



WISCONSIN OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH

Rural Reporter

NEWS, GRANTS, AND EVENTS

AUGUST 22, 2019

Wisconsin Lawmakers Hear Testimony on Dental Therapy

Dental therapists are midlevel providers who work under the supervision of a dentist to provide preventative and routine restorative care. The practice is [taking off in other states](#), and yesterday, a Senate committee heard testimony on a bill that would allow it in Wisconsin. The legislation has [many supporters](#) in the state, who say dental therapy is a cost-effective way to broaden access to oral health care. Detractors, including the Wisconsin Dental Association, question whether allowing dental therapy would truly expand coverage.



Article source: *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, image source: *Moses Vega on Unsplash*

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Would Single-Payer Force Rural Hospitals to Close?

The Congressional Budget Office [finds that](#) rural hospitals could stand to get more revenue if the country adopted a single-payer insurance model. But rural hospital administrators aren't buying it, and say eliminating private insurance would force their hospitals to close.

Source: *WBUR*

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Wisconsin Study Highlights Rural Housing Shortage

A study measuring housing availability in west-central Wisconsin finds that the lack of housing in the area is directly tied to hundreds of job vacancies. The final report—which is still being finalized—will include tools for local governments to spur development of affordable starter homes.

Source: *Wisconsin Public Radio*

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More news

Study finds lower burnout rate in rural areas. A small pilot study finds that rural family physicians have significantly lower burnout rates than those who practice in larger settings. [Read more](#)

Feds seeks input on rural healthcare access. The Health Resources and Services Administration seeks public input about access to health care in rural communities. [Read more](#)

State funding for farmers' mental health is stalled. Wisconsin's budget included investments in mental health resources for agricultural communities, but that funding is currently stalled. [Read more](#)

State task force to look at reducing prescription drug prices. A new state task force aims to find ways to lower prescription drug prices, and will offer recommendations by the end of the year. [Read more](#)

Grants & Funding Opportunities

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 13, 2019

Grants to support local efforts to build and sustain a high quality of life in rural America. Categories include economic and community development, education, and telecommunications. [Learn more](#)

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 27, 2019

Funding from the Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation to support physician-led, community-based, or statewide programs to improve health through education and outreach. [Learn more](#)

DEADLINE: OCTOBER 4, 2019

Funding for programs or projects that support family and informal caregivers of adults with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, with an emphasis on rural and low-income communities. [Learn more](#)

DEADLINE: OCTOBER 15, 2019

Grants for nonprofit projects and programs that enhance the vibrancy and livability of central Wisconsin, particularly the greater Wausau area and Marathon County. [Learn more](#)

DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 25, 2019

Funding to support integrated rural health care networks in order to address the health care needs of a targeted rural community. [Learn more](#)

Events

WEBINAR | AUGUST 27, 2019 | 1 PM CENTRAL

Three state Medicaid agencies will describe value-based payments and contracting approaches to incentivize reductions in adverse children's oral health care outcomes. [Learn more](#)

PARDEEVILLE | AUGUST 28, 2019 | 7:30-1:00 PM CENTRAL

A forum and resource fair will discuss challenges and opportunities of economic development and growth, education, civic issues and life in Wisconsin's small, mighty communities. [Learn more](#)

WEBINAR | AUGUST 29, 2019 | 12 PM CENTRAL

Speakers from the National Center for Health Statistics will discuss two recently published reports on unintentional injury death rates, with an emphasis on urban-rural differences. [Learn more](#)



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