



WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES EXTENSION UW-MADISON

# RACINE COUNTY

## STATE OF THE COUNTY 2019-2020





RACINE COUNTY  
CULTIVATES INNOVATIVE,  
SUSTAINABLE, AND  
VALUED OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR COMMUNITY AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH.

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**Racine County Mission**

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## Front Cover

Top: Job Fest (Julian Thomas Elementary, Racine)

Top Left: Western Racine County Service Center (Burlington)

Bottom Left: 911 Dispatcher, Racine County Communications (Yorkville)

Bottom: SC Johnson Community Aquatic Center (Racine)

## LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

### COUNTY EXECUTIVE JONATHAN DELAGRAVE



**Dear Racine County residents, businesses, and visitors:**

Welcome to our inaugural State of the County report. The pages that follow represent a snapshot of the work and services your County Government delivers on behalf of the nearly 200,000 residents of Racine County.

From Human Services staff supporting healthy families, to Public Works crews keeping our highways safe, to 911 dispatchers helping people on their worst day, Racine County has over 1,000 employees who work hard every single day to deliver high-quality service.

We are at a critical point for our community. While we experienced tremendous new growth and unprecedented new opportunities over the past few years, the coronavirus outbreak has been extremely difficult for all of us and will reverberate for a long time to come. We know we have a lot of work ahead to help our residents, businesses and communities recover from COVID-19, but I'm proud of our County's response and know we can emerge from this pandemic stronger if we work together.

And as our County moves forward, so are we. In this report, you will see increased transparency on how we are spending your hard-earned tax dollars and a renewed emphasis on measuring return on investment. We are also pleased to unveil new online dashboards that we hope give the public a full accounting of our financial picture – our opportunities, our challenges, and everything in between. To view resources and dashboards, visit [racinecounty.com/stateofthecounty](https://racinecounty.com/stateofthecounty).

I am very optimistic about the future of Racine County and am excited to work together with our many partners to help make our communities the best they can be.

**“ We know we have a lot of work ahead to help our residents, businesses and communities recover from COVID-19, but I'm proud of our County's response and know we can emerge from this pandemic stronger if we work together. ”**

RACINE COUNTY  
**INNOVATES**  
**INVESTS**  
**IMPACTS**  
COMMUNITIES



## Impact

Building communities: From family-sustaining employment at Job Fest to emergency supports during COVID-19.



## Invest

Investment spanning communities, from public infrastructure to parks.



## Innovate

Building the digital and data infrastructure to increase return on investments and protect residents.

# LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

## RACINE COUNTY BOARD



**TOM ROANHOUSE**  
COUNTY BOARD  
CHAIRMAN

Chairman Roanhouse presides over County Board meetings, makes appointments to standing committees and special subcommittees of the board, and formalizes ordinances adopted by the Racine County Board.

Chairman Roanhouse also serves his home district No. 18, which includes the Village of Waterford and parts of the Village of Rochester and Town of Dover.

On behalf of 21 supervisors representing districts from Burlington to Racine and everywhere in between, we are here to serve you. The Racine County Board aims to keep our County a great place for businesses to develop, for people to find family-sustaining work, and for families to live. Much of this work is done through committees and public hearings around critical community issues, ranging from land use planning, finances and criminal justice, to traffic safety, parks, facilities and health and human development.



Over the past year, the Racine County Board has approved more than \$2 million in worker-training funds to upskill unemployed and underemployed residents for high-wage, high-growth openings; oversaw key investments in Pritchard, Quarry Lake and other parks; and led a transparent and thorough review of the County's 2020 budget.

In closing, I'd like to thank our former supervisors for your service and leadership and welcome our new members. I'm excited to see what we will accomplish together in the year ahead.

# OUR PRIORITIES IN ACTION

*County Executive Jonathan Delagrave, in close partnership with the Racine County Board, aims to expand mental health services for Racine County residents, grow our local economy, and build a fully capable and employed workforce.*



## Expanding mental health services

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RacineCountyFamilyResources.com is a new online portal for mental health resources and services available in the County. In the last five years, Racine County increased the number of people served in our outpatient mental health clinic by 600%. We also expanded mental health services to children by over 400%.



## Growing businesses and our local economy

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New development is taking shape across the County, including two major hospitals, residential projects like Tivoli Green in Mount Pleasant (pictured left) and market-rate apartments in Waterford, and the Wisconsin Valley Science and Technology Park.

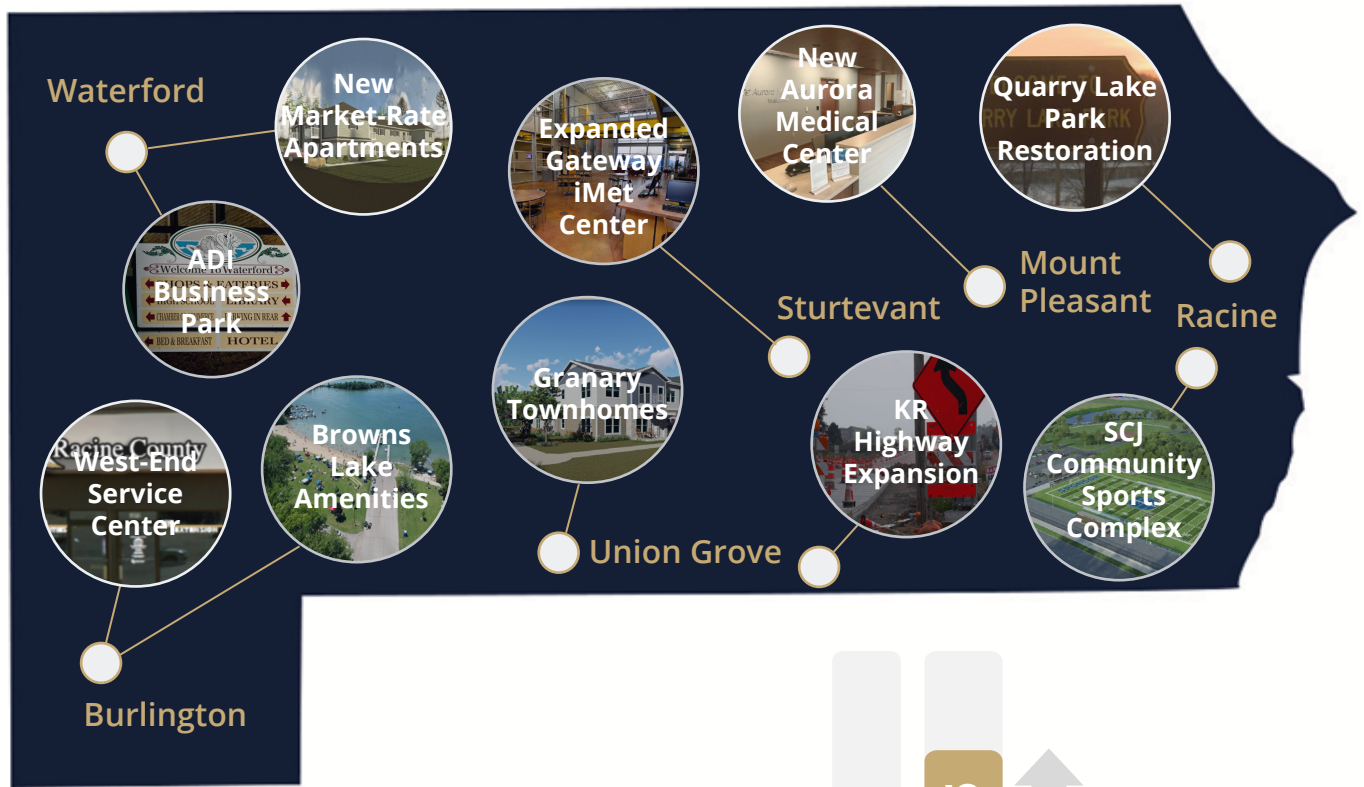


## Building a fully capable and employed workforce

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Racine County secured roughly \$2 million to support customized training for unemployed and underemployed residents through the Wisconsin Department of Administration. These funds will build on over \$1 million in existing worker training dollars through Wisconsin Fast Forward to support businesses.

# STATE OF THE COUNTY



**6,900+** Racine County Businesses  
Growing demand for skilled labor



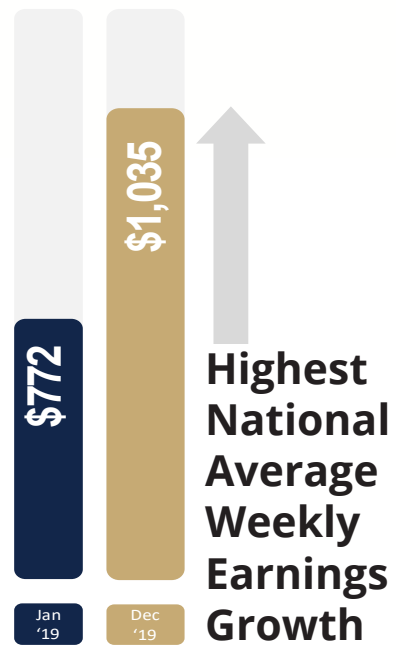
**\$260** Higher Average Weekly Earnings  
Fastest earnings growth in country



**7,000** Manufactured Face Masks  
Supporting COVID-19 first responders



**\$2M** Worker Training Investment  
Upskilling and employing residents



Racine County experienced tremendous economic growth since 2019. Whereas wages remained stagnant nationally, average weekly earnings for individuals working in Racine County jumped from \$772 to \$1,035 in one year, making our community the fastest growing earnings metro in the country. Racine County also added roughly \$2 million to expand training opportunities so residents can take advantage of new jobs with high wage growth.

Our community, as well as the state and nation, also faces unprecedented health, economic and social challenges with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. During this crisis, Racine County delivered meals to homebound seniors and vulnerable adults; provided critical emergency services, personal protective equipment, and sanitation supplies; and created a central resource hub to ensure residents and businesses are prepared and safe.



# COUNTY BUDGET

Real-time, transparent budget information for Racine County taxpayers.

Priorities	Description	Amount
General Operations	Includes contingent fund, Corporation Counsel and risk management, Buildings and Facilities, Office of Child Support Services, employee benefits, Finance, printing services, Human Resources, Information Technology, project management, and non-allocated revenues.	\$21,063,234
Governmental Services	Includes County Board, County Clerk, County Executive, County Treasurer, and Register of Deeds.	\$2,746,904
Human Services	Includes the Human Services Department, Veterans Service Office, Health Services, Racine County Alternatives, Data and Performance Analytics, Medical Examiner's Office, and UW-Extension.	\$53,754,078
Miscellaneous	Includes bad debt, capital projects, County Schools Office, cultural activities, debt service, and Lakeshore Library System.	\$19,038,141
Public Safety	Includes Clerk of Circuit Court Office, District Attorney's Office, Victim Witness Office, Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management Office, Jail, and 911 Dispatch.	\$43,979,521
Public Works and Development Services	Includes Development Services Division, golf courses, highways, carpool, County bridge aids, Land Conservation Division, Land Information Office, Parks Division, Reefpoint Marina, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, and Sports Complex.	\$27,324,721
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$167,906,599</b>



## YOUR INVESTMENT

Taxes represent roughly 1/3 of total County spending. In other words, each dollar invested by taxpayers equals three dollars in spending on critical community services from public infrastructure to safety. Public Safety comprises the largest investment of County tax dollars.

Your County Investment

# OUR SERVICES

Over 1,000 staff serving 200,000 residents--  
24 hours a day, every day.

Maintaining parks and highways, providing services and resources to seniors and veterans, and responding to emergency calls are just a few ways Racine County serves our communities. From conservationists and civil engineers to case managers and dispatchers, our dedicated staff are committed to quality, cost-effective services for every resident.



## Land Use and Conservation

Offering zoning and sanitary permits to residents as well as monitoring and managing soil erosion, animal waste, groundwater wells, and sewage systems to protect our environment.



## Human Services

Providing benefits, services and supports to thousands of children and families, veterans, seniors, individuals with mental health and substance abuse challenges, and many more.



## Emergency Response

Delivering police, fire and rescue emergency services through timely, professional responses across fifty dispatchers and five shifts.

**550+**

**Zoning permits for new land use and planned development**

**\$108M**

**Benefits received by Racine County veterans**

**359,308**

**Call volume of County dispatchers**

“

*When people utilize the resources Racine County offers, we become a better community.*

”

- Krystal Ellis, Economic Support Supervisor  
Racine County Human Services



### Highways, Parks and Facilities

Planning and constructing County highways and parks as well as maintaining almost 600,000 square feet of facilities and spaces for public use.



### Public Safety

Maintaining safe and secure communities through law enforcement and the Racine County Jail. Services include criminal investigation, crisis negotiation and intervention, and community resources.



### Employer of Choice

Striving to become a workplace of choice by attracting high-quality employees to best serve our residents and transitioning to remote work and staffing rotations during COVID-19.

**135**

**Residents supported to gain employment or certifications**

## Service Spotlight: Commute to Careers

Commute to Careers is a Racine County initiative providing low-cost transportation for residents with barriers to employment and training. Since 2019, Racine County provided thousands of rides to over 100 residents working family-sustaining jobs at Andis, SC Johnson, Foxconn, UNFI and other Racine County companies.



# IMPACTS



# INNOVATES

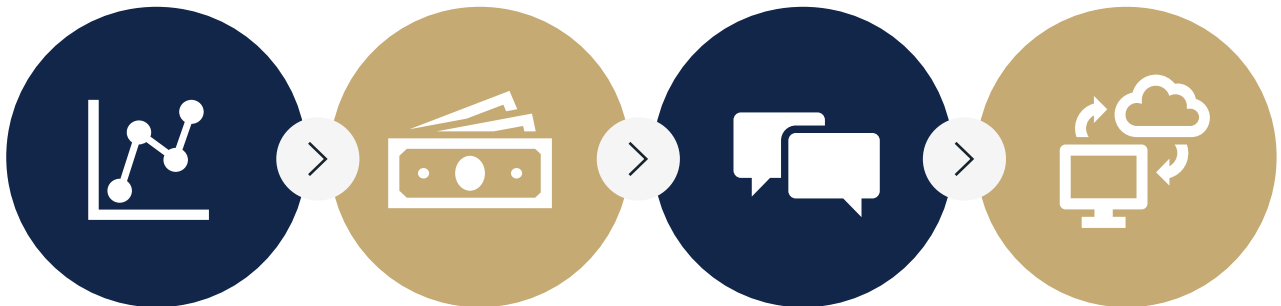


# INVESTS

# RACINE COUNTY INNOVATES

Building the digital and data infrastructure to increase return on investments and protect residents.

Our newly formed Performance and Analytics Division supports County marketing and data needs to direct and maximize returns on taxpayer spending.



## ANALYZE DATA AND TRENDS

Projecting labor demand to inform a strategic talent plan and accelerate workforce efforts.

## SECURE FUNDING

Increasing funding for County and community partners with focus on worker training.

## RAISE AWARENESS

Marketing to inform residents on new opportunities, services, and resources.

## EMBRACE EMERGING TECH

Embracing emerging technology through the Digital Counties Initiative, including improving connectivity in Racine County.



Performance and Analytics staff helped obtain \$250,000 through the NFL Foundation to install a synthetic turf field at the multipurpose stadium under construction at Pritchard Park.

# CYBERSECURITY | HIGH-LEVEL SERVICE | INNOVATION | PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Racine County Information Technology

## RACINE COUNTY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Protecting data. Protecting communities.



Shuchi Wadhwa was appointed Racine County IT Director in 2019, bringing extensive experience in project management, strategic technology, and cybersecurity from former roles at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Northwestern Mutual, and U.S. Department of Defense.

Under the leadership of Director Wadhwa, Racine County is developing an Information Technology Strategic Plan for 2020 and beyond. The plan reflects the rapidly changing IT environment as well as the role of IT in the day-to-day operations and security of the County and its municipalities.

01

### Cybersecurity

Empowering the County and its municipalities to operate secure IT systems and networks, keeping ahead of evolving cyber threats.

02

### High-Level Service

Developing service-level agreements with transparent billing to deliver affordable, high-quality IT services to County staff and municipalities.

03

### Innovation

Using interoperable technology means different information systems, devices, and applications can access, exchange, and integrate data for better services and outcomes.

04

### Project Management

Working closely with IT staff and stakeholders, project managers ensure projects are completed efficiently and to a high standard.

The Racine County Information Technology Department aims to protect against cyberthreats and promote innovation through responsible data sharing, better protection for end-users, and enhanced digital engagement for Racine County staff and its municipalities.

# RACINE COUNTY INVESTS

Investment spanning communities, from public infrastructure to parks.

In 2019, Racine County celebrated a revitalized Quarry Lake Park, approved funding for a new building at Browns Lake, expanded access to services and resources for West-end residents, and improved water drainage and public safety with newly installed box culverts.



## Quarry Lake Park Restoration and Revitalization

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Quarry Lake Park added 3,000 tons of sand and completed algae growth treatment to become a popular gathering spot again in 2019.



## Browns Lake New Building and Facilities

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Browns Lake will see a new building, including a covered patio at 3,372 square feet, by Summer 2020.



## West-End Service Center Accessible, Community Services

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Racine County brings workforce, veterans, and family-focused services to new Service Center location at the Fox River Plaza in Burlington.



## Eagle Creek Box Culvert Enhancing Safety and Savings

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In 2020, the County is expected to complete its third new box culvert in two years on the west end. Projects are handled in-house, resulting in substantial savings for taxpayers.





“

*Range Time enhances the quality of life in Racine County.*

”

- Former NFL Quarterback Tony Romo

Range Time, an all-seasons practice facility with 30 heated hitting stations, is made possible by a public-private partnership across Racine County, Ives Grove Golf Course, and Ramiro Romo, owner and father of former Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo. Range Time was constructed at no cost to taxpayers.

# RACINE COUNTY IMPACTS

Building communities: From family-sustaining employment at Job Fest to emergency supports during COVID-19.



Job Fest event hosted at Julian Thomas Elementary (Racine)

Uplift 900 is a Racine County initiative to employ 900 City of Racine residents and close the historical gap between the City of Racine and State of Wisconsin unemployment rates.

As approximately one in every three working age adults has at least one barrier to high-skill, high-wage employment, Uplift 900 aims to help individuals overcome barriers and find meaningful, sustainable employment.

As part of our efforts, Uplift 900 hosts family-friendly, community-based job and resource fairs called Job Fests to bring critical services including records expungement, driver's license recovery, and no-cost trainings directly to communities in need. Since 2019, Racine County hosted multiple Job Fest events in partnership with the City of Racine, Racine Unified School District, and dozens of businesses and community partners.

## OUR OUTCOMES

**+600** Residents attending Job Fest

**+100** Attendees pursued for employment

**+50** Business and community partners

## Racine County Responds to COVID-19



Racine County, together with the Central Racine County and City of Racine Health Departments, are working to mitigate the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the leadership of Captain James Weidner, the Racine County Emergency Operations Center has played a central role in the coordination of critical supplies, housing options, the April 7 election, and other community needs.



### Meals on Wheels

Staff volunteers deliver shelf-stable, nutritious meals for homebound seniors and vulnerable adults. Racine County also supports local restaurants by partnering to provide and deliver meals.



### Personal Protective Equipment and Sanitation Supplies

Racine County Emergency Operations Center secures essential protective and sanitation supplies such as gowns, hand sanitizer, and masks for front-line personnel.



### Coronavirus Response Hub

Our online platform provides real-time information from food and mental-health resources to public-health information and local updates at [racinecounty.com/coronavirus](https://racinecounty.com/coronavirus).



### Housing

Racine County is expanding housing options for first responders and health care workers- both healthy and those experiencing COVID-19 symptoms- as well as the homeless and temporarily displaced.



### Elections

Thank you County Clerk Wendy Christensen, the County Clerk's Office, and Municipal Clerks for successfully hosting an unprecedented election. 50 Wisconsin National Guard members also served across County polling stations.



### Rebound Racine County

A Recovery Task Force comprised of business, government, nonprofit, health care, faith, and other community leaders are working to re-establish the economic vitality of the County and overcome the impacts of COVID-19.

# LOOKING AHEAD

Understanding and addressing challenges to build a better future for Racine County.

*Racine County is proactively addressing community challenges in 2020 and beyond by driving COVID-19 business recovery; expanding mental-health services; addressing our growing labor challenges; and improving the quality of life for all residents.*



## COVID-19 Business Recovery

Connect critical resources to and support the successful reopening of local businesses.



## Mental Health

Improve services and access to health care, especially for individuals with mental-health and substance-abuse challenges.



## Labor Challenges

Accelerate and align workforce efforts to upskill over 5,000 workers in high-demand occupations by 2021.



## Improved Quality of Life

Ensure all residents can achieve the highest quality of life in Racine County.

### Secure Residential Care Center for Children and Youth (SRCCCY)

The State of Wisconsin allocated roughly \$40 million to build a trauma-informed, youth justice facility, helping to increase educational attainment, treat mental-health and substance-abuse issues, and reduce recidivism for juvenile offenders.



The above challenges are a starting point to engage in meaningful, ongoing conversation and build consensus among community leaders, partners, and residents.

## Race, Equity, and Inclusion in Racine County

In light of a national media organization ranking the Racine metro area as the second worst for African Americans in the country, the Greater Racine community must carefully consider ways to close black-white achievement gaps and uplift our African American community. Over the last year, Racine County took critical first steps to promote greater equity across staff and community partners.

### Trauma-Informed Care

Adverse childhood experiences can impair social, emotional and cognitive development, increasing the risk for addiction, health problems, and even early death. To combat these challenges, Racine County provides training to hundreds of community partners to better understand and treat trauma.

### Race and Equity County Delegation

A delegation of key County leadership and staff joined other leaders and organizations to deal with issues of inclusion and diversity by completing racial equity workshops. The process helped foster greater cross-departmental collaboration as the County embraces principles and practices of anti-racism.

### Community Collaboration

Staff from local employers, nonprofits, civic and education institutions, as well as community and faith leaders, received training on the history of racism in America. Along with our partners, Racine County is using this training to better deliver services and reduce disparities in our community.

## Moving Forward: Setting Community Goals

Setting community goals will help remove the Racine area from the “Worst Metro” ranking. However, understanding and addressing outcomes in absolute terms will help meaningfully uplift African American residents.

**\$1.4K**

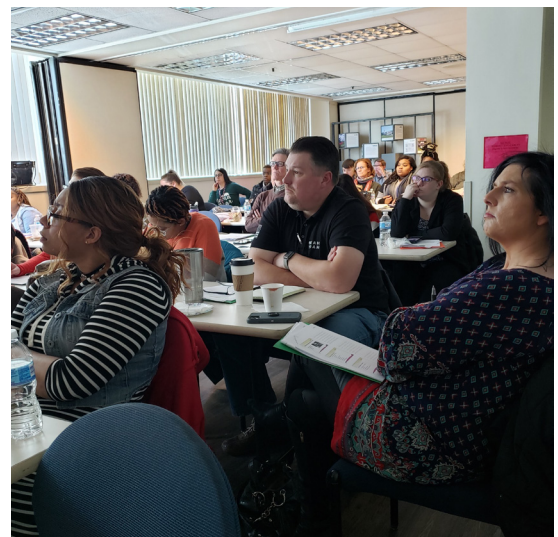
Black median household income is 43.4% of white median household income in Racine County and must increase by \$1,383 relative to white income to remove the Racine area from the “Worst Metro” ranking.

**567**

Bachelor’s attainment or higher for Greater Racine African Americans is around 7%, roughly one-fourth of the percentage of white residents. 567 additional African Americans must earn a bachelor’s degree or higher to remove the Racine area from the “Worst Metro” ranking.

**293**

293 additional black homeowners who previously rented will close the local black-white gap in homeownership from 44.2% to 40.2%, removing the Racine area from the “Worst Metro” ranking.



Trauma-Informed Care Training  
February 27, 2020

# GET INVOLVED

Racine County succeeds when our residents, community partners, and businesses succeed. A pathway to success means everyone has a high school diploma and industry-recognized credential; children and families have access to health services from parenting to mental-health and substance-abuse supports; residents actively participate in community life, whether supporting a cause or joining a committee; and businesses receive the supports necessary to build a sustainable talent supply chain. To learn more, get involved, or find and share resources, visit [racinecounty.com/stateofthecounty](http://racinecounty.com/stateofthecounty).



# THANK YOU

On behalf of our staff, we are grateful to serve Racine County residents and communities. To learn more about our services or get in touch, visit [racinecounty.com](http://racinecounty.com).



**Julie Anderson**  
Public Works and  
Development Services



**Jackie Bratz**  
911 Dispatch



**Karen Galbraith**  
Human Resources



**Michael Lanzdorf**  
Corporation Counsel



**Brian Nelson**  
Finance



**Hope Otto**  
Human Services



**Travis Richardson**  
Performance and  
Analytics



**Mark Schaaf**  
Communications



**Shuchi Wadhwa**  
Information Technology

# RACINE COUNTY

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STATE OF  
THE COUNTY  
2019-2020

LEARN.  
PARTICIPATE.  
SHARE.

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