



Wisconsin Health Care Association

Wisconsin Center for Assisted Living

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Governor Evers Approves Historic Funding Increases for Long-Term Care in State Budget
WHCA/WiCAL Applauds Governor, Legislature for Approving Critical Funding Increases

MADISON – The Wisconsin Health Care Association and Wisconsin Center for Assisted Living (WHCA/WiCAL) today thanked Governor Evers for signing into law a bipartisan budget with significant funding increases for long-term care providers. The increased funding for both skilled nursing facilities and Family Care providers will help to address ongoing funding challenges and workforce shortages.

“The 2021-23 State Budget will deliver real, critically-needed benefits to Wisconsin’s long-term care providers, their dedicated staff, and the frail elderly and residents living with disabilities they serve every day,” said Rick Abrams, President and CEO of WHCA/WiCAL. “Wisconsin’s long-term care providers thank Governor Evers and the Legislature for their continued commitment to securing the future stability of long-term care in Wisconsin.”

On a bipartisan vote in both chambers, the Legislature approved \$252.4 million all funds over the biennium, including a state investment of \$98 million, in nursing home reimbursement rates. In the Family Care program, the Legislature approved a total of \$104.2 million all funds over the biennium, including a state investment of \$40 million, for the Direct Care Workforce Fund program. Between state and federal dollars, this amounts to more than \$356 million all funds in new money to Wisconsin’s long-term care providers.

“The funding increases included in the budget are critically needed as nursing facilities and assisted living centers continue to contend with workforce challenges which have been exacerbated by COVID-19, and we thank Governor Evers and the Legislature for their ongoing commitment to long-term care,” said Abrams. “The budget’s investment in long-term care will address systemic reimbursement shortfalls, and, along with COVID-19 emergency relief funding opportunities, providers will be positioned to maintain operations both during the pandemic and into the future.”

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The Wisconsin Health Care Association (WHCA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to representing, protecting and advancing the interests of Wisconsin’s long-term and post-acute care provider community and the residents they serve. The Wisconsin Center for Assisted Living (WiCAL) is a division of WHCA that advocates for assisted living facilities by helping our members provide the highest quality services to the Badger State’s frail and elderly citizens.