



AUGUST 29, 2019

Wyoming Seeks to Regulate Air Ambulances

Costs for emergency air ambulances in Wyoming have soared, where rugged terrain and long distances between hospitals requires reliance on these ambulance flights. Costs for such life-saving transports have been soaring, with some patients facing massive unexpected bills—but the state faces federal barriers in regulating air transport. Now, Wyoming officials are trying to fix the issue by using Medicaid to treat air ambulances like a public utility.



Article source: Kaiser Health News, image source: Isaac Benhesed on Unsplash

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Wisconsin's Rural Broadband Access Gets Financial Boost

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently awarded more than \$160 million to support broadband internet across Wisconsin. Roughly, 28 percent of Wisconsin's rural population now lacks broadband access, according to a [2019 report](#). In 2018, that number was 43 percent.

Source: Wisconsin Public Radio

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Wisconsin Report Describes 'An Abundance of Governments'

A report from a nonpartisan research group finds that Wisconsin has more local government units than most other states. Newly-formed "long-term care districts" take in and spend more than all other forms of special districts—a reflection, the report claims, of the cost to distribute critical healthcare service to vulnerable populations.

Source: Wisconsin Policy Forum

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More news

Door County EMS concerned about privatization. EMS professionals in Door County are concerned about the possible ramifications of a review of the county EMS service.

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Child psychiatry consultation program may expand. A state legislative committee said yes to expanding a Wisconsin program that helps primary care providers provide pediatric mental consultations to patients. [Read more](#)

CMS policy changes will impact hospital outpatient services. A new proposed rule for the 2020 Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System would update three key payment policies. [Read more](#)

Training center comes to central Wisconsin. A new training simulator will soon come to Aspirus Riverview Hospital as a way for students to learn how to handle clinical scenarios. [Read more](#)

Grants & Funding Opportunities

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 13, 2019

Grants will 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 13, 2019

Schools will be awarded a \$1,000-\$2,500 grant to support physical activity and nutrition initiatives. Funded schools will receive technical assistance to implement a successful project. [Learn more](#)

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 27, 2019

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

DEADLINE: OCTOBER 15, 2019

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

DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 25, 2019

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

Events

CONFERENCE | SEPTEMBER 6, 2019 | MADISON

A meeting of the State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse will include presentations on overdose fatalities and best practices in methamphetamine treatment. [Learn more](#)

WEBINAR | SEPTEMBER 9, 2019 | 2 PM CENTRAL

A webinar on preventing rural veteran suicide from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. [Learn more](#)

WEBINAR | SEPTEMBER 11, 2019 | 2 PM CENTRAL

The best revenue cycle tool is a well-trained staff. A webinar from NRHA will discuss continuing education, cross training, testing that knowledge, and evaluating performance. [Learn more](#)

CONFERENCE | SEPTEMBER 19-20, 2019 | KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Rural leaders, founders, and trailblazers are invited to the second-annual Radically Rural Summit. Program tracks include arts and culture, business, journalism, renewable energy, and working lands. [Learn more](#)



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