

## Program Participants & Impacts:

- 787 Youth Members
- 238 Adult Volunteers
- Over 1,800 community youth contacts





**Marathon County 4-H  
Measured**

## **Program Quality Overall Score**

Each component of the model was assessed on a scale of 1-7, 7 meaning outstanding program quality. Scores between 4.9 - 6.1 represents a high-quality program.



2022

**5.8**

HELPING  YOUTH  
**THRIVE**  
4-H THRIVING MODEL



# Budget (2023)

# Marathon County



<b>Program</b>	<b>County Funding</b>	<b>State Funding</b>	<b>Other Funding</b>
<b>4-H (1.5 FTE +)</b>	<b>\$52,430</b>	<b>\$38,906</b>	<b>\$38,000</b>
<b>Horticulture (.7 FTE)</b>	<b>\$65,215</b>		
<b>Agriculture (1.0 FTE)</b>	<b>\$46,355</b>	<b>\$56,816</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Natural Resources (~.1 FTE)</b>	<b>\$594</b>	<b>\$11,611</b>	



# Marathon County



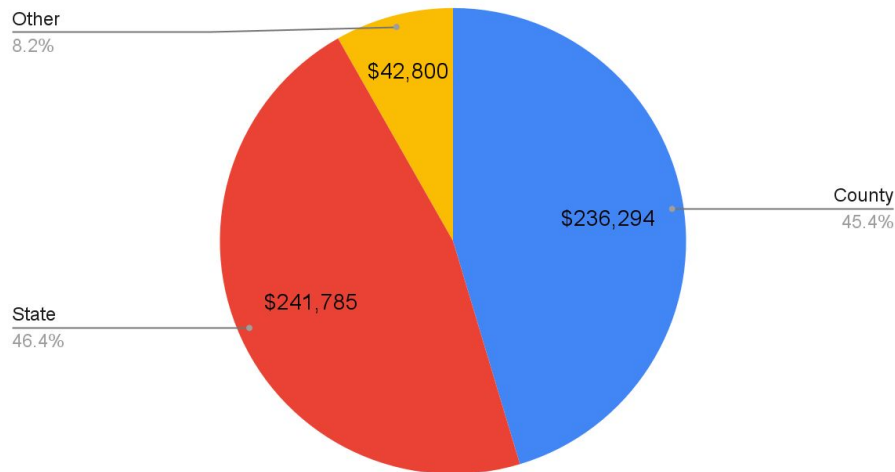
<b>Program</b>	<b>County Funding</b>	<b>State Funding</b>	<b>Other Funding</b>
<b>FoodWise</b> (1.5FTE)	\$625	\$102,524	
<b>Administrative</b> (1.25 FTE)	\$71,075	\$31,928	\$3,800

# Marathon County



	<b>County Funding</b>	<b>State Funding</b>	<b>Other Funding</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$236,294</b>	<b>\$241,785</b>	<b>\$42,800</b>

2023 Budget by Source





# Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
MARATHON COUNTY

<https://marathon.extension.wisc.edu/>



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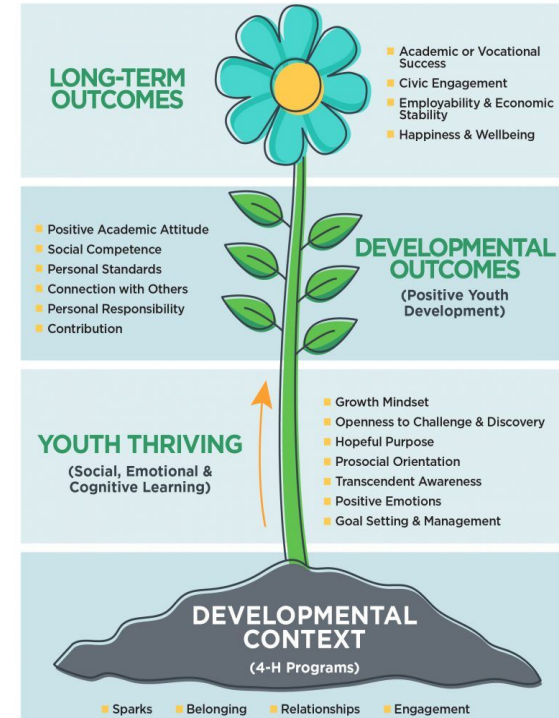




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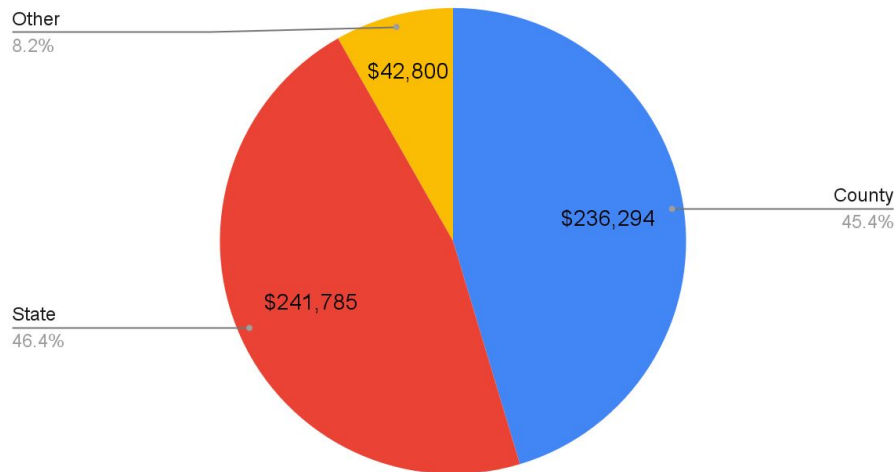
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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
MARATHON COUNTY

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**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
MARATHON COUNTY



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022





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**University of Wisconsin–Madison Extension Marathon County**

212 River Dr. Ste 3 | Wausau, WI 54403

715-261-1230 | [marathon.extension.wisc.edu](http://marathon.extension.wisc.edu) | [info@extension.wisc.edu](mailto:info@extension.wisc.edu)

# UW-MADISON EXTENSION

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES *with* THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

---

## Agriculture & Horticulture »

Our network of researchers, outreach specialists, and local educators are on the leading edge of creating practical solutions for livestock and crop production in addition to farm and labor management. We provide customized guidance, business planning assistance, and industry knowledge for what today's agricultural operators are facing.

## Community & Economic Development »

Businesses, governments, and organizations succeed through development from Extension educators and specialists. We provide education for elected officials to understand their roles and responsibilities in helping communities thrive. We offer businesses the direct technical assistance and connection to support structures they need to help them succeed. Our rural entrepreneurship program identifies ways for businesses to overcome challenges and take advantage of unique opportunities.

## Health & Well-Being »

We're supporting positive change for families through physical and mental health programs in addition to structural improvements needed to make the healthy choice the easy choice. Our physical fitness classes and mental health training equips people with the tools they need to lead healthy, active lives. We provide public health resources and tools for community action. We provide guidance on systems changes for food security and food access.

## Families & Finances »

Reinforcing family connections, financial knowledge, and strong relationships is at the heart of Extension's programming. We support learning and emotional bonding by building literacy skills in justice-involved families. We guide community and individual development across lifespans. We teach financial security through rent planning and budget management.

## Natural Resources & Conservation »

We work at the crossroads of communities, natural resources, and agriculture to protect our environmental assets and guide resource management. We support individual and regional water-well testing along with education to address safe drinking water. We educate farmers, businesses, and communities on safe practices to ensure access to plentiful, sustainably managed sources of food, water, and energy.

## Positive Youth Development & 4-H »

Community-led 4-H programs deliver quality activities and leadership opportunities that are leading to engaged, energized, and informed young people across the state. 4-H is a movement — in Wisconsin, 98% of our 4-H members are inspired to make positive changes in their communities. They're developing leadership skills, building connections, and finding what topics spark their interest.



# Horticulture

Janell Wehr, Horticulture Educator



## Therapeutic Horticulture

The mental health crisis refers to the widespread burden of mental health problems and disorders that affect people, families, and communities around the world. These issues can significantly impact quality of life and lead to negative outcomes such as social isolation, difficulties functioning at work or school, and even an increased risk of premature death. There are various factors contributing to the crisis, including stigma surrounding mental illness, inadequate access to mental health care and support, and a lack of awareness about the importance of mental health and available resources. The COVID-19 pandemic has also exacerbated the mental health crisis, causing increased stress, anxiety, and other mental health problems for many people due to disruptions in daily life. Therapeutic gardening involves using gardening and plant-based activities as a form of treatment or rehabilitation for those with physical, mental, or emotional disabilities or challenges. Research shows that therapeutic gardening can improve mental health and well-being, reduce stress and anxiety, and provide a sense of purpose and accomplishment. It can also offer social support and opportunities for social interaction and connection with others. By providing access to therapeutic gardening programs, communities can address the mental health crisis and support individuals struggling with mental health issues.

**Lifelong learning** is beneficial for Marathon County's aging population because it supports overall cognitive function, sense of accomplishment and personal growth, positive social engagement that combats social isolation that is common in older adults and develops technology skills.



## BY THE NUMBERS

### Public Outreach Programs

- 150+ participants
- 20+ programs

### Service Hours

- 240 hours reported to ATTIC Services by Gaining Grounds participants

### Media Outreach

- 102 Posts
- 1,037,221 People Reached
- 10,772 Engagements
- 13,365 New Visits to Website

### Outreach Partnerships

- The Landing
- ATTIC Correctional Services
- Learning is ForEver – UWSP
- Mosinee Community Education
- Marathon County Public Library
- Marathon County 4-H
- DNR



# Horticulture

## Therapeutic Gardening Program

**Gaining Ground Garden** is a therapeutic horticulture program that serves justice-involved individuals with court mandated community service hours and individuals within the drug court program. Participants gained basic horticulture skills that can translate into green industry vocations, while working through the UW-Madison Extension Health and Well-being Institute Behavioral Health Program curriculum, Highlights of Taking Care of You (adapted for justice involved audiences). The HTCY curriculum introduced participants to emotional regulation skills which they practiced while working in the gardens.



Participants shared that they were able to use these skills in difficult situations outside of Gaining Ground program time, in particular, responding rather than reacting during group therapy discussions. One participant shared how he looked

forward to caring for plants. "It's going to give me something to look forward to. Knowing that it's growing because I'm taking care of it. I'm going to remember my hands patting down the soil. It's going to give me something to think about, help me keep my mind off other things."

Projects in the 2022 growing season included maintaining the Extension Teaching Garden at 212 River Drive. The Gaining Ground crew also worked at the women's sober living home at 1311 3rd St, adding raised beds for vegetables, strawberries, and raspberries, a perennial herb garden, and improving the perennial beds in the landscape. Beds were also added to the ATTIC Services facilities for cut flower production in 2023. Participants reported 240 hours of community service through the Gaining Ground program in 2022.









# Horticulture

## Outreach Collaborations


Marathon County is facing environmental challenges including pollinator decline and environmental contamination & pollution due to overuse of horticulture chemicals. Proper pest management techniques can lead to less fertilizer and pesticide use leading to reduced likelihood for environmental contamination and pollution.

### Public Outreach

 **Romaine Calm and Garden On** was a 12-session gardening series, designed to give beginning gardeners on a budget the skills they need to successfully grow fresh vegetables. Experienced gardeners also gained new perspectives to add to their toolkit of knowledge. This program was hosted by the Marathon County Library - Wausau Branch. 157 participants over 24 classes.

 **Mosinee Community Education** - Monthly evening programs to support environmental stewardship and community engagement. September-December.

 **Longfellow Neighborhood** - talk on sustainable lawns.

 **Answering Horticulture Inquiries** - using IPM framework which emphasize reducing chemical applications to when only necessary and general plant health.

- Coordinate Marathon County Diagnostic Team, composed of Master Gardener Volunteers. Support the volunteers through selection, orientation, training.
- Participated in the Wisconsin Horticulture Update, a series of weekly meetings for Master Gardener Volunteers to connect with county-based educators and state specialists to help ensure research-based guidance is provided to residents with gardening questions.
- At least 80 inquiries from Marathon County residents in 2022.
- Taught 12 week in person introductory horticulture course to potential Marathon County Master Gardener Volunteers. 7 participants.







# Horticulture

## Media Outreach

-  Media outreach through interviews for WAOW, Wausau City Pages, WPR Garden Talk with Larry Meillor, and WDLB in Marshfield.
-  The state level Social Media Team works together to provide timely and relevant information to gardeners through engaging and educational social media posts, using the Extension Horticulture Facebook and Instagram channels. The team also evaluates this effort using data from Meta and Google Analytics. Over the course of 2022, 102 posts were made to Facebook and Instagram to educate the public about timely and relevant horticulture topics throughout the year. Posts include educational information and links to articles on the Horticulture Topic Hub and upcoming events such as statewide webinars, classes, and activities (i.e., Pollinator Week).
-  Overall, from Facebook Meta Analytics, Facebook posts on the Extension Horticulture page reached 1,037,221 people with 10,772 engagements (combined total of link clicks, shares and comments). This is a significant increase from the previous year where there was little activity on the Extension Horticulture Facebook page. The majority of Facebook posts directed people to the Extension Horticulture Topic Hub website. Additionally, posts may direct people to other university-based information. Using Google Analytics for the Horticulture Topic Hub website, we had 15,696 users on the website from Facebook posts and activities and acquired 13,365 new users on the website.

## Youth Outreach

-  Marathon County 4-H summer day camp for K-3. Marathon County youth in grades K-3 participated in a day camp and engaged in hands-on activities to learn about pollinators and the importance of them in our everyday lives.
-  Marathon County 4-H winter day camp. Youth engaged in African violet propagation workshops.



# Health & Well-Being

Mallory McGivern, FoodWise Administrator



## Healthy Choices, Healthy Lives

FoodWise is federally funded by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). We advance healthy eating habits, active lifestyles, and healthy community environments for Wisconsin residents with limited incomes through nutrition education at the individual, community, and systems levels.

## Community Impacts



Delivered nutrition education to 574 learners in a variety of settings (early care and education centers, K-12 school settings, food pantries, etc..).



“Share the Harvest” partnership with the Wausau Farmers Market gleaned over 4,000lbs of produce to be donated to local food pantries and residents at Riverview Towers subsidized housing.



FoodWise team volunteered with Marathon County Hunger Coalition members to harvest carrots donated from Red Door Family Farm. Over 1,000 lbs. of carrots were donated to The Neighbors' Place.



## BY THE NUMBERS

**38%** of the population lives in census tracts that are low income & have low access to healthy foods.

**32%** of adults have obesity.

**9%** of individuals are food insecure.

**19%** of households receive SNAP benefits.








# Health & Well-Being

## Farmers Market Access


The Central Wisconsin farmers market promotion workgroup has completed the first year of research at 6 different Farmers Markets in Central Wisconsin, including Wausau, Stevens Point, Wisconsin Rapids, Marshfield, Waupaca and Rome. This \$200K, 2-year planning grant is engaged in researching and developing business plans that will support FoodShare/EBT access and improve both farmers profits and improve access for limited-resource audiences. The grant also hired a full-time Farmers Market Regional Coordinator as well as paid local interns from UWSP and UW-Madison to engage in research.

## Culture and Nutrition

Gaonou Thao is a Nutrition Educator in Marathon County and teaches in a variety of settings in her community. In 2022, Gaonou worked to reach Hmong audiences with culturally relevant nutrition education surrounding whole grain options.

 Many Hmong households utilize white rice at mealtime, so Gaonou held many educational events about whole grains to follow MyPlate's recommendations of consuming half of your daily grains as whole grains.

 Community partners included the Hmong American Center, CAP Services, ADRC, the Women's Community and the Marathon County Hunger Coalition.

 After tasting different varieties of whole grains, such as quinoa, many participants stated that they were interested in swapping it with white rice in their meals to increase their intake of whole grains.







# Agriculture

Heather Schlessor, Dairy Educator



## Agriculture in Wisconsin

Wisconsin is home to 1.27 million cows. The dairy industry contributes \$45.6 billion annually to Wisconsin's economy. The feed mills, dairy equipment manufacturers and technicians, veterinarians, construction companies, genetics companies, milk haulers, dairy plants, and dairy software companies create a wave of economic impact that rolls across the entire state.

Dairying remains paramount to the success of agriculture in Wisconsin. Wisconsin's nearly 6,500 dairy operations ([DATCP](#)) housing 1.28 million dairy cows ([DATCP](#)) produce 30.73 billion pounds of milk annually ([WI Agriculture Statistics Service](#), 2020). A report from Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin shows milk production creates 154,000 jobs and \$1.26 billion in state and local taxes are generated.

The report titled "[The Contribution of Agriculture to the Wisconsin Economy](#)" is based on the most recent data available (2017) and updates research conducted every five years by UW—Madison under the direction of Professor Steven Deller at the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics and Extension's Center for Community Economic Development. Total agricultural economic impact grew from \$88.3 billion to \$104.8 billion with dairy's impact growing to \$45.6 billion. The report reflects the importance of dairy in Wisconsin providing jobs and tax revenue to improve infrastructure such as roads, schools, and other public services.

"It is clear that agriculture - and particularly dairy - plays a critical role in Wisconsin's economy," says Deller, adding, "To put this in perspective, dairy's economic impact is twice that of another key growing industry, Wisconsin tourism. It also shows dairy is Wisconsin's signature industry and is central to our state's identity."

Dairy endured a five-year recession from 2015 to 2020, followed by two years of recovery/expected recovery. According to Mark Stephenson, UW-Madison Division of Extension, Director of Dairy Policy Analysis, [inflation in the dairy industry](#) has significantly increased input prices of virtually every aspect of the dairy, especially feed production. Milk prices are projected to be strong, however inputs will remain a focus of dairy farm viability.

The dairy industry is a dynamic industry, with new technologies and practices continuously being developed, allowing farmers to manage income and expenses with an ever-changing market. Dairy farmers face serious challenges to remain competitive, while maintaining farm economic viability, through productivity and efficiency, and environmental sustainability, while prioritizing wellbeing/welfare and food safety.

## BY THE NUMBERS

### Private Pesticide Applicator Training

85 attendees

### Dairy and Beef Wellbeing Virtual Conference

16 attendees

### Artificial Insemination

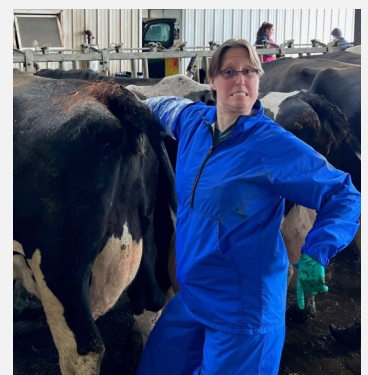
21 attendees

### Planning Emergency Livestock Transportation Response (PELTR)

21 attendees

### Badger Dairy Insights Virtual

398 attendees





# Agriculture

## Planning Emergency Livestock Transportation Response (PELTR) Training

The purpose of this training is to increase the effectiveness of emergency planning and the preparedness of local emergency response agencies. Heather Schlessor worked with a team of extension educators to conduct three PELTR trainings around the state in 2022. 21 emergency

responders enrolled in the program and participated in two tabletop roadside incident exercises, and a walk-through and discussion of a multi-deck livestock trailer that is pulled by a semi-tractor. The post-training self-reported evaluation results were based on the 5-point Likert scale. The after session evaluation indicated a positive 1.35-point average change in the participants understanding of the topics discussed. The highest average change was 1.53 points, (2.55 before/4.07 after) occurring in their increased knowledge about how the design of livestock trailers may impact livestock extrication from a wrecked trailer. Take home messages from the participants include, "I had no idea trailers could be segmented even for cattle or hogs. From outside, I had seen the levels but never made a 'floor plan' so seeing the options was extremely eye opening."



Along with the PELTR courses held this year Heather Schlessor partnered with the District 8 Farm Bureau to offer a training to thirteen Emergency Medical Personnel to learn about basic animal behaviors and how to handle livestock in an emergencies. Participants learned how to corral loose cattle back to a holding pen. Practice moving cattle allows them to know how to react to emergency situations involving cattle. The post-training self-reported evaluation results were based on the 5-point Likert scale. The after session evaluation indicated a positive 1.25-point average change in the participants understanding of the topics discussed. The highest average change was 1.82 points, (1.45 before/3.27 after) occurring in their increased knowledge about how to handle swine. Take home messages from participants included, "the line of site for hogs is very low." "Although an emergency like this can arise, slow things down and remain calm with animals. Scene can be chaotic, and it is pivotal to work with farmers and handler to safely and quickly resolve the emergency together."

## Farm Stress

Statewide Farm Stress Summit for agricultural professionals, health care workers, and mental health care workers. The goal of the Summit was to bring Community Partners together that are working with health care providers and Farmers to discuss resources and potential gaps in providing care to farmers relating to farm stress so that we can identify what gaps exist and how to fill these gaps with resources from across the state. This effort resulted in the creation of a [statewide resource map](#).





# Agriculture

## Reproductive Management

Over the past two decades, a reproduction revolution has occurred in the dairy industry that has led to dramatic increases in reproductive performance in high-producing cows including fertility programs and the high fertility of the cow. A consequence of increased reproductive performance was a concurrent increase in replacement heifer inventories which drove down replacement heifer values. Due to this increase in heifer inventory and a decrease in their subsequent value, producers have turned to breeding low producing cows to beef semen (creating beef x dairy crosses which have more value as meat animals). Beef semen has increased from 4% usage in 2017 to up to 27% in 2020 (P. Fricke, AgSource Data 2020). Beef semen sold to U.S. dairy farmers is up 21% over last year's 7.2 million units (Geiger, 2022, Hoards Dairyman Intel). These beef x dairy crossbred animals create a challenge for the finisher because of their phenotypic variability. To determine if there are phenotypic markers that can be utilized in 120 day old calves to predict future "beefiness", Heather Schlessler assisted with data collection of 91 animals on three farms.

Heather Schlessler worked with Taylor County Extension educator to teach the Artificial Insemination program as a hybrid course for convenience of the participants and to mitigate COVID concerns by limiting in-person contact time. Four hours of classroom time were taught over ZOOM for two evening sessions. Five hours of in-person activities were taught during two half-day sessions. Twenty-one individuals earned their certificate of completion while using the curriculum that is available in both English and Spanish. An 11% increase between Pre- and Post-tests of the material indicates successful student learning. Participants rated the value of the topics as 4.45 out of a possible 5 points. Written comments about the course included: "This class is great; worth every penny!"

Heather was selected to present about the Wisconsin based AI program at the October Chad Reid National Association of County Agricultural Agents Western Regional Professional Improvement Conference in Tucson, AZ. Heather discussed the impacts of the Wisconsin based artificial insemination program and shared how other educators could replicate the program in their state.

Heather has worked on creating instructional videos for dairy and beef farmers to aid in their artificial insemination programs. Videos completed in 2022 include, [reproductive anatomy of a dairy cow](#) and [pregnancy detection using calf bumping](#).





# Agriculture

## Additional Efforts in 2022



**National Association of County Agricultural Agents** conference was for Extension educators across the United States. Heather Schlessler and a colleague presented their bovine artificial insemination programming at the October 2022 Chad Reid National Association of County Agriculture Agents (NACAA) Western Regional Professional Improvement Conference in Tucson, AZ. Sixty-seven registered educators from 14 states participated in the conference and received the information about our WI program for teaching bovine artificial insemination. Educators discussed our program and compared ours to their artificial insemination programs, noting the similarities and differences. This feedback provides potential improvements for our course to improve breeding efforts for our Wisconsin producers. We both gained experience with presenting to a national audience of our peers.



**Extension Central News** is a newsletter for farmers and agribusiness professionals. Heather regularly contributes to this publication. Articles are focused on Dairy, Livestock, Crops and Soil, and Farm Management. The purpose of this effort is to work collaboratively to provide timely education for improving agricultural production with multiple county farmers and stakeholders. Each issue of Extension Central News reaches 4,152 county stakeholders. The newsletter is sent out quarterly.



**Badger Dairy Insights** is an online meeting series for farmers and dairy industry professionals. Participants learn the latest research and applications regarding: Calf care, Dairy Data Projects, Silage quality, the ins and outs of Cocktail Forage mixes for dairy rations, Managing heifer maturity pre and post breeding, and the randomness of reproduction. The goal of this effort was to increase knowledge of the latest UW-Madison research, and how farmers can implement changes to management practices. This effort reached 398 people across the state of Wisconsin.







# Natural Resources

Kris Tiles, Natural Resources Program Manager



## Farm Profitability Conference

Natural Resources (NRE) organized the second Central Wisconsin Farm Profitability Expo, to encourage profitable farming by building resiliency, diversifying farming operations, reducing inputs and increasing farmers' return on investment. The event was provided as a series of in-depth webinar topics. Overall, five topics were presented and the YouTube videos have over 1,800 views. <https://www.youtube.com/@centralwifarmprofitability9483>

## Agronomist-Focused Regenerative Agricultural Workshop

The community-led watershed group, EPPIC (Eau Pleine Partnership for Integrated Conservation), conducts educational programming about agricultural Best Management Practices as part of their overall mission to improve water resources in the Big Eau Pleine. Extension assists with program planning and provides resources as needed. This was the first time addressing an agronomist audience. Sharing this information with EPPIC board members and partnering educators will increase the understanding of this audience's educational needs and will assist future program planning directed toward this audience.



## Fenwood Creek Community Agricultural/ Natural Resources Needs Assessment Survey

This project engaged a needs assessment survey for communities within Fenwood Creek Watershed in collaboration with Marathon County Conservation Planning and Zoning, EPPIC, U-W Stevens Point Wausau Campus, and UniverCity. Extension served as an advisor for survey development, dissemination, and data collection/analysis. This data will be utilized to guide future programming around conservation Best Management Practices.

## BY THE NUMBERS

### Farm Profitability Conference

5 topics—over 1,800 views on YouTube

### Learn About Your Land (LAYL)

15 classes—262 attendees

1060 people receive monthly e-newsletter

856 followers on Facebook

741 followers on Instagram





# Natural Resources

## Learn About Your Land Classes for Woodland Owners









15 individual classes were held in conjunction with 6 counties around the state. 262 individuals attended these classes, which occurred virtually and in-person. Eighty-one percent of attendees reported that they had not attended an educational event about their woodlands in the past 5 years. In cooperation with DNR, all attendees were referred for a free walk-through and stewardship plan with a forester. Additional support for LAYL attendees included monthly blog posts, bi-weekly Facebook posts, and a monthly e-newsletter. 1060 people receive the newsletter (with a 51% open rate), and 856 people follow the Facebook page. Additionally, we are building engagement on Instagram (741 followers) and Twitter.

<http://www.woodlandinfo.org/>

Your Land, Your Legacy- Our first asynchronous succession planning class for woodland owners occurred in spring of 2022 with 14 participants representing 7 properties piloting the Canvas course. Evaluations are in progress and will be used to inform class changes, with a second cohort starting in 2023.



## Additional Efforts in 2022

-  NREs built capacity of producer-led groups to improve water quality in key watersheds.
-  NREs conducted outreach events for producers and other agriculture professionals that encouraged use of conservation practices to build soil health and improve water quality.
-  NREs created a maple syrup program to support growth of syrup producers and sustainable management of maple in the state.
-  NREs facilitated sessions at the statewide 2022 Producer-led Conference where groups regionally shared their successes and challenges in order to learn from each other.
-  An NRE participated in the planning and evaluation of the Cover Crop Conference.
-  Radio presentations on Marshfield and Wisconsin Rapids stations about various conservation practices, resiliency in agricultural systems, and aquatic ecosystems.
-  A Wisconsin River clean-up event for Marathon County high schoolers, where Extension and other natural resource organizations provided water-focused, interactive learning stations to increase understanding of water resource concerns among members of the audience.
-  Planning for soil health events for South Central and North Central Region farmers and conservation staff in collaboration with The Farmers of Mill Creek, Farmers for Tomorrow, Central Wisconsin Farmers Collaborative, Eau Pleine Partnership for Integrated Conservation, Sauk Soil and Water Improvement Group, the Farmers of Lemonweir Valley, Producers of Lake Redstone, Farmers of the Roche-A-Cri, and the Lake Wisconsin Farmer Watershed Council. This effort resulted in handouts outlining producer-led group details and cost-share information.



# Wisconsin 4-H

Holly Luerssen, 4-H Educator

Jasmine Carbajal, 4-H Educator



## Multi-Cultural Education



**Day of the Dead:** A multi-organizational partnership was created between Hawthorn Hills Elementary School, Hmong Hispanic Communication Network, and Extension Marathon County to celebrate the holiday Day of the Dead during the school's monthly family night. Extension played a critical role not only with the promotional booth they set up, but also by contributing to the educational sessions. Marathon County 4-H contributed three interactive and fun stations to the event: a presentation that focused on the history of Day of the Dead and key components of the holiday, hands-on sugar skull painting, and the making of marigold flowers with tissue paper and pipe cleaners. The Extension booth had an interactive wheel where participants won a prize and learned about the various programs in Extension. The event was able to help with exposure of our services, and recruit future 4-H families in Marathon County. A total of 140 marathon county families attended and participated in the event.

## Educational Partnerships



**4-H Foodie** was held on October 18th, 2022, in partnership with Edgar High School's Family and Consumer Science teacher, Mrs. Federwitz. Youth learned about the importance of reading a recipe, basic knife skills when cutting vegetables, and used naan bread to make a chicken flatbread. 4-H Foodie is a space that helps youth in Marathon County in 3rd grade and up build confidence when cooking in the kitchen and allows them to try new foods. Participants also learn to work in a team and meet new youth around them. 70% of youth on Oct. 18th reported meeting someone new at the session. One student stated that their favorite thing about the event was "making a new friend". Some other quotes related to the participant's favorite part of the class include: "My favorite thing was learning about a new type of bread...", "The ability to make it yourself", and "Making the food". This type of program also helps the Marathon County 4-H program with recruitment as the 4-H associate educator, Jasmine, received an email the next day from a parent that saw the pictures on social media and wondered how her own youth can join 4-H and participate in future 4-H programs.

## BY THE NUMBERS

### Membership

Participation in Marathon County 4th Largest Program in Wisconsin

~ 787 Youth Members

~ 238 Adult Volunteers

### Top Projects

- Photography
- Foods and Nutrition
- Expressive Arts
- Cake Decorating
- Dairy
- Swine
- Rabbits
- Lego
- Woodworking
- Vegetables

### Youth By Residence

- Towns Under 10,000 - 427
- Farm - 218
- Towns & Cities and Suburbs (10-50,00) - 97
- Suburbs & Cities over 50,000 - 25










# Wisconsin 4-H

## Local 4-H Programming

 **4-H Discovery Stations at the Wisconsin Valley Fair** was held on August 2-7, 2023. The 4-H Educators and 4-H Program Assistants provided 3-4 activity stations held 3 times each day to expose fair visitors to 4-H programs. Stations rotated so youth who came back each time had a different experience. Hands-on programs included string art, exploring geodes, making homemade butter, recognizing animal scat, learning about breeds of rabbits, and more. Over 700 youth participated in the Discovery Stations.

 **AmeriCorps 4-H Program Assistants** provided important programming in nontraditional ways over the last year. Our partnership with AmeriCorps has helped to provide additional programs which ignited a spark during the summer and fall of 2022. In turn the 4-H Educators provide professional development for the assistants which include diversity & inclusion, leadership, building safe spaces, curriculum building, and work-life balance.

- During the summer of 2022, three college students made 1200 connections through programs at Grow Great Minds Summer School Enrichment sites. Additionally, they held a Kids Summer Day camp attended by 31 5K-3rd grade youth and other 4-H programs. Each Summer Program Assistant provided 450 hours of service.
- During the fall and early winter of 2022, one college student created multiple educational connections through 4-H programs like Clover KaBoom, multiple 4-H Foodie classes, the day long 4-H Flake Out camp, and representing 4-H at After School programs. This AmeriCorps 4-H Program assistant will fill 1200 hours of service before August 12, 2023.

 **4-H Flake Out** day camp was held over winter break for youth in 5K-7th grade. The day-long program included 5 morning sessions and 4 afternoon sessions. Youth rotate to each hands-on session focused on a variety of programs from propagating African violets to making charcuterie boards to learning how to show model horses. Each participant participated in a service learning project making dog toys for the local humane society out of old t-shirts. Thirty youth attended the event. 81% of youth noted they learned something new. One youth noted he liked all the stations because he learned something new at every station. Another liking the Mystery Challenge event because she noted it hurt her brain.







# Wisconsin 4-H

2022



## Marathon County 4-H Measured

### Program Quality Overall Score

Each component of the model was assessed on a scale of 1-7, 7 meaning outstanding program quality. Scores between 4.9 - 6.1 represents a high-quality program.



# 5.8



## Marathon County 4-H Measured

### Youth Sparks

The Youth Sparks outcome measures how 4-H community club programs give youth opportunities to explore topics they are interested in learning about, passionate about, and engaged with, like 4-H projects.

Each component of the model was assessed on a scale of 1-7, 7 meaning outstanding program quality.



# 5.3



## Marathon County 4-H Measured

### Challenging Growth

The Challenging Growth outcome assesses the extent to which adults in the 4-H program help youth to see new possibilities, push them to reach higher, and hold them accountable.

Each component of the model was assessed on a scale of 1-7, 7 meaning outstanding program quality.



# 5.8





# Wisconsin 4-H

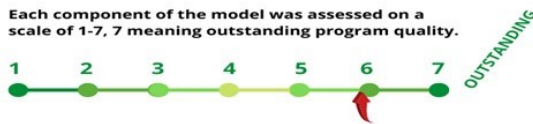


## Marathon County 4-H Measured

### Youth Belonging

This outcome evaluates how safe, welcomed, and supported youth feel in 4-H programs.

Each component of the model was assessed on a scale of 1-7, 7 meaning outstanding program quality.

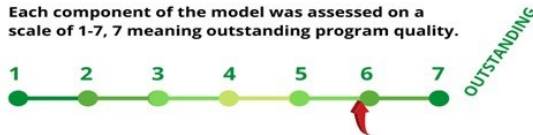


## Marathon County 4-H Measured

### Caring Adults

This outcome illustrates how youth feel the adults in their 4-H programs care about them and invest time in their 4-H experiences.

Each component of the model was assessed on a scale of 1-7, 7 meaning outstanding program quality.

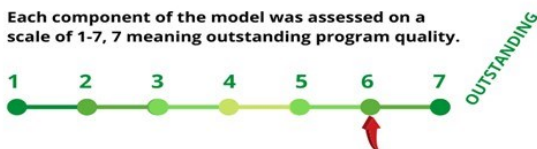


## Marathon County 4-H Measured

### Youth-Adult Partnerships

This outcome calculates how youth feel about adult volunteers working with them and if they feel respected, listened to, and have their ideas taken seriously.

Each component of the model was assessed on a scale of 1-7, 7 meaning outstanding program quality.





# Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

[www.extension.wisc.edu](http://www.extension.wisc.edu) | [info@extension.wisc.edu](mailto:info@extension.wisc.edu)

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.

## **Contract for Services with the Marathon County Historical Society**

This contract for services is made and is effective as of January 1, 2023, by and between the County of Marathon (hereinafter, "COUNTY"), having its address at Courthouse, 500 Forest Street, Wausau, WI 54403, and the Marathon County Historical Society (hereinafter, "MCHS"), a non-profit corporation having its address at 410 McIndoe Street, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403 (hereinafter collectively, the "Parties").

### RECITALS

Whereas, COUNTY is a governmental subdivision of the State of Wisconsin;

Whereas, MCHS is by statute is an affiliate of the Wisconsin Historical Society;

Whereas, MCHS was founded as a non-profit corporation on June 20, 1952, with the following business and purpose:

The discovery, collection, preservation and publication of historical records and data of and relating to the State of Wisconsin and particularly to the County of Marathon in the State of Wisconsin.

Whereas, COUNTY initiated contribution to the annual operating budget of MCHS effective as of January 1, 1954, pursuant to the request of MCHS as demonstrated in the "Communication – Re. Historical Society" dated November 11, 1953, and the "Resolution – Re. Historical Society (11-13-53-34)" as per those documents which are attached and incorporated by reference as **Exhibit A** into this contract.

Whereas, it is believed that COUNTY has continued to contribute to the operating budget of MCHS annually and without interruption from calendar year 1954 through 2019 at various and substantial levels;

Whereas, COUNTY has been the primary contributor to the annual operating budget of MCHS and during 2019 the amount of COUNTY's full contribution was the sum of \$54,376.00.

Whereas, the parties acknowledge that MCHS has provided and continues to provide valuable services to, without limitation, residents, for-profit businesses, not-for-profit corporations, governmental subdivisions, historians, researchers, genealogists in Wisconsin and in particular in the County of Marathon and to COUNTY, and that no other entity besides MCHS provides these services;

Whereas, during its normal budget discussions for its 2020 budget, COUNTY recognized that in light of the true nature of the provision of valuable services by MCHS it is more appropriate to change from the contribution basis that they provided between 1954 and 2019 to a payment for services basis beginning in 2020, and to that end COUNTY adopted "Amendment #3 of the Proposed 2020 Budget" on November 14, 2019.

Whereas, COUNTY operates fiscally on a calendar year basis and on the principle that any particular county board of trustees lacks the authority to bind any future county board of trustees to any fiscal commitment;

Whereas, MCHS operates fiscally on a calendar year basis;

Whereas, the parties mutually desire to transform their fiscal relationship to this contract for services basis that is renewable annually.

Whereas, the parties acknowledge and agree that opportunities to present lectures, programs, and events are somewhat fluid, as such opportunities, including requests, arise from time to time throughout the year. Accordingly, not all of the lectures, programs, and events that will eventually be held during any calendar year are known at the beginning of that year. Moreover, the summer months are generally avoided due to low attendance potential during that season. In addition, adverse weather or other unexpected conditions sometimes require cancellation of planned lectures, programs, or events. Accordingly, this contract is intended to be applied in a flexible, dynamic manner by which substantial performance may be made.

#### AGREEMENT

Now therefore, in light of the foregoing, the parties agree as follows:

1. The Recitals along with the Exhibits A, B and C are incorporated into this contract.
2. MCHS will perform the services during 2023:
  - a. Five programs or lectures within Marathon County and outside the greater Wausau metropolitan area, for example in Mosinee, Hatley, Stratford, Athens, etc. The program or lecture topics and locations are to be coordinated through the Marathon County Public Library Director, or his/her designee. If the Public Library Director, or his/her designee determines it is unsafe to hold live programs due to COVID-19 and social distancing guidelines, the programs will be recorded and made available to the general public at no charge through various websites such as YouTube and MCHS website.
  - b. Ten programs, lectures or events within the greater Wausau Metropolitan area, for example in Wausau, Weston, Kronenwetter, Maine, Hewitt-Texas, etc. The program, lecture, or event topics and locations are to be coordinated through the Marathon County Public Library Director, or his/her designee. If the Public Library Director, or his/her designee determines it is unsafe to hold live programs due to COVID-19 and social distancing guidelines, the programs will be recorded and made available to the general public at no charge through various websites such as YouTube and MCHS website.
  - c. Add Marathon County records to the MCHS online searchable database, which is free and available to the public through the MCHS Website, including indexes to Marathon County Census and plat maps, translated articles from select local German newspapers, and finding aides to Marathon County records and information stored in our archives.
  - d. Continue to pursue options for digitizing original Marathon County Records stored in our archives including Marathon County Probate Records, Marathon County Farm Journal, Marathon County Board Proceedings, etc.
3. Upon execution of this contract, COUNTY will issue payment to MCHS the lump sum of \$54,376.00 forthwith.
4. In January of 2024, MCHS will furnish a summary report to COUNTY relative to the programs, lectures, and events delivered in accordance with this contract—including information regarding

the number of attendees (actual or estimated)—and the progress made relative to subsections 2.c. and 2.d.

5. While not binding on future COUNTY Boards of Supervisors, the parties aspire to the annual renewal of this contract in the future with such modification as circumstances might warrant, including attaining full payment (i.e. \$54,376.00) in exchange for full services consisting of:
  - a. Five programs or lectures within Marathon County and outside the greater Wausau metropolitan area, for example in Mosinee, Hatley, Stratford, Athens, etc. The program or lecture topics and locations are to be coordinated through the Marathon County Public Library Director, or his/her designee.
  - b. Ten programs, lectures or events within the greater Wausau Metropolitan area, for example in Wausau, Weston, Kronenwetter, Maine, Hewitt-Texas, etc. The program, lecture, or event topics and locations are to be coordinated through the Marathon County Public Library Director, or his/her designee.
  - c. Continue to add and update digital records and content to make available to the general public at no charge through the MCHS website.
  - d. Continue to pursue options for digitizing original Marathon County Records stored in our archives including Marathon County Probate Records, Marathon County Farm Journal, Marathon County Board Proceedings, etc.

#### EXECUTION

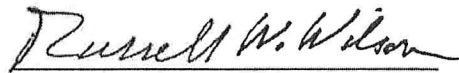
County of Marathon



By Lance Leonhard  
As Its Administrator

Dated: 12/28/2022

Marathon County Historical Society



By Russell W. Wilson  
As It's President

Dated: 12/20/2022



COMMUNICATION - Re. HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Miss Lucille Zielsdorf, Clerk  
Marathon County Board of Supervisors  
Court House  
Wausau, Wisconsin

Rothschild, Wisconsin  
November 11, 1953.

Dear Miss Zielsdorf:

As president of the Marathon County Historical Society which was incorporated on June 20, 1952, and was organized for the following business and purposes as described in the charter:

"Business and Purposes:

"The discovery, collection, preservation and publication of historical records and data of and relating to the State of Wisconsin and particularly to the County of Marathon in the State of Wisconsin."

I am addressing this communication to you with the request that it be brought to the attention of the Marathon County Board of Supervisors during the present session of the Board. I realize that this is rather a late date to bring up a matter involving any appropriation by the Board, but before making any presentation or request for an appropriation, the officers and directors of the Marathon County Historical Society thought it best to present some definite plan of housing and carrying on the work of the Society before such communication was sent to the Honorable Board of Supervisors on Marathon County.

Through the very generous action of Mrs. Leigh Yawkey Woodson recently, we are in position to announce that Mrs. Woodson has very graciously offered to give the Yawkey Homestead, located at 403 McIndoe Street, Wausau, Wisconsin, to the Marathon County Historical Society as a memorial to her mother, the late Mrs. Alice Richardson Yawkey, who was deeply interested in historical matters relating to the United States, the State of Wisconsin and Marathon County. This gift will be made at such time as certain conditions relating to the upkeep and maintenance of the property are compiled with by the Marathon County Historical Society.

In anticipation of making this presentation to the Board, I have had Miss Dorothea M. Krause, Librarian of the Wausau Public Library, make a survey of the cost of operation of county societies and museums in other counties throughout the state. I have also consulted with the Director and Staff of the State Historical Society and with Mrs. Woodson.

We all realize that during the first two years of operation the expense will probably run higher than for subsequent years, due to the fact that the mass of material of historic interest which we are locating throughout the county and which will be donated to the Society when we have proper housing will need to be properly classified. It means that the expense of expert curators to catalog and arrange all this material where it can be made available will cost more than the subsequent operation after the material has once been classified and catalogued.

At the low rate of membership dues it will be impossible to maintain the property as a Marathon County Museum and Historical Society headquarters unless specific appropriations are made for the purpose. Our estimate of the cost of operation for the first two years is \$12,000 per year, of which sum I am confident that \$7000 will be provided through individual subscriptions and patron memberships. This will leave \$5000 to be provided in each of the first two years as a part of the operating expense. It also includes some purchases of fireproof filing cases, cabinets and display cases.

With the abandonment of the old Court House, there is much of the original records of the organization of Marathon County and subsequent meetings of the Marathon County Board of Supervisors which will provide the basic materials for the history of this county. Even if there are original records which must be transferred to the new Court House, much will have to be done to get the actual factual data from these original records to make them available to the Historical Society.

As a member of the Society, I have been deeply interested in the history of this county over a long period of time and it has been my thought that the quicker we get a Society and Museum in operation, the more historical material we will have available, as each year some of this material which is irreplaceable is burned or lost through some of the younger generation's desire to "clean up the attic."

I am of the opinion that nothing can contribute more to the education of the youth of this county than to know the history of the county and of the people who made it. There are many people on the Board of Supervisors today whose ancestors, as well as themselves, contributed much to Marathon County history and these records should be preserved for posterity as a part of the educational system. I believe it is well within the province of the Marathon County Board to support the Marathon County Historical Society in its work and in its maintenance of a county historical museum.

Under these circumstances, I would respectfully request that due consideration be given to the appropriation of \$5000 to the Marathon County Historical Society each year, covered by the appropriations and budget which is now up for approval. I understand that under Section 44.03 that such appropriation or donation is legal under the Wisconsin State Statutes.

I sincerely hope on behalf of the Historical Society that due consideration will be given this subject and that such an appropriation may be made.

Yours respectfully,

MARATHON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
D.C. Everest, President

D.C. Everest:Jw

RESOLUTION - Re. HISTORICAL SOCIETY

11-13-53-34

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,  
MARATHON COUNTY:

WHEREAS; A Historical Society for Marathon County has been organized; and through its president, Marathon County has been requested to appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to this organization;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that this request be granted and that the sum of \$5,000 be transferred from the contingent fund to the Historical Society Account of January 1, 1954.

Geo. S. Cook  
James Baravetto  
W.H. McNeight  
F.A. Menzner  
Henry J. Lussier  
Edw. Jansen  
Henry Aderhold

E.H. Platta  
Helen Ohm  
Otto Untiedt  
Henry Krueger  
Bert Heise  
O.W. Sturner  
Edwin W. Vehlow

Helen Ohm  
Ray T. Radandt

Finance Committee

Public Property  
Committee.

Education Committee

Supervisor Ohm moved to adopt. Seconded by Supervisor Prellwitz.  
On roll call, adopted unanimously.

APPROPRIATION - TRANSFERS

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,  
MARATHON COUNTY:

WHEREAS, it appears that certain accounts will require additional appropriations to complete the financial activity for 1953, and

WHEREAS, the County Board has directed that transfers be made for Conservation Forest Ranger Outlay, Police Radio and Traffic Department, and there are statutory requirements to be met for Social Security and Wisconsin Retirement payments, and there must be additional amounts transferred for Supervising Teachers and Property Insurance on county buildings, now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following transfers be made:

<u>TRANSFER FROM:</u>	<u>TRANSFER TO:</u>
Contingent Fund - - - - - \$4,206.84	Supervising Teachers - - - - - 200.
Conservation Fund- - - - - 112.12	Forest Ranger Outlay - - - - - 2,000.
Inheritance Tax Revenue - - - - - 4,000.00	Conservation - - - - - 412.
Traffic Dept. Fines & Fees- - - - - -2,600.00	Social Sec. Payments - - - - - 4,206.
Penal Fines for County- - - - - -1,200.00	Property Insurance on County Buildings - - - - - 2,000.
	Police Radio - - - - - 200.
	Traffic Dept. - - - - - 2,500.
	Wisconsin Retirement Payments - - - - - 600.

Geo. S. Cook  
Edw. Jansen  
Henry J. Lussier  
Henry Aderhold  
W.H. McNeight  
F.A. Menzner  
James Baravetto

Dated: Nov. 13, 1953.

Finance Committee

Supervisor Baravetto moved to adopt. Seconded by Supervisor Blake.  
On roll call, adopted unanimously.

REPORT - Re. JUSTICE DOCKETS

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,  
MARATHON COUNTY:

In compliance with Section 59.82 of the Wisconsin Statutes, we, the committee on Constable, Coroner & Justice Accounts, have examined the dockets of the Justices of the Peace of Marathon County, and in conjunction with the county auditor as to fines and monies collected under Section 360.24 and found them correct as checked to the County Treasurer's receipts.

Dated : November 12, 1953.

Lester Hansen  
Bernard Schmidt  
Ardell Klemme  
LeRoy Jonas, Jr.



3. Move all of the funds for all five non-profit corporations to county administration account: "Support for Community Programs Contracts"

GL code	Agency Name	2020 Proposed Budget	2020 Amendment	Change
101 13897203	COMMUNITY ACTION	33,757	(33,757)	(33,757)
101 13897222	UNITED WAY 211	40,000	(40,000)	(40,000)
101 13897206	WOMENS COMMUNITY	55,000	(55,000)	(55,000)
				(128,757)
GL code	Agency Name	2020 Proposed Budget	2020 Amendment	Change
118 11497225	SUPPORT COMMUNITY PRG	-	128,757	128,757

Dated: November 14, 2019.

John Robinson

Marathon County Board Supervisor District # 4

Discussion: Lots of discussion on the merits and details of the amendment.

**Action:** MOTION CARRIED 31-2 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS:

AYE: Beastrom, Bove, Buttke, Christensen, Cihlar, Crosby, Drabek, Durham, Gabor, Gibbs, Guild, Gumz, Krause, Langenhahn, Leahy, Lo, Maszk, McEwen, Nutting, Oberbeck, Opall, Robinson, Rosenberg, Seefeldt, Seubert, Stark, Voll, Wagner, White, Xiong, Zriny – 31

NO: Schlei, Tremelling – 2

Follow Through: None stated, see amendment.

**Action:** MOTION BY ROBINSON, SECOND BY MCEWEN TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

**Budget Amendment #3**

WHEREAS, prior to adoption of the final budget, the County Board may amend the proposed 2020 budget resolution by a majority vote in order to make operational and capital programming changes; and  
 WHEREAS, while Marathon County contracts with a number of non-profit corporations for services, the 2020 budget is the first budget to begin to implement the board’s plan to reduce funding to non-profit corporations that receive direct funding by increments 25% annually, until all funding is removed by 2023; and  
 WHEREAS, the Board finds that contracting for services is preferable to direct funding because contracts define deliverables and set performance measures that can reviewed on an annual basis; and  
 WHEREAS, county administration is currently in the best position to award, draft and monitor such contracts for services; and  
 WHEREAS, based on Priority Based Budgeting, the Marathon County Historical Society and Economic Development Boot Camp were ranked in the 4th quartile of County programs, however these programs can differentiated from other non-profits in that category because:  
 - The Historical Society brings cultural and educational value to a large number of people and extends its services to all areas of the County, and  
 - The Economic Development Boot Camp creates new jobs, which directly improves economic opportunity in Marathon County; and  
 WHEREAS, there has been a request to increase the 2020 budget for Marathon County Historical Society and Education Boot Camp by \$23,594, which will restore funding that had been reduced by 25%, as described above; and  
 WHEREAS, the Board can fund said request by reducing the County Administration’s salaries and benefits accounts  
 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors for the County of Marathon does hereby amend the proposed budget as follows:



# MARATHON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## 2022 Educational Impact

*No One Else Does What We do*



WOODSON  
HISTORY CENTER

### Our Exhibits

#### Current Exhibits

- Peek Inside: What We Collect and Why
- Preserved For Generations: A Century of the Marathon County Park System
- Our Stories: The History of Marathon County
- Yawkey House Museum

#### Upcoming Exhibits

- Flappers In Daryland: Myth vs Reality in the Roaring 20s

#### Past Exhibits

- Milking Time: Evolution of the Dairy Industry in Marathon County
- Generations of Progress: Industrial History of Marathon County

**20,542 People Served in 2022**

47% Were Served In Locations Around Marathon County

### Our Programs

14,373 People Directly Served.

1,484 4th Graders Attended The Little Red School House From 32 Different Schools.

73 In Person Programs and Events.

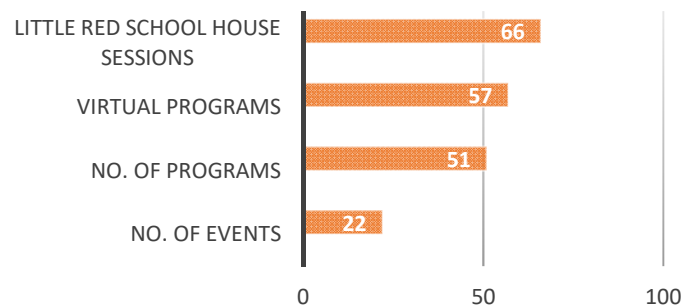
57 Virtual Programs In Partnership With The Marathon County Public Libraries.

3 Free Exhibits

Participated in community events including Wisconsin Valley Fair, Community Connection Summer Program, Summer Kick Off, Harvest Fest, Winter Fest and More.

#### 130 Events And Programs

#### 66 Little Red School House Sessions



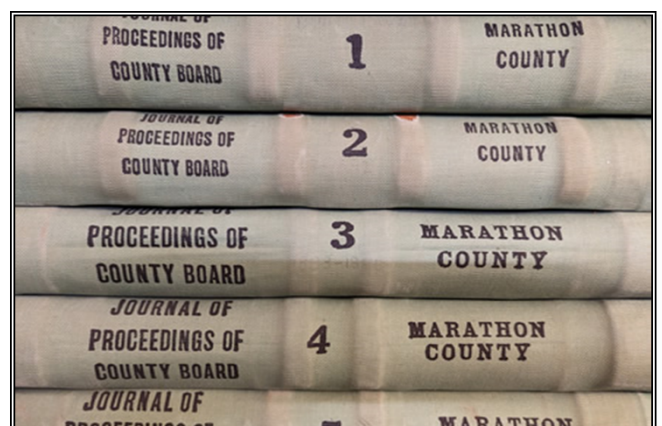
### Our Treasures

*As part of our mission to collect and preserve the history of Marathon County, we have invested in creating secure, climate-controlled storage for our artifacts and archives. The items we preserve are one-of-a-kind and cannot be found or duplicated anywhere else.*

53% Of The Woodson History Center Is Dedicated To Archive And Artifact Storage

38% Of Our Archival Storage Contains Original Documents And Records Of Marathon County Government

30% Of Our Artifacts Have Known Direct Ties To A City, Village Or Town In Marathon County.



#### In 2022

111 People Visited Our Research Library

552 Phone Or Email Research Requests

28,438 People Accessed Our Website Which Includes Free Access To Historical Articles, Photos And Data

## Our Mission

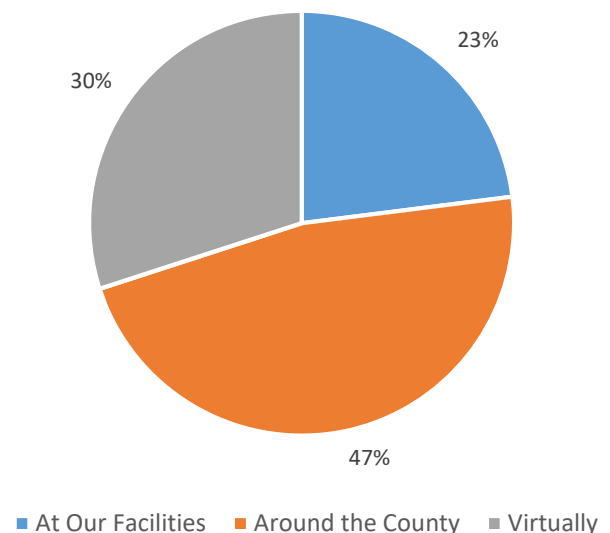
*To collect, preserve, and exhibit materials related to the history of Marathon County, and to use these materials to help people learn about North Central Wisconsin, connect with their roots, and explore their own historical connections.*

## Our Economic Impact

- We Employ 15 People Who Live In Marathon County. (7 FTEs)
- We Spent \$420,866.49 On Salaries, Goods And Service In Marathon County.
- Served A Total Of 14,373 People In Person Through Our Exhibits, Research Services, Programs And Events.
- Our Virtual Programming Had 6,169 Live Views. (Live Views Includes All Views Within 4 Weeks of The Live Program)
- 68% Of Our Visitors Were From Outside Of Marathon County; Of Those 68%, 60% Were From Elsewhere In Wisconsin and 40% From Other States And Countries.
- Offered Volunteer Opportunities To 187 People Who Together Gave Over 2,000 Hours Of Their Time To Assisted With Various Aspects Of Our Organization.
- Participated in 10 community events including the Wisconsin Valley Fair, Community Connection Summer Program, College for Kids, Summer Kickoff, Healthy Kids Day and more.

### 20,542 People Served in 2022

47% Served In Locations  
Around the County



## On A National Level

- US Museums Contribute \$21 Billion To The American Economy Each Year, Encouraging Economic Growth In Their Communities.
- For Every \$1 Governments Invest Into Museums, They See A Return On Investment Of Over \$7 In Taxes.
- Visitors To Historic Sites Stay 53% Longer And Spend 36% More Money Than Other Kinds Of Tourists.
- Museums Rank Among The Top Three Family Vacation Destinations.
- Quality-Of-Life Issues Contribute Significantly To Decisions Businesses Make When Choosing To Relocate, Including Access To Cultural Resources And A Dynamic Museum Community.





# Marathon County Historical Society

Bringing history to life. Preserving our stories. Having fun.

## Around the County

2022

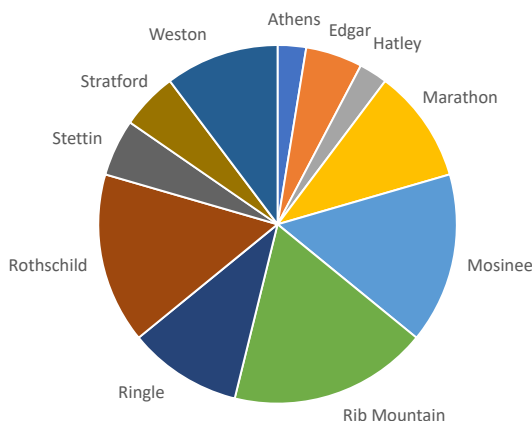
25 Communities Reached Throughout Marathon County  
Outside of Wausau

### 57 Programs For The Marathon County Public Libraries

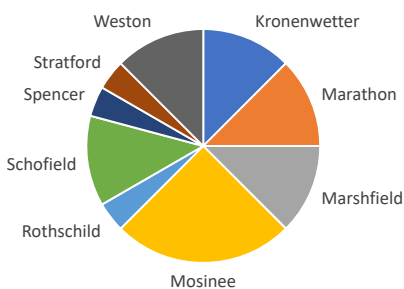
#### Program Topics Featured

Aniwa	Hamburg	Poniatowski
Bevent	Hatley	Schofield
Elderon	Knowlton	Spencer
Fenwood	Marathon County	Wausau
Halder	Marshfield	

### Little Red School House Attendees From Around The County



### Our Visitors From Around The County





## Our Services

2022

No One Else Does What We Do

- Traveling Trunks presentations
- School presentations
- School visits to Yawkey House Museum and Woodson History Center
- School visits to the Little Red School House
- Branch library and assisted living facility programs
- Traveling Rural Electrification exhibit
- Exhibits that include communities across the county
- Virtual programs on County-wide Topics
- Research services in person or on request
- Historic preservation assistance



## Collaborations

2022

Enriching Lives In Marathon County

Center for the Visual Arts	UW – Extension
Central Wisconsin Model Railroad Club	UW - Stevens Point at Wausau
Community Connections	Wausau Antique Study Club
Edgar Historical Society	Wausau/Central Wisconsin CVB
EGL Academy	Wausau Concert Band
Friends of Wausau Historic Landmarks	Wausau Conservatory of Music
Fromm Brothers Historical Preservation Society	Wausau Events
Junior Achievement	Wausau Garden Club
Marathon City Heritage Center	Wausau Historic Preservation Commission
Marathon County Public Libraries	Wausau/Marathon County Parks Department
Marathon County School Districts	Wausau Municipal Airport
Mosinee Historical Society	Wausau River District
Northcentral Technical College	WIPPS
Pommerscher Verein of Central Wisconsin	Wisconsin Historical Society
St. Anthony's Spirituality Center	Wisconsin Valley Fair
Spencer Historical Society	Woodson Art Museum
Stratford Historical Society	YMCA
The Neighbors' Place	...and many other community celebrations and events.

# Quality of Life

2022

MCHS Is A Top Attraction In Marathon County



### Attractions

#3 Ranked – Yawkey House Museum

### Museums

#2 Ranked – Yawkey House Museum

#3 Ranked – Woodson History Center

#6 Ranked – Marathon County Historical Society

# Lifelong Learning

2022

We Touch Lives And Bridge Generations

**20,542 People Served**

***Through Our Events, Programs, Tours, Research, Exhibits, Virtual Programs, etc.***

***47% Were Served In Locations Around Marathon County***

- 14,373 people directly served
- 6,169 people reached through virtual programs
- 2,401 children directly served
- 1,483 fourth-grade school students from 32 schools experienced the Little Red School House
- 73 free programs/events provided to the community
- 57 Virtual programs for the Marathon County Public Libraries
- 3 free exhibits



# Lifelong Learning

2022

We Educate, We Share, We Create Connections

## *We Serve Small Children To Nursing Homes*

### All Ages

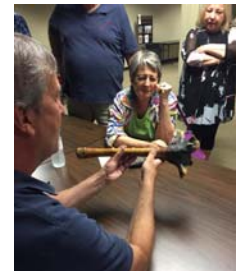
Public Library Programs  
History Speaks Lecture Series  
Springtime Family Tea  
Tales Between Two Depots  
Voices of the Past Cemetery Tour  
A Grand Old Time Film Showing  
House Full of History  
Holidays At The Houses  
Winter Fest  
Children's Fest  
YMCS Health Kids  
Harvest Fest

### Youth and Families

Little Red School House  
Storytime in The Garden  
National History Day  
Kids' History Day  
My Dolly and Me Garden Party  
Mother and Child Tea  
School Presentations  
Traveling Trunks

### Adults

Bring Your Own Book Club  
Civil War Book Club  
Branch Library Programs  
Assisted Living Programs  
Nursing Home Programs



# Digital Presence

2022

One of the top visited websites in the county... over 30,000 visitors



## Social Media:

- 4,700+ followers on Facebook
- Regular posts highlighting stories, people and artifacts
- Photos from our events
- Always current events calendar
- A community for exchanging thoughts and ideas

## Our Website:

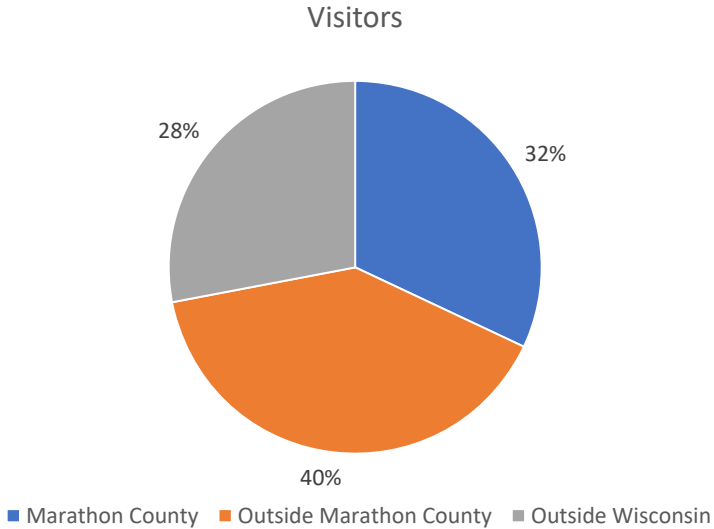
- Recognized by the Wisconsin Historical Society for excellence in our Web presence.
- Research portal with thousands of records and documents available
- Photo portal with thousands of images available for viewing
- In depth articles about events and people of Marathon County
- Updated events calendar



# A Destination 2022

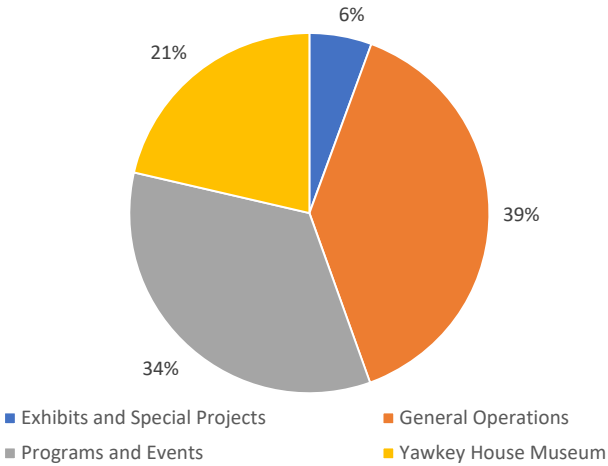
68% Of Visitors Come From Outside Marathon County

*We are the only history component of all area cultural organizations that tell Marathon County's story*



# 2022 Funding 2022

We Are Relevant To The Quality Of Life!



**Amount Received from the County = \$54,376**

Funding Sources	
<b>Exhibits and Special Projects</b>	
Grants	100%
<b>General Operations</b>	
City of Wausau Room Tax	10%
Donations	56%
<b>Marathon County Support</b>	<b>28%</b>
Membership Support	4%
Other Earned Income	2%
<b>Programs and Events</b>	
Restricted Investment Funds	94%
Membership Support	2%
Other Earned Income	4%
<b>Yawkey House Museum</b>	
City of Wausau Room Tax	4%
Restricted Investment Funds	51%
Donations	25%
<b>Marathon County Support</b>	<b>12%</b>
Membership Support	4%
Other Earned Income	4%



# Preservation

## 2022

Marathon County's Official Storyteller Since 1952

- We are the official depository of county historical items and records – including government records (e.g. Marathon County Board proceedings, township and city records, maps).
- 53% of The Woodson History Center is dedicated to archive and artifact storage.
- 38% of our archival storage contains original documents and records of Marathon County government.
- At least 30% of our artifacts have direct ties to a city, village or town in Marathon County.

### Cost of Maintaining Archives/Collections

Electricity	\$ 11,095
Heating	\$ 6,030
Insurance	\$ 8,255
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 33,780
Security	\$ 2,016
Supplies	\$ 509
Telephone	\$ 1,880
Sewer & Water	\$ 1,335
<b>Total Woodson History Center Costs</b>	<b>\$ 64,900</b>
Percent of Building Used For Storage	53%
Total Costs For Storage Areas	\$ 34,397
Plus Library and Archival Staff	\$ 40,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 74,397</b>

**Total 2022 Cost To Maintain  
Marathon County's Archives/Collections  
\$74,397**



# 2022

## Some Value Figures

Marathon County's Official Storyteller Since 1952

**Program Topics Through MCPL**

Aniwa	Hamburg	Poniatowski
Bevent	Hatley	Schofield
Elderon	Knowlton	Spencer
Fenwood	Marathon County	
Halder	Marshfield	

Value Range \$500 - \$1,500; Average \$1,000

13 x \$1,000 = **\$13,000**



# 2022

## Some Value Figures

Marathon County's Official Storyteller Since 1952

**Little Red School House: Spring and Fall Session**

Athens	Mosinee	Stettin
Edgar	Rib Mountain	Stratford
Hatley	Ringle	Weston
Marathon	Rothschild	

11 x \$1,000 = **\$11,000** X 2 = **\$22,000**



# Some Value Figures

2022

Marathon County's Official Storyteller Since 1952

## Free Online Records

- 20,542 people served
- 47% from around Marathon County
- 9,600 rounded down
- Assume: 1 website visit and 1 free record accessed
- Assume: \$2 value for each record

**\$19,200**



# Some Value Figures

2022

Marathon County's Official Storyteller Since 1952

## Annual Exhibit At Marathon County Fair

- 2 staff for 30 days at \$15/hr = \$7,200
- Supplies, updating, fair passes, etc. \$2,000
- Volunteer hours – 120 hrs (\$1,800 value)

**\$11,000**



# Some Value Figures

2022

Marathon County's Official Storyteller Since 1952

### Total Value Figures

\$13,000  
\$22,000  
\$19,200  
\$11,000  
**\$74,200**



**director@marathoncountyhistory.org**

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**From:** JANET IRENE SEYMOUR <janet.seymour@wisconsinhistory.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 14, 2023 9:22 AM  
**To:** director@marathoncountyhistory.org  
**Subject:** Congratulations! MCHS honored with Reuben Gold Thwaites Trophy

Dear Mary,

Congratulations! I'm delighted to inform you that the Board of Curators of the Wisconsin Historical Society has officially approved awarding the 2023 Reuben Gold Thwaites Trophy to the Marathon County Historical Society.

The review committee and the Wisconsin Historical Society's Board of Curators commend your outstanding work to collect, preserve, and share local history in service to your community. The Reuben Gold Thwaites Trophy is the highest recognition an affiliate organization can receive from the Wisconsin Historical Society. The Marathon County Historical Society's commitment to community service and education through innovative, accessible programming for all ages was noted as a particular strength by the review committee.

We will be sending an official letter of congratulations and I will be working with the Director's Office to arrange a time for an awards presentation. If you want to start thinking about a particular event or timing for a presentation, we can connect soon on scheduling.

The WHS website will be updated in the next week or so, and we'll also be sending an official press release to announce all the awards. If you would like to collaborate on a local/regional press release sent by the MCHS, please let me know and I'll connect you with Colleen Lies, our communications director.

Again, congratulations on this accomplishment and I'll be in touch soon with more details. Please share our congratulations and appreciation with the staff members, volunteers, and board members of the Marathon County Historical Society!

With appreciation,  
Janet

Janet Seymour  
*she/her/hers*  
Outreach Director

Wisconsin Historical Society  
c/o Department of History, UW-Eau Claire  
105 Garfield Avenue Eau Claire WI 54701  
715-836-2250 (Office) 715-829-0742 (Cell)  
janet.seymour@wisconsinhistory.org

**Wisconsin Historical Society**  
**Collecting, Preserving and Sharing Stories Since 1846**

## **MCDEVCO, Inc. – June 2023 Report**

### **GAP FINANCING**

MCDEVCO continues to work with businesses throughout Marathon County to provide *GAP* financing.

### **COVID-19 GRANTS**

MCDEVCO administrated the Marathon County Microbusiness Grant.

- Total Amount of \$5,000.00 Grants Disbursed: 47
- Total Amount Disbursed to Marathon County Businesses: \$235,000.00

### **ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT**

#### **2023 PROGRAMMING:**

- **March 14, 2023:** Business Start Up Information Session hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **March 28, 2023:** MCDEVCO *GAP* Financing Information Session for Financial Institutions.
- **March 29, 2023:** MCDEVCO led an entrepreneurship segment with the DC Everest Youth Entrepreneurs.
- **April 4, 2023 & April 11, 2023:** Strategic Planning Workshop hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **April 20, 2023:** MCDEVCO was present at the Chamber Expo.
- **April 26, 2023:** MCDEVCO was present at the CWIMMA Expo.
- **May 9, 2023:** *GAP* Financing Information Session was held for EEC Tenants looking to grow and evolve their business.
- **May 15, 2023:** MCDEVCO attended a Strategic Doing Workshop and led a table discussion surrounding Brainpower and Talent Development in our Region.
- **May 16, 2023:** Business Networking hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **May 23, 2023:** MCDEVCO partnered with the DC Everest Youth Entrepreneurs for a class visit.
- **June 13, 2023:** Business Start Up Information Session hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **June 21 & 28, 2023:** Quickbooks for Business hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **July 19, 2023:** Law Clinic hosted by MCDEVCO in partnership with UW Madison Law & Entrepreneurship Clinic.
- **July 24 & 31, 2023:** Marketing Workshop hosted by MCDEVCO.
- **September 12, 2023 through December 5, 2023:** *GEARS* Certificate of Entrepreneurial Excellence.

#### **Municipalities**

MCDEVCO hosts quarterly municipality meetings.

#### **EEC Management**

Occupancy Update:

- May 2023 Occupancy: 87%

**Kimm Weber**, Executive Director - MCDEVCO

## STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

Now is the time for you to start planning the business you want to grow and succeed.

 **TUESDAYS:**  
APRIL 4 & 11, 2023

 6:00-7:30PM

 **MCDEVCO, Inc.**  
Entrepreneurial & Education Center  
100 N 72nd Avenue, Wausau, WI


Scholarships Available

[www.mcdevco.org](http://www.mcdevco.org)  
715.298.0084



**TIM MCKEOUGH**  
Q Up Success



 **Tuesday, May 16, 2023**  
6:00 - 7:30PM

**MCDEVCO, Inc.**  
Entrepreneurial & Education Center  
100 N 72nd Avenue, Wausau, WI

 715.298.0084

 [www.mcdevco.org](http://www.mcdevco.org)

Scholarships Available



**Amy Plier**  
Wausau Container Corp  
Co-Founder

[www.mcdevco.org](http://www.mcdevco.org)

## INFORMATION SESSION

 **DATE**  
Tuesday  
June 13, 2023

 **TIME**  
12:00PM


 **LOCATION**  
ZOOM

Interested in starting a business?  
Join MCDEVCO for a virtual  
overview of the steps needed to  
begin the entrepreneurial journey!



## QuickBooks Online Workshop

**MCDEVCO, Inc.**  
Entrepreneurial & Education Center  
100 N 72nd Avenue, Wausau, WI

 **Wednesdays, June 21 & 28, 2023**  
6:00-8:00PM

715.298.0084  
[www.mcdevco.org](http://www.mcdevco.org)



Instructor  
**Sydney Fritzel, CPA**  
Owner - Summit Tax &  
Accounting

## BUSINESS LAW BASICS

UW Law & Entrepreneurship Clinic Supervising  
Attorney Jeff Glazer will present on  
Business Law Basics and Intellectual Property.  
Q & A to follow.

10:00-11:00AM - Presentation and Q & A

11:00AM to 3:00PM - Eight (8) 30-minute time  
slots available by appointment.

Wednesday, July 19, 2023  
Entrepreneurial & Education Center  
100 N 72nd Avenue, Wausau, WI 54401

Register Online  
[www.mcdevco.org/Events&Programs](http://www.mcdevco.org/Events&Programs)  
715.298.0084



  
Law & Entrepreneurship Clinic  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN LAW SCHOOL  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



## Marketing Workshop

**Tara Schessler**

Sales Manager - WAOW TV 9

**Mondays, July 24 & 31, 2023**

**MCDEVCO, Inc.**  
Entrepreneurial & Education Center  
100 N 72nd Avenue, Wausau, WI  
[www.mcdevco.org](http://www.mcdevco.org)  
715.298.0084







## Monthly Summary of the Marathon County Public Library for the Marathon County Extension, Education, and Economic Development Committee

For July 6, 2023 EEEDC Meeting

### Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration Project

The NICE (Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration) Project was convened last fall to investigate the possibility of further collaboration between WVLS (Wisconsin Valley Library Service) and NWLS (Northern Waters Library Service), with the options ranging from small (sharing an ILS subscription) to very large-scale (full integration of the two consortia). Talks have been facilitated by WiLS and have included staff from several individual libraries (including MCPL) and system staff from both consortia.

The NICE Project's original work will come to an end this June, and the project is expected to make two recommendations:

- that NWLS/NWLN and WVLS/V-Cat pursue a joint ILS and move towards shared practices and policies.
- that a clear roadmap of the next steps and key decision points should be further developed.

The collaboration is contingent on both systems' decision to use the same ILS. WVLS's ILS Evaluation and Review Committee has not yet reached consensus on which ILS to use going forward, but is likely to make a recommendation within the next few months. NWLS's ILS evaluation process has been paused, pending the result of the WVLS ILS evaluation process.

The NICE Project's recommendation is only a recommendation at this point - several decision-making bodies would need to approve any level of change. Additionally (as the recommendations indicate), there are many details yet to be determined around how any collaboration beyond a shared ILS subscription would work. MCPL staff have made the needs of MCPL clear:

- 1) Cost to MCPL must not increase due to any of these changes.
- 2) Some form of weighted voting for representation in the shared governance structure will be essential (e.g. representation based on service population or materials contributed, as opposed to a one-library one-vote system).

3) Wait times for patrons to get materials should not significantly increase. A firmer understanding of the inter-library delivery logistics will be important.

Additional details like these will be considered further in the coming months by extension of (or successors to) the NICE Project's original work.

## Rothschild Program Highlight



Spring is a great time in Wisconsin to hunt for wild mushrooms.

In early May, the Marathon County Public Library Rothschild branch held a new program, "Mushroom Foraging 101." Dan and Pauline Johnson of Back-Forty Mushroom and Forage were the presenters to an enthusiastic audience.

Branch Assistant Julie Grosskurth said Dan talked about basic mushroom anatomy, substrate, habitat, and the time of year they grow. He also demonstrated how to do a spore print.

"Dan spoke on the most common edible mushrooms in Wisconsin such as morels, pheasant backs, oyster mushrooms, chicken of the woods, chanterelles, black trumpets, hedgehogs, hen of the woods, and lion's mane. He also talked about poisonous mushrooms in Wisconsin such as destroying angel and deadly galerina," Julie said.

Julie said that when eating mushrooms, it is not recommended to eat them raw, but to cook them to at least 135 degrees.

After the presentation, the audience was able to ask questions, and many people stuck around to talk to each other.

Julie said the library would consider hosting this program again. "We had about 30 people attend, and people who didn't know about it expressed interest after the event," she said.

*(WVLS June 2023 Newsletter)*

## Library Services

The Adult Services team stayed busy preparing for our Summer Reading Program this month. From writing web promos, to designing our Activity Booklet, to marketing events, we work hard to bring a polished and fun program to the public. And in May, we put the finishing touches on everything in preparation for a June launch. Also in the spirit of summer fun, we launched the Check Out Wisconsin State Parks at your Library program at our Wausau headquarters on May 1st. Between May 1st and 31st, seventeen families checked out free day passes to Wisconsin State Parks. Other adult programming highlights include community-building Let's Talk! Social Hour events on May 10th, a fun Growing Raspberries session with UW-Extension on May 17th, and a popular movie night held in the Community Room on May 18th.

May was a very busy month full of outreach for the Youth Services team. In the first week of May we wrapped up story times, programming, and LENA so we could focus our efforts on outreach to schools. Four groups of Mosinee 1st graders visited the library and we processed over 100 new library cards for their students. Kids enjoyed the aquarium, looking at books, and checking out items with their new library cards. Many parents were excited to hear that they could return their books to the MCPL Mosinee branch, instead of making the drive back to MCPL-Wausau. Trinity Lutheran School and Head Start each brought classes in for a special story time and to introduce their students to the public library. Staff went to elementary school libraries and gave presentations on summer reading and activities happening at the public library in June, July and August. The Youth Services team visited a total of four elementary schools and reached around 1000 kids with these visits. In addition to elementary schools, Elizabeth visited 6th grade classrooms at both Horace Mann Middle School and John Muir Middle School. Taylor attended the Wausau/Marathon County Parks Department Children's Festival which had over 3000 attendees. Taylor chatted with families about the library, gave out library card applications and summer event flyers, and helped kids make a Pete the Cat craft. The Youth Services team also prepared videos to be shared countywide about summer programming. Staff shared these videos with schools that could not accommodate a visit but wanted to share the Summer Library Program with their students. We look forward to the summer months and seeing our months of planning coming to fruition.

## Branches

Book Club and Story Time continue to be well attended at many of our locations. Patrons have also visited our locations for a variety of craft days, Lego events, and education programs. In May, school visits were a highlight. Hundreds of local students visited our various libraries to take a tour, get a new library card, and learn about our summer reading program. Creative book displays were featured at all locations including ones like "Life without books is like...just kidding, we have no idea!" "The Library is the Place to Bee," "No Mow May, Read All Day" and "Veg Out."

In Rothschild, our program for adults about local mushroom foraging was a huge hit! We had 29 participants who learned how to safely forage for mushrooms from local foraging expert Dan Johnson (see highlight on page 2).

In Athens, residents are excited to hear the news about the library's future move to the former U.S. Bank building. Nikki, Athens Branch Coordinator, had the chance to see the new building and will be working with Leah to envision the new space.

In Hatley, book club met on 5/9 to discuss *The Giver of Stars*. They had a good discussion about the differences and similarities between this title and the previously read *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*. We had a grand total of 12 participants, which is our largest group yet. This was also the first outdoor book club of the year.

In Mosinee, a new handrail for the handicap ramp on the Second Street entrance to the library was installed mid-May. We are so appreciative of the added accessibility for our patrons!

The bi-monthly branch coordinator meeting was held on 5/19. Additionally, a branch assistant team meeting was hosted by Katelyn on May 30th. Many of our assistants were able to attend and enjoyed discussing highlights and brainstorming solutions.

The MCPL Board of Trustees meeting for May was held in Rothschild on 5/15.

Christina H., the new branch assistant in Edgar, started work on May 1st. We are very excited to welcome her to the team. Ersal L. resigned her position as branch assistant in Rothschild. The open 30 hour position is posted and will close on 6/3.



**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
MARATHON COUNTY

# June 2023 Report

*We teach, learn, lead, and serve,  
connecting people with the University of Wisconsin, and engaging with  
them in transforming lives and communities.*

## **4-H – Positive Youth Development**

**Holly Luerssen, 4-H Program Educator**

**Jasmine Carbajal, 4-H Associate Educator**

- A hands-on, interactive, and educational activity where Marathon County Youth in 3rd grade and up learned basic cuts of beef and how to make the perfect steak. The goal of the event was for youth to celebrate National Beef Month by learning and practicing how to grill steak.
- An outreach event where UW-Madison Extension-Marathon County shared the various programs they offer in an effort to increase participation in local sessions and increase diversity in future programs as the event was in celebration of World Cultures Day.
- An interactive session with a local Marathon County 4-H club to share county level programming opportunities with 4-H members and provide a connection activity to practice teamwork and communication skills within the club.
- A six-week educational series called Juntos (Together) where Latinx high school students and their families learned tools and resources to help students achieve high school graduation and post-secondary academic success which is the goal of the program.
- A one-time interactive outreach community event where youth in middle school and high school explore various careers and learn about Extension work. The goal was to encourage youth to learn about Extension and increase their knowledge of Wisconsin trivia.
- A hands-on educational activity called Sewing Basics where Marathon County youth learned how to sew simple stitches and the basics of a sewing machine. The goal of this activity was to help youth navigate a sewing machine and create a project to practice sewing skills.
- A hands-on educational activity where local Boy Scout members learned the basics of food safety, basic kitchen skills, and cooked a simple meal. The goal of the program was to help the participants achieve their cooking merit badge.
- A fun and interactive educational session where youth in elementary school built towers of spaghetti and marshmallows in order to learn about engineering and construction.





**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
MARATHON COUNTY

# June 2023 Report

## **Agriculture**

**Heather Schlessor, Dairy Agent**

- A hands-on, interactive, and educational activity where Marathon County Youth in 3rd grade and up learned basic cuts of beef and how to make the perfect steak. The goal of the event was for youth to celebrate National Beef Month by learning and practicing how to grill steak.
- A research-based educational article for dairy farmers and agri-business professionals, where participants will learn about handling reproductive hormones and injection placement. The goal of this effort is to increase knowledge of best practices for worker safety, and injection placement according to quality assurance guidelines.
- A research-based educational article for dairy and beef farmers and agri-business professionals, where participants will learn about the different methods and timing for determining pregnancy status in cattle. The goal of this effort is to increase knowledge of the different options available, and the importance of implementing at least one method into their herd management.
- Planning for development of factsheets/articles, longer publications, and videos on nutrition, genetics, & reproduction topics. The goal of this effort is to increase farmer, nutritionist, veterinarian, and other agribusiness professionals understanding of management of these topics to help improve farm sustainability and economic viability.
- A newsletter for farmers and agribusiness professionals where they learned about upcoming programs and topics including potassium and nitrogen in pasture management, single gene inherited traits in dairy cattle, managing transition cows on small farms and pest management on vegetable farms. The purpose of this effort is to work collaboratively to provide timely education for improving agricultural production with multiple county farmers and stakeholders.

## **FoodWise**

**Mallory McGivern, FoodWise Administrator**

**Michelle Van Krey, Healthy Communities Coordinator**



Welcome to our new FoodWise Healthy Communities Coordinator Michelle Van Krey. Michelle is serving as the Healthy Communities Coordinator for Clark, Marathon, Portage, and Wood Counties. She will work with the area FoodWise team and community partners to advance policy, systems and environmental changes to help to make the healthy choice, the easy choice. She graduated from the University of Georgia with a BS in Horticulture and has a passion for community building, public service and food security. She is excited to join the team and learn more about the counties in Area 7!





- A quarterly nutrition education series in Portage & Marathon County utilizing the Feeding for Healthy Eating curriculum for adults with young children as part of the Children's Wisconsin LEAP (Learning Essentials about Parenting) program where they learn about incorporating healthy eating habits into the family routine, including family meals and eating more fruits and vegetables. The goal of this effort is to encourage healthy eating behaviors at home.
- A tour of St. Bernards food pantry in Abbotsford to learn about emergency food resources available to (primarily Spanish-speaking) residents in Marathon and Clark County.

## **Horticulture**

### **Janell Wehr, Horticulture Educator**

- An interview for the WAOW where viewers learned how to manage spongy moths and increase habitats for pollinators. This effort is designed to increase awareness of resources to address environmental contamination and pollution due to overuse of horticulture chemicals in urban and suburban environments.
- A program (Good thymes at the library) for youth at the Wausau Branch of the Marathon County Public Library, where participants learned how to grow and maintain herbs. This effort is designed to cultivate science literacy skills in Marathon County youth.
- A panel interview for WPR Garden Talk with Larry Meiller show where the statewide listening audience learned how to care for landscape plants. This effort is designed to increase awareness of resources to address environmental contamination and pollution due to overuse of horticulture chemicals in urban and suburban environments.
- An outreach event where UW-Madison Extension-Marathon County shared the various programs they offer in an effort to increase participation in local sessions and increase diversity in future programs as the event was in celebration of World Cultures Day.
- A community of practice for horticulture educators where we explore strategies and resources to expand horticulture education and outreach to underrepresented audiences. The goal of participating in this group is to dig into ways we can locally continue to grow and enhance our horticulture programs to reach more diverse audiences.
- Planning for the creation of a repository of existing horticultural resources in multiple languages for home/community gardeners of all abilities. The goal of this effort is to make this repository accessible on the Horticulture Topic Hub.
- Developing informal learning communities utilizing the Horticulture Program's social media for all Wisconsin gardeners, including underserved populations. The goal of this effort is to provide accurate, practical and up-to-date information to the public primarily through the topic hub in order to bolster educational outreach efforts in support of addressing the Horticulture Program objectives.
- A weekly therapeutic gardening program (Gaining Ground) for individuals with court mandated community service where participants develop vocational skills including a foundation in IPM to increase employability and reduce recidivism in Marathon County.





## **Natural Resources**

Kris Tiles, NRI Program Manager

Anna James, Regional Natural Resources Educator

- An online Canvas course, "Your Land, Your Legacy", for private woodland owners, using a combination of asynchronous and synchronous learning tools, to guide families through the legacy planning process for their woodlands.

## **Additional Extension Outreach Programming Occurring in Marathon County**

- Planning for a small ruminant management program for goat producers, typically members of plain faith communities so that they may improve their production practices, profitability and sustainability of their goat management programs.
- Planning for a pasture walk program to provide pasture management information for dairy and livestock producers so that they can produce better pasture-based forages to improve the profitability and environmental quality of their farms.
- A newsletter for farmers and agribusiness professionals where they learned about upcoming programs and topics including potassium and nitrogen in pasture management, single gene inherited traits in dairy cattle, managing transition cows on small farms and pest management on vegetable farms. The purpose of this effort is to work collaboratively to provide timely education for improving agricultural production with multiple county farmers and stakeholders.
- A farm financial management curriculum for beginning, female, and other farmers, where material was adapted into a more relevant format as an on-line course. The pilot course will assist farmers in identifying strengths and weaknesses of their business to assist them in making decisions that will improve their farm profitability.
- A Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR) suicide prevention training for the WUCMAA Suicide Prevention Project where they learned to recognize the warning signs of suicide, how to offer help, and how to get help and save a life. This effort was designed to save lives and reduce suicidal behaviors by providing innovative, practical and proven suicide prevention training.
- An online program (Money Matters) for participants who want to improve their financial knowledge, where they complete 1-12 modules on different financial topics. The goal of the Money Matters modules is to increase participants' knowledge on topics such as credit scores and reports, making a spending plan, what to do when you can't pay your bills, and identifying financial strengths so that participants can apply these skills in the future.



**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
MARATHON COUNTY

# June 2023 Report

## Upcoming Programs

- **4-H Programming** – Information at [marathon.extension.wisc.edu/projects/programs/](https://marathon.extension.wisc.edu/projects/programs/)
- **StrongBodies** – StrongBodies Summer 2023 Session – Register at <https://go.wisc.edu/12rqa3>
- **Horticultural Programs** – Information at <https://marathon.extension.wisc.edu/horticulture/programs/>

Jeremy Solin  
*Area Extension Director*

Janell Wehr  
*Horticulture Educator*

Kathy Johnson  
*Administrative  
Assistant*

Heather Schlessler  
*Dairy Agent*

Mallory McGivern  
*FoodWise Administrator*

Holly Luerssen  
*4-H Program Educator*

Michelle Van Krey  
*Healthy Community Coordinator*

Jasmine Carbajal  
*4-H Associate Educator*

Kris Tiles  
*NRI Program Manager*

# ANNUAL SUMMARY

Throughout 2022, Wisconsin Extension Master Gardeners contributed over **99,000 hours of service**, showcasing their unwavering dedication to the Wisconsin Idea. Additionally, we are proud to report that over **30,000 hours of continuing education** were recorded, highlighting Wisconsin Extension Master Gardeners' commitment to staying up-to-date on research-based information.

A big part of the Master Gardener Program is to **educate the people of Wisconsin** in environmentally sound gardening practices. This is done through:

- Staffing information booths at events such as farmers' markets **3,400 hours**
- Answering the public's gardening questions **3,900 hours**
- Direct teaching **4,900 hours**

**Together we can improve lives and communities through gardening.**

The **Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program** supports a network of individuals dedicated to horticulture education, service, and lifelong learning. Through unbiased university research-based horticulture training they are equipped to address needs and opportunities in their community and throughout the state.

Master Gardeners are motivated individuals who use gardening to make a difference in their communities. The Master Gardener Program provides plant-related continuing education opportunities to grow their gardening know-how. Local organizations benefit from the garden-related volunteer activities and education provided by Master Gardeners.

Volunteer hours

Continuing education hours

Total Master Gardener participants

Statewide outreach hours related to pollinators

**5,600**

Total organizations served by Master Gardeners

Statewide hours spent gardening native plants, pollinator habitats, managing invasive species, & more

**53,000**

## THE WISCONSIN IDEA

One of the longest and deepest traditions surrounding the University of Wisconsin, the **Wisconsin Idea** signifies a general principle: that **education should influence people's lives beyond the boundaries of the campus.**

Synonymous with Wisconsin for more than a century, this "Idea" has become the guiding philosophy of university outreach efforts in Wisconsin and throughout the world.

Over the past year, Master Gardeners have been hard at work providing a variety of gardening-related outreach activities to our Wisconsin communities through volunteer service to over 700 Wisconsin nonprofits and other organizations that benefit the public good. From answering individual gardening questions to educating large groups through workshops and displays, Master Gardeners have been dedicated to helping individuals grow their knowledge and skills. In addition, they have engaged in physical gardening tasks and provided expert administration and support to ensure the success of programs across the state. The Extension Horticulture and Master Gardener Programs are proud of the progress made and look forward to continuing to serve our communities in the coming year.





# Wausau UW-Stevens Point

## Report to the Extension, Education, and Economic Development Committee June 2023

1. **Taste of Jamaica**- Will no longer be on the Wausau campus
2. **Fall 2023 Enrollment** -Our fall 2023 applications and admits continue to be up from this time last year.
3. We will have three orientation sessions for incoming students this summer. Students will also participate in academic advising.
4. **The Community's Campus**- we want to be a resource to the community. Because of this, we have hosted several events recently that were opened to the public. These events included: The Candidate Forum, Mosaic's Connecting Communities Conference, Hank Talks, Women Trailblazers and Entrepreneurs Conference, etc. We hosted a community MLK event, 167 people attended.
5. **Campus Executive Summer Project** to meet with as many community leaders and partners as possible. Please reach out if you would like me to meet with you!  
[otoms@uwsp.edu](mailto:otoms@uwsp.edu)
6. **Continuing Education:** Please access our continuing education website for professional development opportunities.  
<https://www3.uwsp.edu/conted/Pages/Professional-Development.aspx>
7. **Degree Programs Offered** – Below is a list of the degree programs we offer on the Wausau campus.
  - a. Associate Degrees  
Associate of Arts and Sciences Degree  
Human Services  
Leadership and Project Mgt  
Pre-Engineering
  - b. Bachelors programs  
Business Administration  
Nursing  
Social Work  
Sociology  
Engineering (UW-Platteville Partnership)

c. Master's Degrees

Business Administration (Main Campus)

Physician Assistant Program (UW-Madison Partnership)

Social Work (UW-Green Bay Partnership)

Submitted by Ozalle Toms, Campus Executive