

Supporting Rusk County

Medicaid expansion is the lever that Wisconsin pulls to infuse new federal dollars into the rest of our health care system, with the aim of improving the health and well-being of every citizen. Medicaid is a critical part of our health care system. In Wisconsin, 1.1 million residents rely on Medicaid for high-quality health care. The budget expands Medicaid to cover childless adults, parents, and caretakers with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level, which is about \$17,000 per year for a single person. This expansion will enable an estimated 82,000 additional individuals to access affordable health care.

Medicaid expansion will also allow the state to draw down new federal funds and save Wisconsin taxpayers \$324.5 million. The budget proposes to reinvest these savings into new initiatives to improve health care access and quality for all Rusk County residents, not just those enrolled in Medicaid. The expansion plus the new initiatives will enable us to draw down a total of \$1.6 billion in new federal funding. When we combine these new initiatives with all other investments for Department of Health Services programs—from both the state and federal government—the budget provides a total of \$2.6 billion in new funding. Of this, \$2.4 billion will be invested in Wisconsin communities, including \$6 million in Rusk County.

\$6 million of new investments in Rusk County

- ◆ \$2.5 million Expanding Medicaid to an estimated 296 Rusk County residents
- ◆ \$149,000 Expanding access to behavioral health, including crisis intervention and telehealth services
- ◆ \$46,000 Preventing childhood lead poisoning through lead abatement and supporting children with lead poisoning through the Birth to 3 Program
- ◆ \$153,000 Improving access to dental services by increasing payments to dental providers, including those who serve people with disabilities, and expanding the Seal-A-Smile program
- ◆ \$297,000 Enhancing Medicaid benefits and services, including support for the new community health benefit and postpartum coverage for new mothers
- ◆ \$239,000 Increasing funding for physicians
- ◆ \$181,000 Increasing hospital funding
- ◆ \$262,000 Increasing funding for providers in long-term care programs and services—including Family Care IRIS, and nursing homes—and boosting personal care worker wages
- ◆ \$2.7 million Increasing funding for current Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, SeniorCare, and FoodShare Employment and Training program members, and permanently ending the waitlist to serve all eligible children in the Children's Long-Term Support Waiver Program
- ◆ \$13,000 Supporting the Mental Health Consultation program, conditional and supervised release, and the Dispatcher Assisted Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation program