

COMMUNITY NEEDS REPORT



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



Human Development and Relationships Programming Sheboygan County Extension

On June 12, 2025, Sheboygan County hosted a Community Needs Forum with participation from representatives and partners across local community organizations. Attendees engaged in facilitated discussions around current goals, challenges, existing and needed resources, underserved audiences, and opportunities for collaboration. The purpose of this report is to highlight community-identified needs relevant to the Human Development and Relationships Institute (HDRI), and to demonstrate how programming from Sheboygan County Extension is addressing these gaps.

Forum Discussion Summary

The Forum discussion at the HDR table centered on **strengthening support systems for families and vulnerable populations** in Sheboygan County. Key goals include building *trust*, *partnerships*, and *social capacity*, especially through better alignment of county services and more culturally responsive outreach. While some promising tools and programs exist, gaps remain in *housing*, *engagement*, *resource access*, and *early intervention*—particularly for those navigating trauma, disability, incarceration, or language barriers.

Identified Community Needs & Gaps

Analysis of the forum data revealed several key needs that align with the scope of Life Span and HDRI programming:

- Increased access to support for families with disabilities or language barriers
- Improved resource navigation for community services
- Interventions to address the harmful effects of isolation, particularly among older adults, immigrants, LGBTQ+ individuals, and rural communities
- Parenting education for incarcerated individuals
- Expanded trauma-informed programming
- Opportunities for peer support and community connection

EXTENSION ALIGNMENT

Support for Caregivers and Families

Sheboygan County Extension is committed to supporting caregivers and families from all walks of life. Programs such as [Powerful Tools for Caregivers](#) and [Planning AHEAD](#) equip residents with

practical skills for stress reduction, self-care, and navigating complex caregiving systems. *Planning AHEAD* also addresses the critical yet under-discussed area of end-of-life planning, offering clarity and confidence for individuals and families as they prepare for future transitions. A culturally responsive [Hmong Planning AHEAD](#) version is also offered as Sheboygan County has the 4th largest population of Hmong residents in Wisconsin.

Reducing Isolation & Strengthening Social Connection

To combat the impact of social isolation and loneliness, Extension offers programs such as [StrongBodies](#), [WeCOPE](#), and *Caregiver Chats* (upcoming). These programs promote physical health, mental well-being, and emotional connection among participants, particularly those at risk for disconnection due to age, identity, or geographic location.

Support for Justice-Involved Individuals

For individuals impacted by incarceration, Sheboygan County Extension can offer the [Literacy Link](#)- a series of programs that promote language and literacy skill development in children with parents or caregivers in local correctional systems.