



## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

To: Local Media and Press Release Subscribers

From: Katrina Harwood, Health Officer

Date: December 19, 2023

### **Nutrition Collaborative of Rock County Awarded Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment Community-Led Seed Grant**

**Rock County, WI** – The [Nutrition Collaborative of Rock County](#) has been awarded the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment community-led seed grant for the 2024 year. This grant will fund the “*Building and Reinforcing a Community-Based Nutrition Collaborative*” project. This project will include foundationally building the collaborative, community-based focus groups, training, and help generate community-led solutions to Rock County’s food environment concerns.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently reported that nationwide, food insecurity rates are significantly higher than previous years (USDA, 2023). Rock County is no exception to this, and the Nutrition Collaborative is working to develop strategies to address access to healthy food in Rock County.

The project is funded by the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment (AHW). AHW is a statewide health improvement philanthropy propelling promising work and ideas in health research, health care education, and community health initiatives to improve health and advance health equity in Wisconsin today, and for generations to come. Established by the Medical College of Wisconsin to steward a generous gift from Blue Cross & Blue Shield United of Wisconsin, AHW has invested over \$335 million in more than 600 projects since 2004.

More information about food access in Rock County can be found in the [2023 Food Environment Report](#).

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*Rock County Public Health Department serves Rock County residents by improving population health outcomes and removing barriers through community partnerships to provide everyone the opportunity to reach their full health potential. Visit the Rock County Public Health Department [website](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Please send all media inquiries to:*

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*Helping Rock County Reach Its Full Health Potential*





**ROCK COUNTY**  
PUBLIC HEALTH



beloit public library



**Beloit**  
WISCONSIN

## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

To: Local Media and Press Release Subscribers  
From: Katrina Harwood, Health Officer  
Date: December 28, 2023

### **Rock County Public Health Partners with Beloit Public Library in New Community Initiative**

**Beloit, WI** – Rock County Public Health (RCPH) is proud to announce a first-of-its-kind partnership with Beloit Public Library (BPL) and the City of Beloit. Beginning January 2024, RCPH staff will be present at BPL on Tuesdays and Thursdays to provide the greater Beloit community with access to public health resources and information.

The intent of the partnership is to maintain a physical presence in the southern part of the county, help connect residents to public health programs and services, and engage the community in collaborative planning for new initiatives. People who visit us at the library will meet a variety of staff, including Environmental Health Specialists, Public Health Nurses, and Public Health Strategists, to name a few.

Health Officer and Health Department Director, Katrina Harwood, says “We are looking forward to this partnership as a way to create stronger relationships with the community and other service providers in the area.”

“This partnership with Rock County Public Health is another opportunity for Beloit residents to receive the resources and expertise they need, at the times they need it, and in a highly accessible and efficient way. We appreciate the faith that Rock County has placed in BPL, and we look forward to working together with them,” says Nick Dimassis, Beloit Public Library Director.

Residents can speak to RCPH team members on Tuesdays and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. During these hours, staff can be found in the co-working space on the first floor of the

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## ROCK COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

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library or circulating throughout the library. Direct services such as vaccinations will not be offered at the library, but residents can access well water test kits from staff.

We look forward to engaging with the community in partnership with BPL and the City of Beloit.

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