

GOVERNOR EVERS' 2021-23 BIENNIAL BUDGET

Improving Access to Behavioral Health Services

Too many Wisconsinites struggle to access quality, affordable mental health services. Governor Evers' 2021-23 budget improves access to behavioral health care by expanding coverage, investing in our mental and behavioral health workforce, and building new programs.

MEDICAID EXPANSION

Behavioral health services are out of reach for many Wisconsinites who do not have insurance, or who cannot afford their deductibles or copayments. In other states, nearly 30% of individuals who received coverage under Medicaid expansion have a mental health or substance abuse disorder. Medicaid expansion in Wisconsin would expand access to behavioral health services, and generate \$634 million in state savings.

MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES (\$40 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.

MEDICAID PSYCHOSOCIAL REHABILITATION BENEFIT (\$2 MILLION)

Currently non-county providers are unable to bill Medicaid for psychosocial rehabilitation, a wide range of treatment services beyond what is usually provided in an outpatient setting. By expanding the availability of this services, the budget improves the continuum of care available for mental health and substance use disorders and reduce the need for crisis care services.

SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE DEAF, HARD OF HEARING, OR DEAF-BLIND (\$1.9 MILLION)

Wisconsin does not have enough culturally competent resources for individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Deaf-Blind and in need of behavioral health services. The budget funds a statewide, culturally competent behavioral health provider to address this gap in services.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TECHNOLOGY GRANTS (\$2 MILLION)

Currently, only half of Wisconsin's behavioral health providers use electronic health records. The budget will help implement electronic health records and connect to Wisconsin's health information exchange will improve health care outcomes.

FORENSIC ASSERTIVE COMMUNITY TREATMENT TEAMS (\$4.5 MILLION)

These multi-disciplinary teams would provide treatment services in the community for individuals involved in the criminal justice system who are undergoing treatment to become competent to stand trial. The goal is to prevent further incarceration, reduce hospitalizations, and provide motivational treatment that leads to recovery.

TREATMENT FOR PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM (\$6.1 MILLION)

The budget increases the number of beds and staff at Mendota Mental Health Institute for individuals receiving treatment to become competent to stand trial. The additional beds will reduce time individuals spend in jail awaiting treatment.

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

