



## Top Stories

### State Lawmakers Outline Mental Health Bills

Republican state lawmakers have announced four bills aimed at supporting mental health services.

One proposed bill aims to alleviate the psychiatrist shortage in Wisconsin by providing tax incentives to psychiatrists who decide to practice in the state—with extra incentives for those who choose to practice in underserved areas.

Other proposed bills would match mental health funding for clubhouses, update psychiatrist standards by the state's examining board, and provide funding for nonprofits providing trauma-informed care services.

Watch the press conference [here](#).

[Read more](#)

Health Professional Shortage Areas  
Mental Health Care



Image of Wisconsin's Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas

### Wisconsin Considering Licensing Dental Therapists

Dental therapists are mid-level practitioners who operate under the supervision of a licensed dentist and are similar to the roles of physician assistants or nurse practitioners in medicine.

Advocates say these practitioners help to increase access to oral health care. **Six states in the past year** have passed laws authorizing dental therapists to practice.

Now, lawmakers in Wisconsin are trying to do the same. A bill currently in the state legislature would provide for the **licensure of dental therapists**, and the Senate will hold a **public hearing** on the bill next week Wednesday morning.

[Read more](#)



Photo by Moses Vega  
on Unsplash

### State Tech Council Prez Advocates for Rural Investment

Investments are needed to help keep people in rural Wisconsin, argues Matt Still, President of the Wisconsin Technology Council.

In a **recent column**, Still outlines a strategy to draw and keep people in rural areas. That plan includes continued investment in broadband and infrastructure, workforce strategies, and upgraded housing.



Photo by Chali Pittman / Wisconsin  
Office of Rural Health

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## More News

- Wisconsin health officials will implement a limited **"hub and spoke" model** to increase access to substance abuse treatment.
- A guide details how **rural health providers can collaborate** in their communities.
- Lawmakers are asking for nominations for a **new award recognizing first responders**.
- **Rural dentists** have a better awareness of the opioid epidemic, says a study.

## Grants & Funding Opportunities

- Funding to support a variety of local efforts to build and sustain a **high quality of life in rural** communities across America. Deadline: September 13.
- Funding for projects to build the **public health capacity of Tribes**. Deadline: September 20.
- Funding for physician-led, community-based or statewide **programs** to improve health through education and outreach. Deadline: September 27.
- Grants for projects that nurture and support the safety, health, and vitality of **indigenous women, girls, and families**. Deadline: October 11.
- Grants for research projects to help address **health disparities in tobacco use**. Deadline: October 11; Letter of Intent due September 11.
- Grants to develop **edible garden projects** for kids. Deadline: November 1.
- Funding to **rural healthcare entities** that partner to develop strategies for improving healthcare delivery in a community. Deadline: November 29.

## Events

- August 20: An open door forum will focus on changes to **Medicare payment policies** for rural hospitals. 1 pm.
- August 20: Rural health researchers will report on their findings regarding the **seven major causes of death**. 11 am.
- August 21: Give your input on rural economic growth, education, civic issues, and more at a **small community forum** in Independence, WI.
- August 22: A webinar will outline several programs that **used telemedicine** to reach rural population targets. 11:30 am.
- August 28: Give your input on rural economic growth, education, civic issues, and more at a **small community forum** in Pardeeville, WI.
- August 29: A webinar will discuss **statistics on unintentional injury death rates**, with a detailed look at motor vehicle injuries, drug overdose, and falls.



Wisconsin Office of Rural Health