

Connecting the Dots to Address the Mental Health Crisis

Governor Evers' 2025-27 Executive Budget

Governor Evers declared 2023 the Year of Mental Health in Wisconsin and has worked tirelessly to secure additional funding and resources to address the state's burgeoning mental health crisis. This budget continues the governor's commitment to **do what's best for kids, keep communities safe, and ensure folks have the support and resources they need by investing nearly \$1 billion in mental health services for all Wisconsinites.**

Analyzing the Impact



A **quarter of adults** in Wisconsin report symptoms of anxiety or depression.

We've lost **9,260 Wisconsinites** to suicide in the last decade. Nearly **one-in-five adults** who committed suicide were **veterans**.



Suicide attempt rates in the past year were particularly high among **high school-aged girls (13%)** and **LGBTQ+ kids (20%)**.

Out of Wisconsin's 72 counties, **40 are federally designated as mental health shortage areas.**



If you or someone you know is in crisis, call or text 988 or chat [988lifeline.org](https://www.988lifeline.org).

Budget at a Glance: Investing in Mental Health

- Aid for Comprehensive School Mental Health Systems: **\$167.8 million**
- Medicaid Community Support Program Funding: **\$41.1 million**
- Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center: **\$23.2 million**
- Crisis Urgent Care and Observation Centers Grant Program: **\$20.2 million**
- 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Support: **\$12.2 million**
- Medicaid Medication-Assisted Treatment Rate Increase: **\$9.3 million**
- Regional Crisis Stabilization Facilities Support: **\$7.6 million**
- Veterans Mental Health Grant Program: **\$5 million**
- Qualified Treatment Trainee Grant Program Support: **\$3 million**
- Emergency Response Collaboration Grants: **\$2.8 million**
- Veterans Housing and Recovery Program: **\$2 million**
- Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility Grant Program: **\$1.8 million**
- Peer-Run Respite Centers Support: **\$1.8 million**
- Regional Farmer Support and Farmer Mental Health: **\$750,000**

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



GOVERNOR
TONY EVERS

Doing what's best for 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 **directing nearly \$300 million to the Department of Public Instruction for comprehensive school-based mental health care in schools statewide**, including support for peer-to-peer suicide prevention programs and expanded mental health training. Another major proposal is to let DHS pursue a **federal Medicaid waiver for wraparound behavioral health supports for kids**. DHS will do so in collaboration and conversation with our provider and county partners.

Veterans, farmers, and their families

The governor's budget continues his support of farmers and their families by **doubling current funding for farmer mental health through the Wisconsin Farm Center**, which provides a 24/7 crisis helpline, counselor vouchers, and virtual counseling services. To provide the care our veterans deserve and have earned through their service to the nation, the budget also provides **\$8 million for veterans' mental health and suicide prevention**.

Preventing mental illness

Improving the mental health of our state requires us to improve the conditions in which people live, work, and learn. The governor's budget helps **prevent mental illness by investing in paid family leave, child care, homeless and housing resources, and workforce development**. These protective elements help build strong families and shield Wisconsinites from experiencing mental illness.

2025-27
Executive Budget
Mental Health Provisions



Supporting local services

One of the most important aspects of mental health services is having access to care when you need it most. That is why **counties would receive their first increase in nearly 30 years for the mental health services they provide**. This budget also makes significant investments in expanding support closer to home through peer-run respite centers, peer recovery centers, withdrawal management centers, and grants to pair mental health providers with law enforcement officers when responding to calls.

Investing in crisis care

This budget takes a comprehensive look at the state's crisis response system and offers concrete steps to improve and expand access to crisis services. The budget continues bipartisan efforts through 2023 Act 249 by **funding up to two new crisis urgent care and observation centers** that would offer a range of behavioral health services to everyone from walk-in appointments to first responder emergency detention drop-off cases. By **fully funding the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline**, this budget also supports what has been proven to work and invests in bolstering the continuum of care.

Ensuring access to quality care

No one should be in a mental health crisis wondering whether insurance will cover an in-patient stay to get help. That is why the budget would **prohibit insurers from requiring prior authorization for inpatient mental health services** for children and adults. The budget would help more people get the care they need by **requiring Medicaid to cover adult residential integrated behavioral health stabilization, residential withdrawal management, and residential intoxication monitoring services**. The budget also supports the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center in Madison through a **\$43 million investment to help finally close Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake Schools and move kids closer to home**.