

# Medicaid Expansion Means Money to Reinvest into Services for People with Disabilities and Older Adults

Savings from the proposed Medicaid expansion leverages and estimated **\$1.6 billion** in new federal funding. Wisconsin is facing a crisis across several key areas that impact people with disabilities. New revenues are needed to address critical Medicaid services—including the direct care workforce crisis, dental care, the children’s waiting list, mental health supports improvements and more—that impact people with disabilities and older adults.

## Medicaid Expansion funds in the Governor’s budget pay for:

### Wage increases for direct care workers in Family Care

**\$29 Million** for wage increases or bonuses for direct care workers in Family Care.



### Wage increases for personal care workers

**1.5% rate increase** in each year to support direct care staff

## Dental Services

**\$5M**

**\$5M** for payments to dental providers that serve Medicaid recipients with physical and intellectual disabilities

**50%**

**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%**

**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.**

## Children with Disabilities



- **Funding to eliminate the waiting list** for the Children’s Long Term Supports and Service waiver program.
- **Funds improvements** to intake and eligibility screening functions, benefits counseling, support for families navigating the system.
- **Increases funding** to expand services to kids exposed to lead, a preventable cause of intellectual and developmental disabilities.



## Mental Health

- Medicaid expansion will **fund increased reimbursement rates** for mental health, behavioral health, and psychiatric services provided by physician's & medical clinics. Rate increases will help to address the provider shortage.
- Medicaid expansion will **provide funding** for 5 regional crisis stabilization centers to serve adults experiencing a behavioral health crisis. The regional crisis centers would provide community-based alternatives to inpatient hospitalization at the Winnebago Mental Health Institute or a private hospital.
- Medicaid expansion will **support crisis intervention services** by requiring the state to pay a portion of the non-federal share of Medicaid Crisis Intervention services. This will give counties freedom to provide services to additional individuals and expand the services they offer.
- Medicaid expansion will **provide needed funds** for Wisconsin to expand the definition of crisis services. In addition to mental health crisis services, MA funded crisis intervention services will also address crises related to intellectual disability, substance abuse, or dementia.



## Services Benefiting Older Adults



- **Expands the dementia care specialist (DCS) program** to all aging and disability resource centers (ADRCs) in the state (adding 27 ADRC DCSs and 3 tribal DCSs)
- **Funding** for three ombudsman supervisor positions in the Board on Aging and Long-Term Care to better serve consumers age 60 and older in Wisconsin long-term care programs
- **Creates a \$250,000 annual GPR grant** to provide healthy aging programs in each year of the budget

## Services Benefiting Everyone in Medicaid

- **Funds 12.0 FTE positions** in the Department of Health Services' Bureau of Assisted Living in the Division of Quality Assurance to address the regulation and licensing of an increasing numbers of assisted living facilities and protect and promote the health, safety, and welfare of residents living and receiving care in assisted living facilities, community based residential facilities, and adult family homes.
- **Removes Medicaid prescription drug copayments** for Medicaid BadgerCare Plus recipients who are prescribed prescription drugs.
- **Creates a Medicaid community health benefit** that invests \$45 million for nonmedical services to reduce and prevent health disparities that result from economic and social determinants of health. Services include but are not limited to housing referral services, stress management, nutritional counseling, and transportation services.



**Survival  
Coalition**  
of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

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