

Making Health Care More Accessible and Affordable

Governor Evers' 2025-27 Budget

For too many people, accessing quality health care is out of reach. To build a healthier Wisconsin, we need to **shrink barriers to care** by improving our public health coverage programs and private health insurance market. The governor's budget takes advantage of common sense solutions to these problems, many of which have already been adopted in nearly every other state in the country.

Health care should not be a privilege afforded only to the healthy and the wealthy."



GOVERNOR
TONY EVERS

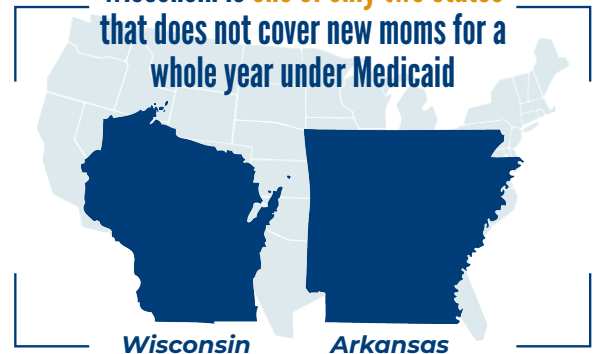
Access to Care: Budget At-a-Glance

- **BadgerCare Plus Expansion:** 95,800 more people with high-quality, affordable coverage; \$1.9 billion in state savings
- **Hospital Access Payments:** \$3.2 billion to Wisconsin hospitals; \$936.8 million in state savings
- **High-Impact Medicaid Provider Payment Bumps:** \$71.0 million
- **Additional Federal Revenue to Schools for Medicaid Services:** \$50 million
- **Improved Coverage for Medicaid Members with Diabetes:** \$23.2 million
- **Medicaid Coverage for Community-Facing Providers:** \$16.6 million
- **Coverage for New Moms:** \$24.7 million; 4,000 new moms in Wisconsin covered for the first year of their baby's life

A Look at the Numbers

- Wisconsin is **one of only ten states** to have not expanded Medicaid to childless adults, a decision that has cost the state billions in savings.
- In 2022, **46% of health care workers** reported feeling burned out often or very often.
- **Eleven rural hospitals** in Wisconsin have stopped offering obstetric services in the past decade.

Wisconsin is **one of only two states** that does not cover new moms for a whole year under Medicaid

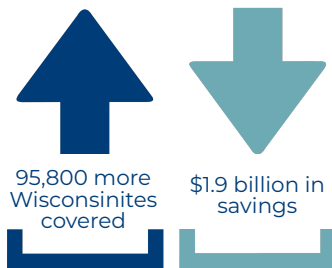


- **Western Wisconsin Hospital Closure Funding:** \$15 million
- **Behavioral Health and Long-term Care Workforce Investments:** \$11.7 million
- **Health Care Workforce Recruitment and Retention Grants:** \$7.5 million
- **Health Care Provider Training Program:** \$2.5 million
- **Dental Services and Mobile Clinics:** \$2.5 million
- **Funding Bump for Hospitals that Treat Kids:** \$15 million
- **Medicaid Enrollee Red-tape Reduction:** \$0.5 million



Expanding BadgerCare Plus to More People

Wisconsin has not taken advantage of the opportunity to expand its Medicaid program under federal law. All our neighboring states and a total of **40 states across the country** have done so. The budget would finally enact this common-sense policy to provide low-cost, high-quality health coverage to **95,800 more Wisconsinites**, and **save the state budget \$1.9 billion dollars** over the next two years.



Supporting Hospitals

Hospitals are a vital part of our health care system, providing life-saving care to people across our state. This budget continues the governor's consistent approach of finding innovative ways to boost support for hospitals. Hospital reimbursement under Medicaid would **rise by \$3.2 billion** under changes to the state's hospital assessment. **Hospitals that treat kids would see a \$15 million supplement.** And, following the closure of key safety net hospitals in Western Wisconsin, the budget provides **\$15 million to support patients** in that area access care.

Keeping Moms and Babies Healthy

The first year of a baby's life can set the course for health for the rest of their lives. When a mom loses insurance during this time, it can be disastrous for the health of both baby and mom. Unfortunately, current law kicks moms off of Medicaid when their babies are only two months old. The budget brings Wisconsin in line with 48 other states that **cover moms for the entire first year of their baby's life.**

Investing in Key Medicaid Services

The Medicaid program provides a wide array of services to make sure that members are as healthy as possible. To make sure that services are accessible, the budget provides **\$71 million in targeted payment increases** for rural health clinics, childbirth, certain opioid use disorder treatment, autism treatment, and tube-feeding.

Bolstering our Health Care Workforce

The budget provides needed funding for workforce initiatives through Medicaid expansion savings and provides DHS with **\$16.6 million for Medicaid coverage** of community health workers, doulas, and certified peer specialists, **\$7.5 million for recruitment and retention** grants, and **\$2.5 million for health care provider training.** Other areas of the DHS budget include **\$8.7 million for the WisCaregivers Career program**, and **\$3.0 million for recent graduates** of mental health provider programs. Many of these recommendations come from the **Governor's Task Force on Healthcare Workforce** which included 25 members from health care, education, and partner organizations who came together to hear from health care industry experts and leaders and analyze labor market data.

Insurance Companies and Prescription Drugs

The governor's budget plan cracks down on insurance companies and prescription price gouging, **lowers out-of-pocket health care costs**, aims to reduce appointment wait times and enable Wisconsinites to get health care closer to home, and expands access to affordable health care statewide, including in rural communities.



Learn more about the '25-27 budget
dhs.wi.gov/budget