



## Top Stories

### Wisconsin Hospitals Receive Funding to Fight Opioid Abuse

Two Wisconsin hospitals have received federal funding for opioid abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has awarded grants of \$200,000 each to St. Vincent Hospital of The Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis in Green Bay and the Family Health Center of Marshfield, Inc. in Marshfield.

The funds will be used to develop stakeholder partnerships, conduct needs assessments, and develop plans to implement and sustain substance abuse interventions.

[Read more](#)



U.S. Air Force photo illustration /Tech. Sgt. Mark R. W. Orders-Woempner

### State Bill Would Reduce Training Requirements for CNAs

Wisconsin faces a workforce shortage of certified nursing assistants (CNAs). This week, the state assembly **passed a bill** to reduce the number of required training hours to become a CNA from 120 to the federal minimum of 75 hours. One cited aim of the switch is to match the training requirements of neighboring states, so that those who move here do not have to complete additional coursework.

However, critics point out that lowering training standards can translate to new employees without as much preparation for the complex work of patient care. While removing barriers can improve recruitment, other solutions are still needed to address retention of trained workers. We look forward to continued discussion between advocates, legislators, and employers on this topic.

The **equivalent Senate bill** is currently in committee.

[Read more](#)



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### Criminal Penalties for the "Move Over" Law?

Wisconsin's "Move Over Law" requires drivers to shift lanes or slow down to provide a safety zone for a squad car, ambulance, fire truck, tow truck, utility vehicle, or highway maintenance vehicle. Drivers who fail to do so are penalized with demerit points on their license and a fine.

One volunteer fire department is looking at ways to better enforce **moving over and slowing down**—including the use of more electronic signage, and the possibility of specific criminal penalties for harm caused to first responders.



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## More News

- A **series** examines Wisconsinites' complicated relationship with alcohol. More than a fourth of Wisconsinites say that they binge or excessively drink, **according to the 2019 County Health Rankings**.
- Wisconsin received a **surprise \$753 million boost** in its budget as a result of a change in federal tax collections, but legislators are split over how to prioritize the windfall.

- Last week, members of the legislative committee that oversees the budget **voted to strip more than 130 items** from Governor Evers' budget proposal.
- Is it a **matter of time** before measles hits Wisconsin? Here's **how providers can prepare** for an outbreak.
- Wisconsin applicants to the USDA's ReConnect Program for broadband expansion will see their application gain points as the result of a **letter of support from Gov. Tony Evers** and the publication of the **state's broadband plan**.

## Funding & Opportunities

- Loans and grants to help **expand broadband infrastructure** and services in rural areas. Deadline: May 31 for grants, June 21 for loan/grant combinations, and July 12 for low-interest loans.
- Funds for the **design and implementation of a rural leadership program**. Public and nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply, and collaborations of multiple partners are welcome. Deadline for brief proposal: June 3.
- Two-year grants for **disseminating training and technical assistance** to rural communities addressing opioid abuse issues. Deadline: June 7.
- An initiative to **expand Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)** will grant an estimated eleven awards to those in rural counties. Deadline: June 10.
- The application for our office's **Rural Physician Loan Assistance Program** is now open. Eligible health care professionals who agree to work in federally-defined health shortage areas are invited to apply. Deadline: September 12.

## Events

- May 20-21: **Two free workshops** in Siren and Hayward, Wisconsin will help employers proactively address the opioid crisis in the workplace.
- May 22: Kewaunee County will host its **23rd Annual Rural Safety Day**.
- May 23: An **EMS regional meeting** in Chicago will provide education on collecting and using data.
- May 29: The Surgical Collaborative of Wisconsin will host its **virtual spring meeting** that will focus on rural surgical care in the state.
- May 31-June 1: A **workshop in Rothschild** will benefit those in EMS operations management and those aspiring to such positions. Deadline to register: May 24.



Wisconsin Office of Rural Health