

Medicaid and Department of Health Services- Budget Recommendations

People with disabilities rely on a variety of Medicaid programs and different health services programs around the State. The State Budget included many provisions that will help protect people with disabilities across the state. Many of the proposals depend on the Medicaid expansion to help pay for new programs.

MEDICAID EXPANSION

- Allows people making up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level to access health care through Badger Care. Would allow Wisconsin to receive additional federal dollars through the ACA.
- Would expand eligibility to include additional low-income people with disabilities who may not be eligible for “EBD” Medicaid, family caregivers, and low-income workers providing care services for people with disabilities.



MEDICAID AUTHORITY

- Restores authority to DHS to submit Medicaid waivers
- Restores authority to DHS to submit Medicaid state plan amendments
- Repeals forthcoming Badger care waiver revisions which include work requirements, premium payments, a health risk assessment, nonemergency use copays and a health savings account

HEALTH CARE COVERAGE- PREEXISTING CONDITIONS

- Ensures people with preexisting conditions can't be denied insurance
- Prohibits denial or lower cost coverage of claims because of preexisting conditions
- Prohibits plans from having higher premiums, co-pays, deductibles, coinsurance because of preexisting condition
- No lifetime or annual limits on benefits;
- Requires coverage of essential health benefits and preventative services

MEDICAID COMMUNITY HEALTH BENEFIT

- \$45 million dollars for this new benefit
- Provides non-medical services, social determinants of health approach
- Services include housing referrals, nutrition mentoring, transportation services, stress management, and other services to improve health outcomes



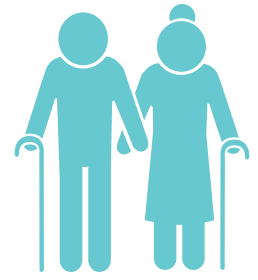
DENTAL CARE PACKAGE

- \$5M for payments to dental providers that serve Medicaid recipients with physical and intellectual disabilities
- 50% increase in Medicaid reimbursement for non-profit dental providers who serve 50% or more of people who don't have dental insurance or who use Medicaid
- 30% increase in Medicaid reimbursement for for-profit dental providers who serve at least 5% of persons in Medicaid.
- Increases in Medicaid reimbursement for dentists serving people enrolled in Medicaid managed care.
- Licensure of Dental Therapists in Wisconsin who work under the supervision of a dentist and help to extend access to dental care



OLDER ADULTS

- Expands the Dementia Care Specialist (DCS) program to all Aging and Disability Resource Centers, adding 27 new Dementia Care Specialists (DCSs) in the ADRCs and 3 new tribal DCSs to provide access statewide.
- Creates a new grant to provide healthy aging programs.
- Provides 3 ombudsman supervisor positions at the Board of Aging and Long-Term Care due to the increasing number of persons 60 and over in long term care programs.



OTHER DHS

- Increase staffing for DHS's Division of Quality Assurance; Oversees quality improvements in Medicaid programs and provides funding for staff to review assisted living facilities (including Adult Family Homes and Community Based Residential Facilities)
- Increased payments to hospitals that provide a disproportionate of services to Medicaid recipients, and to critical access hospitals.

BUDGET ADVOCACY TIPS

- Submit your comments on the budget for consideration by the Joint Finance Committee, email them to: budgetcomments@legis.wisconsin.gov. This is a great way to share your budget priorities if you are not able to attend a budget hearing, or if you do attend, you can submit your written comments so they are on record for legislators to consider.
- Stay in touch with your own state legislators and share your budget priorities. You can find your state legislators at: <https://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov/>
- Consider sharing a personal story to explain why a budget proposal is important to you. Your story can help legislators understand the impact of the budget on people with disabilities and their families.
- For those who like to get into the details of the budget, the Legislative Fiscal Bureau has released their analysis of the Governor budget proposal. You can read their budget papers at- http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/budget/2019_21_biennial_budget/



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Protection and advocacy for people with disabilities.

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