



State of Wisconsin  
**Department of Health and Family Services**

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Jim Doyle, Governor  
Kevin R. Hayden, Secretary

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For Immediate Release

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## **Department Awards \$21,637 Dental Grant to Expand Dental Services in Wood County**

Department of Health and Family Services Secretary Kevin R. Hayden today awarded CAP Services, Inc. to establish a dental hygiene office to provide teeth cleaning and other dental care services for BadgerCare and Medicaid recipients who live in southern Wood County.

“This grant will help CAP Services establish a dental hygiene office so more people across central Wisconsin will be able to get the dental care they need,” said Secretary Hayden. “We’re working with local communities to open dental clinics or partner with existing clinics to help serve children and families who otherwise don’t have access to dental care.”

CAP Services, Inc. will use the grant to purchase equipment for the dental hygiene office and anticipates serving 300 patients per year. Dental care services will be provided to Medicaid and BadgerCare recipients who live in south Wood County and received treatment at the Ministry Dental Center in Stevens Point. Rob McGrath, DDS has donated space at Lakes Area Medical Center in the Town of Rome to be used for the office. CAP Services, Inc. will partner with Delta Dental of Wisconsin and Saint Michael’s Hospital Ministry Health Care to open the office.

Dental decay is the number one chronic disease of childhood, particularly among low-income children who often do not have access to a dentist. In fact, 70 percent of children who are eligible for dental care are not getting the services they are eligible for because they can not find dentists who will accept Medicaid patients.

Not only children, but many low-income families, seniors and people with disabilities also struggle to find oral health care services – even if they are on Medicaid, BadgerCare, or Healthy Start – because there is not a dentist in their area who will accept them. Wisconsin currently provides comprehensive dental coverage for approximately 500,000 children and adults enrolled in Medicaid, BadgerCare, and Healthy Start, but 75 percent of these individuals do not have access to a dental care provider.

Governor Doyle has been working to provide children and families in Wisconsin with access to comprehensive dental care. In September 2006, the Governor made a permanent change to Medicaid rule that allows dental hygienists to be reimbursed by Medicaid for qualified dental care services.

As part of his BadgerCare Plus program, Governor Doyle will invest \$8.8 million to create a new statewide system that will expand access to dental care for children and families across Wisconsin. These funds will be used to implement new strategies to ensure that all children and families enrolled in the BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid will have access to comprehensive dental care. The system will provide access to preventive, diagnostic, and restorative dental services for eligible for children and families.

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