

Promoting Mental Health

Governor Evers' 2025-27 Budget

Every day, people across our state find themselves in situations where they need help with a mental illness or substance use disorder. They might need crisis services, ongoing treatment in the community, someone to listen and help them through a tough time, or supports that can only be found in a state mental health facility. **Governor Evers recognizes this diverse range of need and included mental health investments in his budget** to connect people to the services they need.

Behavioral Health: Budget At-a-Glance

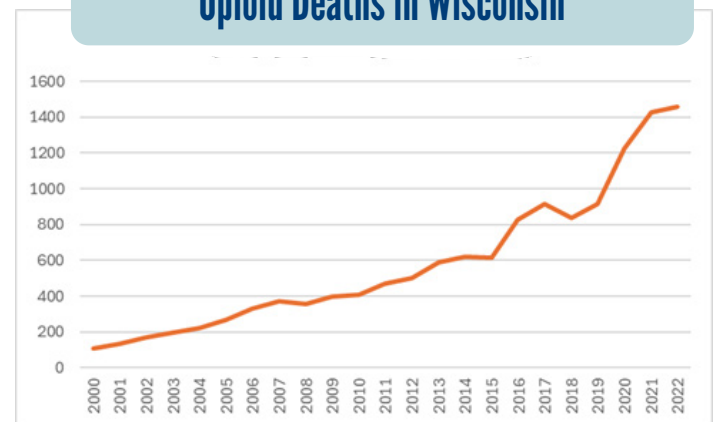
- **Community Support Programs:** \$41.1 million
- **Crisis Urgent Care and Stabilization Centers:** \$27.8 million
- **Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center:** \$23.2 million
- **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline:** \$12.2 million
- **Mental Health Consultation Program:** \$4.0 million
- **Peer-Run Supports:** \$3.5 million
- **Mental Health Professional Trainees:** \$3.0 million
- **Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities for Kids:** \$1.8 million
- **Emergency Response Collaboration Grants:** \$2.8 million
- **Pediatric Psychology Training:** \$1.2 million
- **Withdrawal Management Centers:** \$1.0 million
- **Children's Wraparound Services Waiver:** no immediate budgetary impact

If you or someone you know is in crisis, call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org.

A Look at the Numbers

- A **quarter of adults** in Wisconsin report symptoms of **anxiety or depression**.
- We've **lost 9,260 Wisconsinites to suicide** in the last decade.
- **Suicide attempt rates** are particularly high among **high school girls** (13% attempted in the past year) and **LGBTQ+ kids** (20% attempted in the past year).
- Out of Wisconsin's 72 counties, 40 are federally designated as **mental health shortage areas**.

Opioid Deaths in Wisconsin



The state of mental health in Wisconsin was a quiet, burgeoning crisis—one I still believe will have cascading effects for generations if it goes unaddressed.



GOVERNOR
TONY EVERS



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES

Supporting County Services

Counties run the Community Support Program, offering coordinated treatment for adults who live with severe mental illness. Counties receive federal funds for these programs through Medicaid but must pay for the non-federal share. The budget provides **\$41.1 million** in state funding to cover this non-federal share **moving forward so counties can prioritize precious local funding** for other efforts.

Treatment for Kids in the Justice System

The Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center provides boys and girls involved in the justice system with evidence-based services that teach social and problem-solving skills, resolve mental health issues, and build healthy relationships. **The goal is to help patients successfully reintegrate into their communities.** The budget provides \$23.2 million to support and expand the center's operations.

Preventing Suicide in Wisconsin

Families and communities across our state grapple with the impact of suicides and suicide attempts. The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is a vital source of help for those in immediate crisis or emotional distress. The 988 Lifeline received 80,000 calls from Wisconsinites in 2024 alone. The budget provides **\$12.2 million to make sure that the 988 Lifeline continues to have the resources to meet this need.**



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

Helping People in Crisis

In too many parts of our state, mental health crisis services are not available close to home, putting individuals and first responders at risk. The budget continues bipartisan efforts for regional crisis services, by providing **\$20.2 million for new crisis urgent care and observation facilities, \$7.6 million for five existing regional crisis stabilization facilities, and \$1.8 million to lay the groundwork for psychiatric residential treatment facilities** to offer intensive, focused mental health treatment to successfully return kids home, where they belong.

Building on Lived Experiences

No one knows what it's like to deal with a mental health challenge like someone who has gone through the same thing themselves. To make sure that these lived experiences are an integral part of Wisconsin's mental health system, **the budget makes several investments in "peer-run" supports.** These include \$1.8 million for peer-run respite centers, \$1.1 million for a peer-run "warmline," and \$0.6 million for peer recovery centers.

Taking Care of Kids

Governor Evers has declared 2025 to be the "Year of The Kid," and has reinforced the need for **significant mental health investments to better support kids in and out of the classroom.** A big part of this is \$300 million to the Department of Public Instruction for mental health supports and services in the school setting. Another major proposal is to let DHS pursue a Medicaid waiver for wraparound behavioral health supports for kids. DHS will do so in collaboration and conversation with our provider and county partners.