



## Top Stories

### Spotlight On Wisconsin's Rural CAHs

Small, rural Critical Access Hospitals help to serve rural populations that are otherwise far away from hospital care.

A recent **news item** highlights one such hospital, Gundersen Moundview Hospital and Clinics in Friendship. According to CEO Frank Perez-Guerra, the hospital's mission is to provide care close to home. Yet that comes with its own set of challenges.

To help hospitals stay alive, Perez-Guerra says, an increase in the Medicaid reimbursement rate would go a long way, allowing them to make hospital improvements or pay their staff competitively.

[Read more](#)

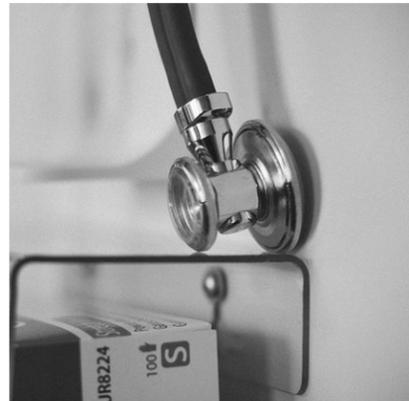


Photo by Parentingupstream on Pixabay

### New National Goals for Kidney Health

Earlier this month, President Trump signed an **executive order** to revamp the nation's system of kidney care and organ transplantation. The package aims to reduce the rate of kidney failure, expand dialysis options, and have more kidneys available for transplant.

Officials **described the package** as the biggest change in kidney care since the government extended Medicare coverage to include chronic kidney failure in 1972.

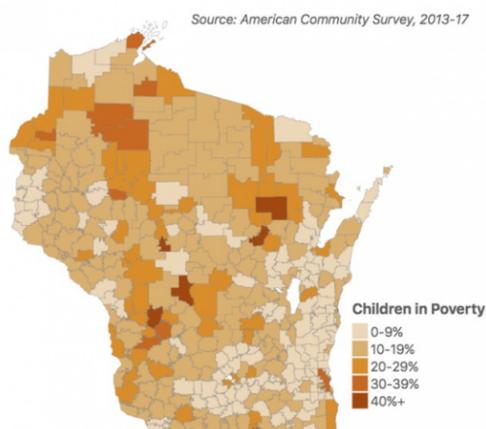
The Department of Health and Human Services, in turn, has laid out **specific benchmarks** for improving kidney health.

[Read more](#)



Photo by Robina Weermeijer on Unsplash

### Summer As a Season of Hunger for Wisconsin Kids



Courtesy WisContext/ UW Applied Population Lab

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Students who depend on the National School Lunch Program for free or reduced lunch may miss out on adequate food during the summer months.

A **report** from WisContext and the UW Applied Population Lab finds that 42% of students in rural school districts are eligible for the program.

The report also looks at child poverty by school district, which is highest in urban districts and second-highest in rural districts.

## More News

- Have you read our **new study** on rural obstetric delivery services? Read related coverage from the **Wisconsin Public Radio**, the **Wisconsin State Journal**, and the **Associated Press**.
- In rural Shelby, Wisconsin, medical students met up with local emergency personnel to test their skills in **rural disaster drills**.

- A **fact sheet** outlines the state of rural women's healthcare utilization and health indicators, with figures on rural maternal healthcare and substance use.
- More **coverage** on a bill that would give refundable tax credits to volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel. (**Previously**.)
- A **documentary and toolkit** focuses on youth mental health in Wisconsin.

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## Grants & Funding Opportunities

- Funding for existing graduate medical education programs in Wisconsin to expand a variety of **resident positions**. Deadline: August 14.
- Grants for nonprofits and public health agencies that wish to implement or improve **cross-jurisdictional sharing in public health**. Deadline: August 16.
- **Grants** for education and neighborhood improvement, economic development, youth development, community problem-solving, and more in some Wisconsin **communities**. Deadline: August 29.
- Funding for research projects to address health disparities in **tobacco use**. Letter of intent due September 11; application deadline October 11.
- Funding for physician-led, community-based or statewide **programs** to improve health through education and outreach. Deadline: September 27.
- Funding to **rural healthcare entities** that partner to develop strategies for improving healthcare delivery in a community. Deadline: November 29.

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## Events

- July 29: A legislative task force on suicide prevention will hold a **public hearing**; representatives from the National Farm Medicine Center, DATCP, and UW-Madison Division of Extension will present. Marshfield, 12pm.
- July 30: A **webinar** on strategies to connect justice-involved individuals to treatment for substance-abuse disorder. 1:30pm.
- July 31: A **call** about HRSA-funded health centers and how they have developed behavioral health workforce training programs and practices.
- August 8: A **webinar** on widening the lens from addressing opioid use disorder to addressing alcohol and stimulant use disorders. 2pm.
- August 23: The **Rural Hospital Finance Workshop** will provide updates on CAH regulations and Medicare and Medicaid and information on 340B, co-location guidance, telehealth compliance and billing, and measuring CAH productivity. Sauk City.
- September 19: A **conference** on identifying and eliminating health disparities will culminate in the release of a statewide health disparities report based on clinical performance data. Madison, 9am-3pm.
- August/September: Wisconsin Rural Partners will hold **small community forums** in Crivitz, Pardeeville, Independence, and Nekoosa.

