



## Top Stories

### The Polar Vortex, Explained

As you've likely experienced, record cold temperatures rocked much of Wisconsin and the Midwest this week. NPR explains the polar vortex and **why it is, in their words, "so \*&%# cold."**

And, if winter's got you down, the Portage Daily Register speaks with an area mental health professional on **how to cope with winter-related mental health challenges.**



Image: Drew Hays on Unsplash

[Read more](#)

### As Wisconsin Farmers Struggle, New Effort Aims to Prevent Suicide

In other mental health news, Wisconsin had a record 915 suicides in 2017. The state is seeing a surge in suicides and suicidal thoughts among farmers, who are facing some of the worst economic challenge in years, experts say. The Wisconsin State Journal looks at what **one local community** is doing to prevent death by suicide in their area.



Image: Jenny Hill on Unsplash

[Read more](#)

### Proposal Would Allow Step Therapy Exemptions

A state legislative proposal would allow doctors and patients to override certain protocols to receive the treatment they need, **reports The Cap Times.**

The proposal would create exemptions that in some situations, would allow doctors and patients to bypass an insurance protocol known as "step therapy."



Image: Josh Coleman on Unsplash

[Read more](#)

## More News

- State lawmakers are again considering **defining direct primary care**, which is a healthcare model that involves paying a membership fee directly to your doctor.
- A group of parents in rural south-central Wisconsin plan to **build their own apartment complex** tailored to the needs of their adult children with disabilities.
- A new CMS rule requires hospitals to post the price of their procedures online. But could **other price transparency tools** benefit patients better?
- Researchers are asking women in agriculture to **take their survey** to learn about resiliency to stress. And, a related **online webinar series** dedicated to the topic.

## Funding & Opportunities

- **Grants** to smaller and rural community-based organizations providing care and direct services, education, and/or research related to HIV/AIDS. (Letter of Inquiry Due: Feb. 8th; Deadline: March 1st)
- **Funding** to create, maintain, and expand tribal sexual assault services. (Deadline: Feb. 19th)
- **Loan repayment assistance** for substance use disorder clinicians who agree to serve in Health Professional Shortage Areas. (Deadline: Feb. 21st)
- **Action grants to communities** for education and neighborhood improvement, economic development, assistance to disadvantaged people, and more. (Deadline: Feb. 28th)
- **Funding** to engage with rural stakeholders on national rural health policy issues and to facilitate and maintain rural collaborative projects. (Deadline: Feb. 28th)
- **Funding** to promote dental hygiene research. (Deadline: Feb. 28th)

## Events

- Feb 5th: **Electronic System for Provider Reimbursement Review**

- Feb 7th, Feb 14th: CAH Conditions of Participation (Register one week prior)
- Feb 8th: Building and Maintaining Relationships in Stressful Times for Farmers
- Feb 11th: Buprenorphine 101 (for WHA hospitals and corporate members)
- Feb 12th: Promising Practices for Substance Use Disorder Treatment



SHARE THIS EMAIL

SIGN UP FOR EMAILS

Wisconsin Office of Rural Health