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**Covering Wisconsin Awarded Federal Funding for 2018-19 Navigator Enrollment Services
Open Enrollment November 1-December 15**

The federal government has awarded Covering Wisconsin continuing support to enroll state residents in health insurance coverage through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace and Medicaid/BadgerCare. This year, the federal agency made \$200,000 available for Navigators to serve the entire state of Wisconsin, down over 80% from prior years. Covering Wisconsin was awarded this entire amount. These funds will be used to educate Wisconsin residents about health insurance coverage, assist them with enrollment, and support their post-enrollment needs.

Covering Wisconsin (CWI) has been a federally-designated Navigator agency continuously since 2014. With the reduced funding, Covering Wisconsin stands as the state's only remaining federally-designated Navigator entity. The Northwest Wisconsin Concentrated Economic Program Inc. (NWCEP) based in Ashland, which previously received federal Navigator funding directly, will now operate Navigator services under subcontract with CWI.

Covering Wisconsin has staff offices in Dane, Milwaukee, Rock and Walworth counties, and a subcontract with Centro Hispano of Dane County. These Navigators will provide in-person assistance to seven counties in southern Wisconsin, while Northwest CEP will provide in-person assistance to 16 counties in northern and western Wisconsin. The two agencies together will offer telephonic services to consumers statewide and support other health insurance enrollment assisters. The two agencies last year provided direct services to nearly 30,000 Wisconsin residents. Beyond direct enrollments, Navigators conduct public education, outreach events, and advertising that drive consumers to other enrollment assisters, insurance agents and brokers, and to Healthcare.gov.

Covering Wisconsin is a non-partisan organization with the mission to connect Wisconsin residents to programs that promote health and well-being and assure that they know how to use those programs effectively. For over a decade CWI has helped Wisconsin residents gain coverage via Medicaid and BadgerCare and, since 2014, via the ACA. CWI exists to assure that our state's residents can effectively navigate health insurance programs, whether under current law, changes in federal or state law or regulation, or under state waiver programs. CWI also operates a health insurance literacy program to promote understanding and effective use of health insurance and health care.

The open-enrollment period for ACA Marketplace coverage begins November 1 and lasts for six weeks, through December 15. Over 200,000 Wisconsin residents currently enrolled in ACA plans will need to renew their coverage and consider whether their current plan or a new plan will best fit their needs. As well, work remains to connect Wisconsin's remaining 300,000 uninsured residents to appropriate health insurance coverage and care. Residents can enroll in Medicaid and BadgerCare at any time of the year. Appointments with Navigators are available online at <https://www.coveringwi.org/enroll>

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