

# GOVERNOR EVERS' 2021-23 BIENNIAL BUDGET

## Investing in Behavioral Health

The stress of the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn has further brought to light the need for more behavioral health crisis care, better access, and stronger preventative supports. To recover together, Governor Evers' budget invests in building an integrated behavioral health system that provides prevention, intervention, and treatment services to individuals in their communities.

### REGIONAL CRISIS FACILITIES (\$17.6 MILLION)

The budget would provide funding for two new regional crisis centers, plus crisis stabilization facilities in all five regions of the state. The two new centers will provide a continuum of care that includes more intensive, longer-term treatment options, and the stabilization facilities will help adults with short-term support and observation care as alternatives to inpatient care.

### MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT (\$12.4 MILLION)

Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) combines medications, such as methadone, with counseling, and behavioral therapies to address substance use disorders. The budget will increase the Medicaid reimbursement rate for MAT, provide grants to support existing treatment centers and mobile MAT, and funding for a Tribal MAT provider.

### MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES (\$42 MILLION)

The budget increases reimbursement for behavioral health services, such as psychotherapy and day services for children and adolescents, by 40% so Medicaid members can more fully access outpatient services and reduce reliance on crisis care. The budget also allows more providers to bill Medicaid for psychosocial rehabilitation services that provide a wide range of treatments services beyond what is usually provided in an outpatient setting.

### COUNTY CRISIS PHONE LINES AND PEER-RUN "WARM-LINES" (\$2.4 MILLION)

The budget would fund additional clinicians to support County Crisis Phone Lines during non-business hours, and at least two new positions at each of the existing peer-run respite centers to better staff the "warm-lines" at those facilities.

### SERVICES FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS (\$10.6 MILLION)

People with behavioral health concerns are overrepresented in our jails. The budget funds preventative services to help individuals more effectively manage behavioral health challenges that could lead to future involvement with law enforcement, and increases the number of beds and staff at Mendota Mental Health Institute to speed the process of treating people to become competent to stand trial.

### COLLABORATION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT (\$3.3 MILLION)

Law enforcement are often the first to respond to a mental health crisis, with referrals to behavioral health care providers coming later. The budget funds Crisis Intervention Training to prepare officers to respond more effectively to situations involving mental health crises, and supports collaboration programs between local law enforcement and behavioral health providers, making a joint response possible to 911 calls.

**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)**