Top Stories

**FCC To Hold Listening Sessions in Wisconsin**
A team from the Federal Communications Commission will meet with community leaders and the public in rural Wisconsin and Minnesota next week. The sessions will cover a broad swath of telecommunications issues—broadband, telehealth, robocalls. The general public is invited to attend discussions in Winona, La Crescent, and La Crosse on Wednesday, June 26; Tomah on Thursday, June 27, and DeForest and Portage on Friday June 28.

[Read more](#)

**Lunches for All**
Three Wisconsin school districts, Gundersen Health System, and a UW Health program were recognized for their high-quality summer meal programs that are "appetizing, appealing, and wholesome" as part of the USDA's "Turnip the Beet" awards.

In other food news, a bipartisan group of state lawmakers is looking to [ban practices that single out or shame students](#) who have negative food account balances.

[Read more](#)

**No Surprises!**
Some states across the nation have taken steps to curb surprise billing, as compared and contrasted in this chart. President Donald Trump has [repeatedly](#) called for an end to the practice. Now US Senators say they mostly agree that surprise medical billing is a problem. Industry observers are taking seriously a variety of proposals to quell the practice that are being considered by the Senate's Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee.

[Read more](#)

More News

- Smaller cities grew faster than large metropolises between 2017 and 2018, according to a [new analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data](#).
- We hope you said hello at the Rural Wisconsin Health Conference in the Wisconsin Dells last week. But if not, you can catch up on the state of rural health in Wisconsin in a presentation from the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative.
- A bill [standardizing 5G wireless technology](#) across the state now heads to Gov. Evers’ desk.
- A guide explains how [shared decision-making](#) could lead to better health care.
- A [new study](#) examines to what extent cost is a barrier to accessing care for rural Medicare patients.

Grants For...

- Addressing [disparities in maternal health on a state level](#). Deadline: July 15.
- Student loan repayment to primary care and behavioral health clinicians providing substance use disorder treatment at approved sites. July 18.
- Addressing the gamut of rural community challenges, from improving access to locally-produced food to developing outdoor recreation. Deadline: July 22.
- Projects that improve access to oral health care. Deadline: July 31.
- Actionable research that advances health equity in the areas of nutritional disparities, nutrition, and food security. Deadline: October 2.

Events

- June 24-26: The Annual Emergency Care and Trauma Symposium will educate prehospital and hospital emergency and trauma providers.
- June 26-28: The Federal Communications Commission will hear feedback from rural Wisconsin and Minnesota leaders about telecommunications issues (see News, above).
- June 27: A CMS virtual listening session will hear feedback on draft guidance for hospital co-location.
- June 28: A webinar will explore psychiatric advance directives.
- August 23: Attend the Rural Hospital Finance Workshop from our office (see below).
- October 4: Save the date for an Obesity Management Summit.

Rural Hospital Finance Workshop

Friday, August 23rd
Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative
880 Independence Lane
Sauk City

In collaboration with:

Save the Date!

Join us to learn more about critical issues pertaining to your rural hospital, including:

- An update on Medicare and Medicaid
- 340B Updates
- Co-Location Guidance
- Measuring CAH Productivity
- Upcoming Changes in CAH Regulations
- Telehealth: Compliance, Strategy, Billing, Reimbursement

Registration Fee: $20 Register online at: https://charge.wisc.edu/ruralhealth/workshops.aspx

Wisconsin Office of Rural Health