

Wisconsin Association of Health Plans

The Voice of Wisconsin's Community-Based Health Plans

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State Budget Strengthens the Individual Health Insurance Market

MADISON – On July 8, via his action on the 2021-23 State Budget, Governor Tony Evers signed into law an increase in funding for the Wisconsin Healthcare Stability Plan (WIHSP).

WIHSP is a state-based individual market reinsurance program that helps lower individual market premiums by partially offsetting the costs of patients with high health care needs. In each of its three years of operation, WIHSP has contributed to year-over-year reductions in average individual market premiums—even after accounting for factors that usually lead premiums to rise annually.

“This increase in funding will help the Wisconsin Healthcare Stability Plan build upon its proven track record of saving money for individual market consumers,” said John Nygren, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Association of Health Plans. “Wisconsin’s community-based health plans thank the Legislature and Governor Evers for enhancing state support for WIHSP through the 2021-23 State Budget.”

WIHSP was established in 2018 and has enjoyed bipartisan support since its inception. WIHSP is jointly funded by state and federal dollars, with the vast majority of funding provided by the federal government. Governor Evers’ 2021-23 Budget Bill recognized WIHSP’s demonstrated success and appropriated full state funding to reach the statutory cap of \$200 million. The Wisconsin Legislature further increased the state’s commitment to WIHSP by increasing program funding to \$230 million beginning in 2022.