



## Top Stories

### State Budget Debates Intensify

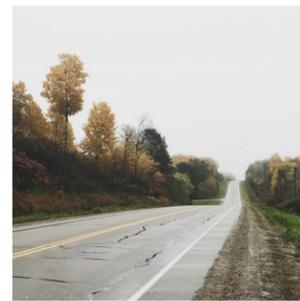
The Wisconsin legislature is in full swing as legislators hustle to agree on the 2019-2021 budget. While the state's budget committee voted Tuesday to reject Gov. Tony Evers' plan to expand Medicaid, it also voted to increase state funding for the program. Among other funding changes, the Republican plan will increase reimbursements for nursing homes and personal care workers.



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### Groups Call for Transportation Funding

**Paging REO Speedwagon:** legislators are back to discussing road funding again. This week groups representing police and firefighters **called on the state legislature** to address Wisconsin's road funding needs, as the state budget committee is set to vote on a transportation budget today (Thursday). A group of Senate Republicans have proposed a \$134 million proposal to give counties and towns (but not cities or villages) a one-time infusion to pay for road construction projects. But legislators **appear nowhere near a deal**.



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### Foreign-Born Doctors Fill Rural Workforce Shortages

Health care is projected to be the largest-growing sector of new job creation over the next decade. Yet the country faces a shortage of health care professionals needed to fill that gap, particularly in rural areas. *Voice of America* profiled hospitals in rural Pennsylvania that rely greatly on foreign-born doctors and nurses to solve their health care staffing issues, and the joys and challenges that arise from such arrangements.



Ramon Taylor (VOA)

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## More News

- A look at preserving dignity, autonomy, and joy for **those with dementia**.
- Lawmakers in both houses of Congress have introduced bills to **end surprise billing**, a phenomenon that two-third of Americans **say they are worried about**.
- A Wisconsin-based **assessment tool** that helps rural communities build their environment to promote active living is **profiled by the journal *Landscape and Urban Planning***.
- Nearly 37 million people enrolled in Medicare are **dentally uninsured**. A greater percent of beneficiaries who did not see a dentist last year lived in rural areas.
- Materials from last month's Wisconsin Stroke Conference are **now posted**.

## Funding & Opportunities

- Funding and more for **Wisconsin organizations working to address health inequities**. Letter of Intent: June 17. Deadline: September 6.

- Grants to construct, expand, or modernize small tribal **ambulatory healthcare facilities**. Deadline: June 28.
- Grants to **organizations that work to rehabilitate and preserve** affordable housing for rural, low-income homeowners and renters. Deadline: July 8.
- Grants to expand **health and wellness in Indian Country**. Deadline: July 12.
- Grants for projects that **improve access to oral health care**. Deadline: July 31.
- Grants to organizations representing healthcare professionals to **expand substance use disorder education** in medicine, social work, and therapy. Deadline: August 2.

## Events

- June 11: A webinar will review the responsibilities of an **effective hospital board**.
- June 12: A CMS forum and webcast will examine **maternal health care in rural communities**.
- June 19-20: AARP's **Rural Livability Workshop**, live-streamed from Portland, Maine, will focus on creating intergenerational communities, strengthening transportation options, and improving housing affordability and choice.
- June 23-27: The **35th National Rural Institute on Alcohol and Drug Abuse** will be held at UW-Stout in Menomonie, Wisconsin. Registration deadline June 21.



Wisconsin Office of Rural Health