

GOVERNOR EVERS' 2021-23 BIENNIAL BUDGET

Partnering with Tribes

Governor Evers has made it a priority to engage with the eleven federally-recognized Tribal Nations in Wisconsin in a way that recognizes the unique government to government relationship, and that acknowledges how state policies impact Tribal members. Recognizing the long-standing health disparities among Tribal populations, the Governor's budget makes substantial investments to support Tribal health care, long-term care, public health, and behavioral health systems. These provisions are a key step towards addressing health disparities that have gone unanswered for far too long in Wisconsin.

TRIBAL SHARED SAVINGS

Federal policy allows state Medicaid programs to draw down enhanced federal funding for eligible members of federally recognized Tribes. However, the state does not currently have a mechanism to receive enhanced federal funding for when a Tribal member receives care outside Tribal Health Centers. The budget would allow DHS to pass an additional \$5.5 million in federal funding to Tribes.

TRIBAL AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE SERVICES

Tribal Aging and Disability Resource Specialists (ADRS) (and county Aging and Disability Resource Centers, or ADRCs) provide information and referrals to services for older adults and individuals living with disabilities. The Governor's budget provides funds for Tribal ADRS and county ADRCs, with \$7 million in total.

MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT

Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) combines medications, such as methadone, with counseling and other therapies to address substance use disorders. The budget provides \$1.5 million in MAT Grants, a portion of which would support a Tribal MAT provider to meet the specific prevention, treatment, and recovery needs of Wisconsin's Tribal communities. The Department would partner with Tribes to arrive at the most effective provider model and procurement approach for these services.

DEMENTIA CARE SPECIALISTS

Dementia care specialists support caregivers and people with dementia while they live at home. The budget provides \$3.5 million to expand this access to all Tribes and Wisconsin counties. This would add seven additional Tribal dementia care specialists that would cover all eleven federally-recognized Tribes.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE RESPONSE

Tribal health departments, and county health departments, are the primary line of defense keeping their communities safe from infectious disease, but they are significantly underfunded. The budget provides \$10 million in state funding to Tribal and county health departments to continue their COVID-19 response, and be ready to respond to other infectious diseases.

For more information on all of Governor Evers' proposed investments in Wisconsin's health, visit www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/budget