

Request to apply for, accept, and administer prize funds from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, by recommending adoption of the following:

## A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Milwaukee County (the County) applied for the 2024 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Culture of Health Prize (the Prize) in June 2024, which “honors the work of communities that are at the forefront of addressing structural racism and other injustices to advance health, opportunity, and equity for all”; and

WHEREAS, the County hosted a site visit as a finalist for the prize in October 2024, which included participation by County Executive Crowley, Chairwoman Nicholson, department leaders from the Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture, the Milwaukee Parks Foundation, and over 25 community partners; and

WHEREAS, the prize criteria clearly aligns with multiple strategic objectives:

**2C: Apply a racial equity lens to all decisions - prize criteria**

1) *Address structural racism and other structural injustices to advance opportunity, health, and equity; and*

2) *Commit to lasting changes in policy, systems, and financing that improve community conditions and center people directly impacted by the inequity addressed;*

**3C: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities- prize criteria**

3) *Work in partnership across sectors, and elevating the expertise and solutions held by people with firsthand experience of the inequities being addressed; and*

4) *Engage in work that preserves and celebrates community through cultural activities and practices that envision and advance a more just future*

**3A: Invest “upstream” to address root causes of health disparities- prize criteria**

5) *Make the most of available resources to ensure the effort can endure over time; and*

6) *Measure and share progress in culturally relevant ways;*

**3B: Enhance the County’s fiscal health and sustainability –**

7) *the prize is \$250,000 in unrestricted funds; and*

; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 application cycle was the tenth and final year of the RWJF Prize, and it was the most competitive, with over 400 submissions; and

46 WHEREAS, the County will now join a Prize alumni network of over 100 other  
47 communities in the United States; and  
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49 WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance, at its meeting of June 18, 2025,  
50 recommended adoption of File No. 25-388 (vote 5-0); now, therefore,  
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52 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board)  
53 authorizes the Office of Strategy, Budget, and Performance (OSBP) to retroactively  
54 accept the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Culture of Health Prize award  
55 funds of \$230,000; and  
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57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board hereby authorizes and directs  
58 the OSBP and the Office of the Comptroller to process administrative appropriation  
59 transfers, to allocate \$75,000 of the RWJF award to the Department of Health and  
60 Human Services, and \$155,000 to the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture,  
61 for the purposes described in this report.  
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