

# GOVERNOR EVERS' 2021-23 BIENNIAL BUDGET

## Partnering with Counties

The Department of Health Services (DHS) protects and promotes the health of all residents of Wisconsin. A strong partnership with counties is vital to this work. Counties and DHS share in the responsibility of responding to communicable disease outbreaks, improving behavioral health, providing services and supports to older adults, enrolling individuals in safety net programs, and so many other activities. The Governor's 2021-23 budget makes significant investments in this shared work, and provides the foundation for our state to bounce back.

### INCREASING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND INVESTING IN PUBLIC HEALTH

- **Medicaid Expansion – \$634 million state savings.** Expanding access to Medicaid will provide high-quality, affordable health coverage to 90,000 Wisconsinites, half of whom are uninsured. It will save \$634 million in state funding, and draw down \$1.4 billion in federal funds.
- **Tribal and County Enrollment Functions – \$11.1 million.** The budget increases funding for county and tribal Income Maintenance activities to reflect enrollment projections in Medicaid and FoodShare, and for anticipated enrollment increases related to Medicaid Expansion. It also would repeal unnecessary barriers to participation in these vital programs.
- **Local Communicable Disease Response – \$10 million.** Local and tribal health departments are the primary line of defense keeping communities safe from infectious disease. The Governor's Budget increases funding to support them in addressing communicable disease threats.

### IMPROVING BEHAVIORAL CRISIS INTERVENTION

- **Regional Behavioral Crisis – \$17.5 million.** In the current system, people in crisis may not receive treatment that best meets their needs. The Governor's budget supports two new regional crisis centers, plus crisis stabilization facilities across five regions of the state.
- **Room and Board for Residential Treatment – \$6.5 million.** Medicaid reimburses for substance use treatment services provided in residential facilities but cannot use federal funds for room and board costs in these settings. By providing state funding for these costs, Medicaid members can better access this new benefit, and counties can reinvest funding spent on these costs.
- **Milwaukee Mobile Crisis and Trauma Response – \$2.6 million.** Milwaukee County continues to shift towards a community-based crisis services model. This funding will expand resources and make it possible to better respond to crises without involving law enforcement.
- **County Crisis Phone Lines – \$1.8 million.** Helping individuals in crisis access services immediately can save lives. Funding additional clinicians to support county crisis lines, who will be available across the state and during non-business hours, will help maintain these services.
- **Emergency Response Collaboration - \$2.5 million.** This grant funding for counties and municipalities will improve law enforcement collaboration with behavioral health providers, and increase involvement of behavioral health professionals in emergency response calls.

## SUPPORTING CAREGIVERS AND LONG-TERM CARE PROVIDERS

- **Aging and Disability Resource Centers – \$7 million.** ADRCs provide information and referrals to supports and services for older adults and Wisconsinites living with disabilities. The budget will expand services for family caregivers, making caring for loved ones more attainable for all.
- **Eliminate Children’s Long-Term Support Waitlist.** The Children’s Long-term Support program helps children with disabilities stay in their homes. Governor Evers’ budget includes funding and statutory language to ensure that all eligible children can enroll in the program.
- **Expanding Access to Birth to 3 – \$9.9 million.** The budget would adjust eligibility for the Birth to 3 Program so that children who meet the CDC definition of elevated blood lead levels could qualify for services. This would provide an additional 2,000 children and families each year with essential early intervention services which prevents lead poisoning.

**For more information on all of Governor Evers’ proposed investments in Wisconsin’s health, visit [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/budget](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/budget)**