

# Governor's Task Force on the Healthcare Workforce

## Supporting Healthcare Professionals and Bolstering the Healthcare Workforce

Governor Tony Evers established the [Governor's Task Force on the Healthcare Workforce](#) under [Executive Order #220](#) in 2024. Members included healthcare providers, educators, policymakers, and community partners. The task force produced an [advisory action plan](#) for the Governor's consideration with actionable recommendations to retain, attract, and train talented workers. The following proposals were included in the Governor's budget to advance the growth of our healthcare workforce and ensure that Wisconsin can continue to provide high-quality, accessible healthcare to communities across the state.

## Recommendations

### Education and training

#### 1. Support faculty who teach health professions.

**\$56 million GPR** to ensure quality by recruiting and retaining the best educators and staff for the UW System. This investment reflects recommendations to strengthen clinical training partnerships with employers and provide preceptor compensation. (UWS #4)

**\$4 million GPR** to expand the nurse educators program. Forgivable loans would be available to full-time and part-time faculty and include allied health, behavioral health, dental health, and nursing faculty. (HEAB #3)

#### 2. Strengthen clinical training and experience.

**\$3.7 million GPR** to the Medical College of Wisconsin for family medicine training. (MCW #1)

**\$3 million GPR** for the Qualified Treatment Trainee grant program to help address a shortage in the behavioral health workforce. (DHS #78)

#### 3. Reduce barriers to training.

**\$8.6 million all funds** for the WisCaregiver Careers program, which addresses the shortage of direct care professionals by supporting recruitment, training, and retention of those who care for older adults. (DHS #56)

**\$5 million GPR** to increase training grants for allied health professionals and clinicians. (DHS #38)

**\$603,000 GPR** to pay General Education

Development (GED) testing costs to increase high school equivalency attainment and open doors to employment or postsecondary opportunities. (DPI #49)

**\$300,000 PR** to create a pilot program in the Department of Safety and Professional Services for tuition reimbursement for former nurses to participate in a nurse refresher course at a technical college. (DSPS #9)

#### 4. Expand apprenticeships and other learning opportunities.

**\$83.6 million GPR** to enhance the state's talent pipeline through career readiness, high impact practices, civil dialogue training, experiential learning, student wraparound services, assessments, loan forgiveness, and continuing education. (UWS #3)

**\$20 million GPR and 1.0 position** to establish the Wisconsin Workforce Advancement program to build upon the Worker Advancement Initiative. This would deliver outreach and wraparound services to address barriers to employment. (DWD #2)

**\$3.75 million GPR** for health care training for Registered Apprenticeships. (DWD #3)

**\$3 million GPR** to increase access to health science through funding for career and technical student organizations and for higher education institutions to support innovative methods such as dual enrollment. *(DPI #26 and UWS #2)*

**\$1 million GPR** for a Wisconsin Fast Forward Health Care Industry grant program to support healthcare workforce development through apprenticeships, training programs, and education models. *(DWD #4)*

## Recruitment and retention

### 5. Increase payer support for recruitment and retention.

**Save \$1.9 billion GPR** and draw down \$2.5 billion FED by expanding Medicaid. *(DHS #1)*

**\$9.3 million all funds** to increase Medicaid rates for medication assisted treatment. *(DHS #25)*

**\$6 million all funds** for Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) modernization. *(DHS #54)*

### 6. Foster recruitment and retention in areas of need.

**\$9.4 million GPR** to expand grants to low-income dental clinics and for dental services provided by the Marquette University School of Dentistry. Provide one-time funding to Marquette to establish an oral and maxillofacial surgery residency program. *(DHS #35-37)*

**\$2 million GPR** for the Health Care Provider Loan Assistance program and Rural Physician Loan Assistance program, with expanded eligibility for behavioral health practitioners, substance use disorder treatment professionals, and dental therapists in high-need areas. *(UWS #2)*

Expand eligibility for rural dentistry scholarships at the Higher Educational Aids Board to include specialty dentists and dental general practice residents. *(HEAB #4)*

### 7. Support regional innovation.

Establish a Workforce Innovation Grant Fund for grants to regional entities for locally driven solutions to workforce challenges. **\$25 million**

**GPR** will be used to address healthcare workforce shortages. *(DWD #1)*

**\$7.5 million GPR** for Provider Innovation Grants to support employer-based workforce development solutions. *(DHS #48)*

**\$1 million PR** for navigator outreach to help the direct care workforce navigate existing health insurance benefits, public health insurance options, and other programs. *(OCI #38)*

## Regulatory policy

### 8. Support expanded pathways to licensure.

**\$16.6 million all funds** to expand Medicaid benefits to community-focused providers (community health workers, doulas, and certified peer specialists). *(DHS #8)*

**\$422,300 PR and 3.0 positions** to enhance licensure opportunities in Wisconsin through health-related multistate compacts and reciprocity agreements. *(DSPS #8)*

### 9. Strengthen state capacity to support licensure.

Invest in credentialing at the Department of Safety and Professional Services by providing: (a) **10.0 PR positions** for credential application processing; (b) **14.0 PR positions** for call center staffing for timely assistance of credential holders and applicants; and (c) **1.0 PR position** to ensure timely implementation of administrative rules for health professions. *(DSPS #1, #2, and #7)*

### 10. Strengthen workforce monitoring and support.

**\$1.6 million GPR** to the Department of Safety and Professional Services to contract with a nongovernmental entity for a statewide clinician wellness program. *(DSPS #4)*