



When You Know Your Work is Making an Impact It is Easy to Love What You Do

In Wisconsin, we are fortunate to have many of the great things that the Midwest has to offer, including four seasons. Although changes in weather throughout the year can be beautiful and enjoyable in many ways, it can also present challenges in terms of energy savings, safety, and home warmth. [Click here for Jake's story.](#)



**“All of the money put
into this program goes
back into people’s
pockets through their
energy savings.”
Jake, Couleecap
Energy Auditor**

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Expanding our REACH

The REACH Center Welcomes Scenic Bluffs Community Health Centers

The REACH Center, 212 11th Street South in La Crosse, is gaining a new healthcare partner. Scenic Bluffs Community Health Centers is joining the collaboration of agencies who operate in the REACH Center through a new partnership between Scenic Bluffs, Couleecap, and YWCA La Crosse. In the REACH Center space, Scenic Bluffs will consolidate its current single-service locations in La Crosse to provide whole-person, integrated health services co-located with other programs and agencies that address social determinants of health.

Scenic Bluffs currently has Health Centers in both Cashton and Norwalk, dental and behavioral health services in La Crosse, and provides services at multiple area school districts. While the new REACH Center space is under construction, Scenic Bluffs will continue to operate a full-time dental practice at its current location at 2023 7th Street S. “We are so grateful for the donors and partners that have been instrumental in helping us improve access to dental and behavioral health services over the last 5 years,” says Kim Hawthorne, CEO of Scenic Bluffs. “These collaborative relationships with area agencies such as Couleecap, YWCA La Crosse, St. Clare Health Mission, Gundersen Health System, Mayo Clinic Health System, Great Rivers United Way, La Crosse County Health Department, and others throughout the region will continue to be the key to success as we collectively work to improve the health of the community.”

Scenic Bluffs provides a comprehensive suite of affordable, whole-person care to reduce barriers to healthcare for people in western Wisconsin. As a Federally Qualified Health Center, Scenic Bluffs provides integrated and affordable dental, behavioral health, primary care, and complementary services by reducing barriers such as cost, lack of insurance, distance, language, and social support needs for patients.

“We know that it isn’t just barriers such as cost or lack of insurance that affect the ability for people to receive the care they need,” says Hawthorne. “Social barriers have just as much impact on health and well-being. By co-locating in the same building with Couleecap, Independent Living Resources, Legal Action of Wisconsin, New Horizons Shelter and Outreach Centers, Salvation Army, YWCA La Crosse, and other agencies, we create an accessible, one-stop space and advance our collective mission to provide low-barrier, efficient, and compassionate services to residents.”

At the REACH Center, Scenic Bluffs will provide dental and behavioral health services with primary care support. The 8,600 square foot section within the REACH center, expected to be complete in late summer 2024, will house dental operations, behavioral health treatment rooms, and medical exam rooms. “Patients will benefit from a fully integrated approach to whole-person care, which is the foundation of Community Health Centers as we strive to reduce health disparities. Having dental, behavioral health, and medical clinicians working across the hall from each other for patient referrals is an important aspect of the work that we do,” says Hawthorne.

“The REACH Center is intended to fill service gaps through community collaboration. Having access to healthcare is critical to a person’s overall wellbeing, and Scenic Bluffs works to ensure all people, regardless of income or insurance coverage, get the healthcare they need. It just makes sense to co-locate these services alongside housing and other assistance programs,” says Hetti Brown, Executive Director of Couleecap.

Scenic Bluffs accepts Wisconsin Medicaid, Medicare, most private insurance and cares for those without insurance. Additionally, Scenic Bluffs offers a sliding-fee scale discount program, available to those with or without insurance, which may reduce the cost of care to those who qualify. Qualifications are based-on the individual’s household size and income. For more information on services offered, visit www.scenicbluffs.org.



State Representative Loren Oldenburg addresses the crowd while Scenic Bluffs CEO Kim Hawthorne looks on.



Remarks were given by State Senator Brad Pfaff and Mayor Mitch Reynolds.



Couleecap Executive Director Hetti Brown speaks of the benefits of the REACH Center and its partners.



Thriving Families, Thriving Communities

Thriving Families of La Crosse County is a collaborative project between Couleecap, Catholic Charities, and La Crosse County to provide low-barrier, safe, stable housing to families who are experiencing homelessness.

The goal is to provide families with housing and other supports they need to achieve their personal, financial, and permanent housing goals. Experienced nonprofit organizations, Couleecap and Catholic Charities acquire and manage quality housing throughout La Crosse County. Case management services are provided to each family by La Crosse County staff.

Do YOU want to help? Learn more about how your property can help homeless families at couleecap.org/thriving-families.



Help a homeless family in La Crosse County when you donate or sell your home.

Thriving Families of La Crosse County is seeking single-family, duplex, and triplex homes for donations or purchase. All donations are tax-deductible.*

Learn more at [Couleecap.org](https://couleecap.org)



How Can YOU Help Your Community? Consider the Impact of a Recurring Monthly Gift



Consider making a recurring gift to Couleecap, and you'll contribute to a brighter, more sustainable future for our community. By choosing to give regularly, you provide stability and support that allows Couleecap to plan ahead and implement long-term solutions to poverty and inequality. Your recurring donation ensures that essential programs, such as affordable housing, food assistance, and job training, continue to make a lasting impact on the lives of those in need. Plus, it's a hassle-free way to give, as your generosity is automatically processed, saving you time and effort. Together, we can create lasting change and empower individuals and families to break free from the cycle of poverty. [Join us in building a stronger, more resilient community by making a recurring gift to Couleecap today.](#)

Join us in building a stronger, more resilient community by making a recurring gift to Couleecap today.

Keeping Our Neighbors Warm

Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program and how it works

Who is eligible?

Wisconsin residents, your household may qualify for vital assistance through programs like the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP), Weatherization Assistance Program, and the HE+ Program Services. Eligibility is determined by several factors, including your household's gross income, which should fall below the income threshold indicated on the provided chart. Applying for these crucial services is easy and can be done in various ways, whether you choose to visit your local WHEAP agency, apply online, or reach out by phone. These programs are designed to alleviate the burden of energy costs and enhance the overall quality of life for eligible households. Don't hesitate to explore your options and access the support you deserve.

Household Size	ONE Month	Annual Income
1	\$2,820.67	\$33,848
2	\$3,688.58	\$44,263
3	\$4,556.50	\$54,678
4	\$5,424.50	\$65,094
5	\$6,292.42	\$75,509
6	\$7,160.33	\$85,924
7	\$7,323.00	\$87,876
8	\$7,485.75	\$89,829

What is the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program?

The Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) offers crucial support to eligible households during the heating season, from October 1 to May 15. WHEAP provides a one-time payment that assists with a portion of energy costs but is not meant to cover the entirety of a residence's energy expenses. The specific amount of assistance you receive depends on several factors, such as your household size, income, and energy costs. In most instances, the energy assistance benefit is directly disbursed to your energy supplier, ensuring that it goes towards reducing your heating expenses and providing relief during the cold months. WHEAP is a valuable resource for helping individuals and families manage their energy bills and maintain a comfortable living environment.

Your Next Steps

1. See if you Qualify
2. Contact your local WHEAP agency
 - Crawford County: 608-326-0248
 - La Crosse County: 608-785-5582
 - Monroe County: 608-487-9356
 - Vernon County: 608-637-5210

- Apply between Oct 1 - May 15
3. [Complete your application](#)
4. Receive your one-time benefit

If you qualify for WHEAP You May Also Qualify for Weatherization

The Weatherization Assistance Program is a valuable resource for homeowners and renters looking to reduce energy costs and enhance comfort within their homes. Weatherization improvements may also contribute to a safer and healthier home environment. Couleecap installs these improvements. By weatherizing your home, you can expect reduced energy bills, increased indoor comfort, and a more sustainable living space.

If you qualify for home weatherization services, you may receive one or more of the following energy efficiency measures:

- Insulation
- Heating System Update
- Sealing air leaks
- Energy-Saving Products

Learn more at <https://www.couleecap.org/home-weatherization.html>

Partnerships Help Programs Thrive!

Federal Funding Secures the Future of the REACH Center



THANK YOU Senator Baldwin!

The REACH team awarded the Senator “for creating communities where all people thrive. Through a life of public service, Senator Baldwin has broken multiple barriers to advance the rights of all. Her leadership has forever improved the lives of Wisconsinites and the residents of the United States of America.”

Senator Baldwin was instrumental in securing funding that allowed partners to purchase the building, so the REACH Center will continue to be a resource for the community for many years.





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200 E. Blackhawk Avenue
Prairie du Chien, WI 53821
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La Crosse County
REACH Center
212 11th Street South
La Crosse, WI 54601
Phone: 608.781.2783

700 N. 3rd Street, STE 202B
La Crosse, WI 54601
Phone: 608.782.4877

Monroe County
217 N. Black River Street
Sparta, WI 54656
Phone: 608.269.5021

Vernon County
201 Melby Street
Westby, WI 54667
Phone: 608.782.4877

A United Way member agency



Need help with overdue bills for your family home?

APPLY TODAY:
Couleecap.org
or call 1-844-260-7709
to find out more!



 **WISCONSIN Help for Homeowners**

Couleecap

Wisconsin Help for Homeowners is a program administered by the State of Wisconsin, funded by the American Rescue Plan Act

The Wisconsin Help for Homeowners (WHH) program offers financial assistance to eligible homeowners who have fallen behind on their mortgage or other housing-related costs due to financial hardship caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

What Can We Help With

The Wisconsin Help for Homeowners (WHH) program offers eligible households financial assistance with delinquent mortgage payments, property taxes, utilities or energy, internet, water and sewer, lot rent, land contracts, insurance and/or other fees. Our team can also help to provide financial counseling, work alongside clients with their mortgage lenders, or make referrals for legal assistance as needed.

[To apply for the Wisconsin Help for Homeowners \(WHH\) program please click here.](#)

Donate Food & Supplies from our 

Thanks for supporting Couleecap programs
like our food pantries