

Northeast Wisconsin Data Exchange

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Northeast Wisconsin Data Exchange Expands to 11 Counties

Open access to more than 130 indicators will help organizations and residents understand community conditions and make data-informed decisions across Northeast Wisconsin.

NORTHEAST WISCONSIN – September 2, 2026 – The Northeast Wisconsin Data Exchange (NEWDEX) has expanded its service area from three to 11 counties, giving organizations and residents access to more than 130 local indicators. The expansion creates a comprehensive regional picture while preserving the local-level detail communities need to identify priorities, understand disparities, and use data to inform strategic planning, public policy, and program implementation.

Local data is essential because community challenges and opportunities don't stop at county lines. Understanding those challenges and opportunities requires detailed information and community context, which NEWDEX provides in a free online platform.

This community-focused data is available at newdex.org with interactive maps, charts, and graphs, offering county-level information along with more granular insights by ZIP code, census tract, and municipal boundary. Data topics include population, housing, education, transportation, workforce, health, economic well-being, the environment and other measures of community well-being. Users can examine trends over time, compare counties or demographic groups, and download data sets for custom aggregation and analysis.

Philanthropic support from Basic Needs Giving Partnership (BNGP) made the expansion possible. Natalie Bomstad, Executive Director of BNGP, said the investment reflects the organization's belief that shared information can promote greater community impact.

"Partnering with NEWDEX gives us an opportunity to make up-to-date metrics available to grantees across our 11-county region," said Bomstad. "Having this type of information readily at hand can strengthen our impact by helping us understand local conditions and

trends and track progress. We encourage cross-sector partners to utilize NEWDEX because when we have access to many different forms of knowledge—quantitative data from NEWDEX along with lived expertise and local context—we can better align resources, identify gaps, and uplift the bright spots across our shared communities."

NEWDEX is leveraging Metopio's technology to support its expanded service area while keeping relevant community data centralized and curated. The Metopio platform streamlines the process of updating metrics from major national sources while also allowing communities to incorporate local data. The technology is designed to be easily scalable, allowing NEWDEX to not only increase geographic reach but also continue adding to the library of community metrics.

"NEWDEX is exactly the kind of project we're excited to make possible," said Angie Grover, Chief Operating Officer and co-founder of Metopio. "Data is most powerful when it's in the hands of the people who know their communities best. Our platform helps streamline the community health improvement workflow, ensuring data is timely, consistent, and reliable. This allows partners to focus on building a deeper understanding of their communities so they can make better decisions and work together toward better outcomes. NEWDEX has done that across 11 counties in Northeast Wisconsin, and we're proud to be part of it."

Formerly known as the Fox Valley Data Exchange, which served Calumet, Outagamie, and Winnebago counties, NEWDEX now also serves Brown, Green Lake, Kewaunee, Menominee, Oconto, Shawano, Waupaca and Waushara counties. As part of the expansion, NEWDEX will host a free regional data event—NEWDEX DataCon—at Fox Valley Technical College's Appleton campus on October 20, 2026. The event will showcase the online platform and share stories of how community partners are using data to inform their work.

"What started three years ago as the Fox Valley Data Exchange, with a goal of centralizing community data and reducing duplication, has grown into the Northeast Wisconsin Data Exchange. Today, NEWDEX is an open-access, go-to resource for communities throughout Northeast Wisconsin, with relevant, high-quality data at the core of our mission. But ultimately, we want to connect the data to action," said Jason Schulist, Executive Director of Northeast Wisconsin Data Exchange. "Expanding our geographic reach will help more communities see the challenges they face and the strengths they can build on together."

To explore the data from NEWDEX, visit newdex.org. Registration information for NEWDEX DataCon on October 20 will also be available on the website.

About Northeast Wisconsin Data Exchange

The Northeast Wisconsin Data Exchange (NEWDEX) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2023. We are a trusted, go-to resource for reliable, easy-to-use data. Our primary service is providing open access to an online platform with 130+ community measures covering the factors that shape well-being—from housing and education to health, safety, and the environment. By making information and insights widely available, we aim to help residents, organizations, and decision-makers understand community conditions, collaborate effectively, and develop data-informed strategies and actions.

About Basic Needs Giving Partnership

The Basic Needs Giving Partnership is committed to supporting the people and places advancing equity and economic well-being for everyone in Northeast Wisconsin. We achieve this mission through impactful grantmaking and by serving as a hub for regional collaboration, learning, and action. The funds raised through the U.S. Venture Open from generous corporations, family foundations, and individuals are granted to support nonprofits providing critical services as well as organizations working to change the systems that hold poverty in place. For more information about the Basic Needs Giving Partnership, please visit our website, bngpwi.org.

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