

Mental Health Provisions in the Governor's Budget for 2020-2021

DHS estimates that over the biennium, Governor Evers' budget will direct \$113.7 million in All Funds (both state and federal funds) to improve access to mental health services in Wisconsin. These new investments are made possible by the Medicaid expansion, which will allow the state to save \$324.5 million and draw down \$1.6 billion in new federal funding. These investments are on top of the investments the budget makes to strengthen mental health services provided at DHS facilities.

What's included in the \$113.7 million?

1. Crisis Intervention Services (\$39.8 million in AF; \$27.9 GPR; \$11.9 m FED)

To be better partners with counties and local law enforcement, and provide more appropriate services to our citizens, DHS proposes funding a portion of the Medicaid crisis intervention benefit, in which the non-federal share of Medicaid is currently funded entirely by counties. DHS also proposes expanding the statutory definition of a mental health crisis to include substance use, dementia, and other crises, not just mental health.

This also includes the Regional Crisis Stabilization Facility Grant program, which will provide \$2.5 million for a new grant program to fund regional crisis stability facilities for adults, which will help keep people closer to home where they have easy access to their natural supports.

2. The Hub-and-Spoke Service Delivery Model (\$898,000 AF; \$89,900 GPR; \$808,900 FED)

DHS proposes investing \$898,800 to implement a Medicaid health home hub-and-spoke model in two rural areas and one urban area in the state. Under the proposal, the "hubs" would ensure the integration of a full range of primary health care and substance use disorder services.

3. The Enabling Technology for Behavioral Health (\$4,000,000 AF; \$2,000,000 GPR; \$2,000,000 FED)

In 2021, DHS will provide \$4 million in grants to behavioral health providers to help implement electronic health record systems and further integrate behavioral health in the health care system.

4. Noninstitutional Mental Health Payments (\$69,114,400 AF; \$26,950,600 GPR; \$ 42,163, 800 FED)

Behavioral health professionals, including psychiatrists, would benefit from an increase in reimbursement rates, which would grow the workforce and improve access to care in all communities.

The first three items total up to \$44.6 million in new investments for behavioral health services, and these items are summarized on a DHS fact sheet that can be found here:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02366c.pdf>

What about mental health services provided in DHS facilities?

The budget includes \$25.6 million in all funds (state and federal) to support care delivery at DHS facilities. These investments include:

- \$3.2 million for the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center Expansion- will support 50.5 positions to expand the staff capacity of the Mendota Treatment Center by 14 beds, from 29 to 43 beds.
- \$12.3 million for the Winnebago Mental Health Institute Operations- will support 51 positions to create a separate admissions unit and to increase evening and nighttime supervisory staff.

- \$6.5 million for the Wisconsin Resource Center- will support 34.8 positions to expand capacity at the Wisconsin Resource Center by 58 beds.
- \$175,000 for Opening Avenues to Reentry Success- will fund additional services in the program and support 1 position within DHS to perform administrative functions and support for the program.
- \$3.4 million for Forensic Staffing at Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center- will support 36.5 project positions to operate 20-bed unit for forensic patients at the Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center.

FYI: \$1.9 million for the Youth Crisis Stabilization Facility was included in our cost to continue estimate since it's a continuation of a program from the last biennium.

Capital Investments in the Governor's Budget for the Department of Health Services

- Mendota Mental Health Institute- Juvenile Treatment Center Expansion (Total \$58.9 million)
- Mendota Mental Health Institute- Food Service Building Renovation (Total \$28.9 million)
- Mendota Mental Health Institute- Utility Relocation (Total \$20 million)
- Central Wisconsin Center- Building 6 Life Safety Remodel (Total \$15 million)
- Wisconsin Resource Center- Wet Cell Units 9 and 10 remodel (Total \$5.9 million)

What if Medicaid expansion isn't passed? How much will it cost to provide these services?

The Governor's budget proposes a \$329 million increase in state GPR spending. This includes the savings from the Medicaid expansion, the increase in spending on new health initiatives, and the increase in spending needed to support existing programs and facilities.

If the legislature does not expand Medicaid, it will have to find \$391 million in state GPR to continue operating existing programs and facilities.

If the state wanted to continue operating existing programs and facilities *and* implement the new health initiatives without expanding Medicaid, the state would need to find an additional \$653.7 million in state GPR.