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RACINE COUNTY LAUNCHES 'HERE TO HELP'

Program seeks to reach residents facing barriers to services due to COVID-19 outbreak.

Racine – Racine County Executive Jonathan Delagrave announced today the launch of "Here to Help," a proactive effort to reach families who are facing barriers to services due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Amid coronavirus, many residents are in isolation and interacting less with public agencies which assist with essential needs. In addition, residents and families are facing evolving needs and new challenges and must navigate multiple new and existing programs.

Under Here to Help, staff are proactively reaching out to families who have been involved with county assistance programs to address whether their essential needs are being met. These needs include rent, food, and other basic financial needs; access to resources such as shelter and free meals; mental health counseling; unemployment services; and – importantly – personal safety, including domestic violence and child abuse and neglect.

The Here to Help program is made possible because of funding through the United Way of Racine County and Racine Community Foundation. Here to Help is in partnership with the Racine Family YMCA, staff from which will be contacting families that are potentially at risk.

"As we continue working as a community to overcome the coronavirus outbreak, we must ensure families' and residents' essential needs are being met," County Executive Jonathan Delagrave said. "The Here to Help program is another great community partnership to reach our most vulnerable population during this unprecedented and challenging time."

Anyone with questions, or who are in need of services, should email <u>HereToHelp@racinecounty.com</u>. In addition, families and youth should visit RacineCountyFamilyResources.com, a one-stop website that contains a variety of information, resources, and a community directory for families and youth needing care.