

GOVERNOR EVERS' 2021-23 BIENNIAL BUDGET

Investing in Wisconsin's Long-Term Care System

Our current long-term care infrastructure requires investment to meet the needs of Wisconsin's most vulnerable. Skilled nursing facilities face significant financial challenges, with COVID-19 adding more financial pressure. At the same time, Wisconsin's caregivers face challenges as well. We must better recruit, train, support, and retain our direct care workforce, and the vast majority of caregivers in Wisconsin are family members, who are in need of more support. To address these issues, the budget delivers on a dozen policy recommendations proposed by the Governor's Task Force on Caregiving and invests more than \$600 million in Wisconsin's long-term care system and supports.

NURSING HOME FUNDING INCREASE (\$241 MILLION)

Current Medicaid rates cover 72% of the cost of care for residents in nursing homes. By increasing reimbursement, Medicaid will cover an estimated 86% of the cost of resident care, making rates consistent with those for other institutional care, such as rehabilitation hospitals.

DIRECT CARE REIMBURSEMENT: PERSONAL CARE SERVICES AND FAMILY CARE (\$155.6 MILLION)

Personal care service agencies help people live in their own homes by assisting with activities of daily living, and managed care organization (MCOs) contract with long-term care providers in the Family Care program. By increasing Medicaid reimbursement for direct care costs, agencies will be more able to recruit and retain staff, and MCO provider networks will be able to increase wages, bonuses, and paid time off for direct care workers.

AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTERS (ADRCs) (\$7 MILLION)

County aging and disability resource centers and Tribal aging and disability resource services provide information and referrals to services for older adults and Wisconsinites living with disabilities. This increase will expand services for family caregivers and provide additional funding to Tribes.

DEMENTIA CARE SPECIALISTS (\$3.5 MILLION)

Currently 56 of 72 Wisconsin counties have access to a dementia care specialist who supports caregivers and people with dementia living at home. The budget expands access to all counties and Tribes, with 18 more specialists at ADRCs and seven more Tribal specialists.

ALZHEIMER'S FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM (\$1 MILLION)

The budget would increase funding and expand eligibility for the Alzheimer's Family Caregiver Support Program. This program helps caregivers of family members with irreversible dementia by providing up to \$4,000 to pay for respite care, in-home help, adult day care, transportation, home delivered meals, chair lifts, and other services.

GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON CAREGIVING RECOMMENDATIONS

The budget contains twelve proposals recommended by the Task Force, including a caregiver assessment tool, a home care registry, and a rate band proposal for home and community-based long-term care supports.

CAREGIVER TAX CREDIT (\$200 MILLION)

In addition to these provisions at DHS, the budget invests \$200 million through a Caregiving Tax Credit of up to \$500 through the Department of Revenue, as recommended by the Governor's Task Force on Caregiving.

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

