



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

January 21, 2026

The Honorable Ron Johnson
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bryan Steil
1526 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mark Pocan
1026 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Derrick Van Orden
1513 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gwen Moore
2252 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Scott Fitzgerald
2444 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Glenn Grothman
1211 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Tiffany
451 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tony Wied
424 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for Sustained Federal Investment in Community Mental Health and Substance Use Services

Dear Duly Elected Members of Wisconsin's Congressional Delegation:

I write to implore you to take decisive action today to fully fund essential mental health and substance abuse services that are a lifeline for Wisconsinites right now. Federal funding via two grants, the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant and the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant, cultivate healthy communities across Wisconsin and the country. Prevention activities, intervention and treatment services, and long-term recovery supports are at risk of disruption due to the federal government's failure to establish sustainable funding solutions this federal fiscal year.

My administration, via the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, administers these grants to partners that serve the state's most vulnerable kids, adults, and families. Without consistent and reliable funding for these grant programs, the capacity of these agencies will be severely compromised, resulting in Wisconsinites' avoidable suffering, and leading to further strain on our healthcare and criminal justice systems more broadly.

In the Continuing Resolution, Congress appropriated FFY 26 funding for programs managed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to support a continuum of care for mental health and substance use grounded in local-level services using proven strategies to improve the well-being of individuals and communities. As of today, states have yet to receive an FFY 26 Notice of Award (NOA) for either grant.

Grant	Funding Period	WI Funding
Community Mental Health Services Block Grant	10/01/2025-09/30/2026	\$14,995,433
Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant	10/01/2025-09/30/2026	\$27,850,203

More than 90 percent of the grant funding received by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services is distributed to state and local organizations focused on working with people to improve their behavioral health. The remaining grant funding received supports critical staffing and infrastructure within the Wisconsin Department of Health Services Division of Care and Treatment Services to provide evaluation of the needs of state residents; training and technical assistance for the behavioral health workforce; and public awareness and communications activities focused on helping state residents understand behavioral health and the services and supports available to them.

Community Mental Health Services Block Grant

In Wisconsin, Community Mental Health Services Block Grant funds cover the costs of crisis intervention services, treatment services, jail diversion programs, supported housing programs, and peer supports provided primarily by county government and nonprofit agencies.

Wisconsin's 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline contact center is funded in part by the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant. More than 200,000 calls, texts, and online chats from Wisconsinites have been answered by 988 Wisconsin Lifeline staff since 988 launched in 2022.

The Community Mental Health Services Block Grant funds also have supported work to expand application of Coordinated Specialty Care for young people experiencing first episode psychosis by helping behavioral health professionals understand the readiness of their agency to implement this model and supporting agencies in the implementation process.

Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant

In Wisconsin, about a third of the funds received from the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant are dispersed to county governments to address local needs, with the remaining funding allocated to needs identified at the state level. Among the programs that rely on this funding are programs that:

- Prevent the initiation of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use among youth.
- Promote healthy families and youth, school success, and youth safety in their families, along with positive youth development with the goal of substance use disorder prevention.
- Divert people with substance use concerns from the criminal justice system to treatment programs.
- Treat women with a substance use disorder.
- Provide supports from people in recovery from a substance use concern trained to use their personal experiences to engage others in the recovery process.
- Provide training and skills development to substance use services professionals.

The funds provided by the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant and the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant save lives. I respectfully call on Congress to recognize the value of behavioral health and maintain robust, stable funding for a full continuum of mental health and substance use services. Investing in this full continuum of care is not only fiscally responsible but it supports the strong partnerships built between government and nongovernment agencies to protect and promote the well-being of individuals and communities.

Yours in service,



Tony Evers
Governor