



Top Stories

Bill Would Give Tax Credits to Some Firefighters & EMS

A **bill circulating in the state assembly** would provide tax credits to Wisconsin's volunteer firefighters and emergency service professionals. The bill offers a refundable tax credit, which means that some fire and EMS volunteers could see a check in the mail if the bill passes. Volunteers are eligible for the credits even if they are paid for calls, but must meet a series of requirements to be eligible.



The bill was proposed by **Rep. Treigh Pronschinske**, who **represents** a portion of western Wisconsin. He is a volunteer firefighter with his local fire department and member of the local ambulance commission.

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Rural Nursing Home Closures Offer Fewer Options For Care

Hundreds of rural nursing homes have closed or merged over the last decade, leaving some older rural residents at nursing homes that are long distances away from their families. The causes of the closings are myriad: some have failed to meet health and safety standards, while others shutter for financial reasons.



Photo: stevepb on Pixabay

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Orgs Solicit Your Data For Rural Broadband Map

A crowdsourcing project aims to depict the actual broadband connectivity speeds in rural areas across the

country. The TestIT application invites rural residents to test the speeds of their internet and cellular networks and to submit the results to a nationwide database. The project is a response to broadband connectivity maps from the Federal Communications, which some argue are flawed.

Get the app from the [iTunes store](#) or [Google Play](#).



Image: Franck V on Unsplash

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More News

- **New kinds of health plans** may be cheaper for consumers, but they may also have hidden costs.
- The town of La Point in the Apostle Islands **lost its firefighting and emergency rescue equipment** following a blaze at its firehouse-but has received an outpouring of support and donations.
- The funding increases for health programs proposed in Tony Evers' budget **depend on expanding Medicaid**.
- Federal legislation would leave hospitals eligible for more funding to **expand residency programs**.
- A task force formed to analyze the state of Wisconsin's dairy industry is considering about **fifty recommendations** to help the state's farmers and rural populations.

Funding & Opportunities

- The **Community Impact Grants Program** will award projects from community partnerships that are designed to address the overall health, human equity and well-being of Wisconsin communities. (Letter of Intent due: March 25th)
- The Administration for Community Living will award grants for the development and expansion of **dementia-capable home and community-based service systems** in states and communities. (Deadline: April 1st)
- Nonprofit organizations, government entities, and other types of organizations are eligible for funding for projects that work to improve **livability in a community**. (Deadline: April 17th)
- Seventy-five grants will go to rural communities to **enhance service delivery** for substance use disorder. (Deadline: May 6th)
- Cities, towns, counties, tribes, and more can apply for funding to train and provide **resources to first responders** for the emergency treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose. (Deadline: May 6th)

Events

- April 10th: We've announced more details for [Wisconsin EMS Day at the Capitol](#). Register [here!](#)
- April 24th-25th: A [two-day summit from Wisconsin Rural Partners](#) will bring together people from across the state to identify the top issues facing rural Wisconsin.
- May 16-17th: The [Wisconsin Stroke Conference](#) will focus on improving stroke systems of care.



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