

State Budget Provided Opportunity for Critical Investments in Hospitals

Wisconsin hospitals applaud timely bipartisan work by state lawmakers in last budget

WHA Position

Wisconsin's hospitals are the largest provider of services to Medicaid recipients from all over the state, in both rural and urban communities.

Hospitals care for patients regardless of their ability to pay, including providing hundreds of millions of dollars in charity care while losing \$1.3 billion each year serving patients on Medicaid.

Ask

Thank lawmakers for their support of hospitals in the last state budget.

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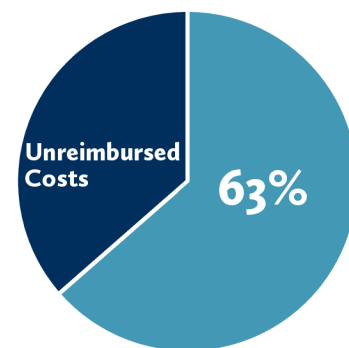
Wisconsin's Medicaid program has historically underfunded hospitals, only covering 63% of the costs of delivering care to Medicaid patients. Annually, this amounts to a \$1.3 billion loss for hospitals.

Facing a federal deadline to act, the Legislature and Governor advanced in the last state budget historic Medicaid rate support to hospitals through an expansion of the state's hospital assessment. This increased funding will help hospitals sustain and expand access to care for patients across Wisconsin.

However, CMS is delaying approval of this critical Medicaid funding provided for in the last state budget, impacting Wisconsin and other states.

Increased reimbursement to hospitals remains critically important as hospital operating costs continue to outpace reimbursement and the state has faced closures of unprofitable service lines due to low Medicaid reimbursement for hospitals.

Medicaid Reimbursement in Wisconsin as a % of Hospital Costs



Wisconsin hospitals thank our state lawmakers and the Governor who did their part in the last state budget to improve hospital Medicaid reimbursement. We now need CMS to follow the law and approve this critical increase in Medicaid funding for Wisconsin hospitals.