



POLICY Rx: Expand BadgerCare – Expand Health Access

Too many Wisconsinites do not have access to quality, affordable health care. Yet former Governor Walker and Republican-led Legislature elected to reject federal funds available to Wisconsin under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that would have allowed more low-income adults to be eligible for BadgerCare. Governor Evers supports accepting these federal funds and has included this in his budget which needs approval from the state legislature.

Full BadgerCare expansion would allow an additional 83,000 Wisconsinites to receive health insurance and would save Wisconsin approximately \$834 million over the next 6 years.

What Wisconsin Can Do

Wisconsin [should expand BadgerCare](#) as offered under the Affordable Care Act to cover all adults who earn up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level as soon as possible.

For more information and for opportunities to get involved, visit: betterbadgercare.org

Why is Expanding BadgerCare Important to Women?

- Low-income, uninsured women are more likely to forego health care because of cost, are less likely to have a regular source of care, and utilize preventive services at lower rates than low-income women with health insurance.
- In [2015](#), 8.7% of Wisconsin women age 18-64 were uninsured and 12.5% of Wisconsin women did not receive health care at some point because of cost.
- States that have expanded Medicaid under the ACA have reduced [racial disparities](#) in their uninsured rates, which is particularly important in Wisconsin given the state's [significant racial health outcome and access to care disparities](#).
- Low-income women who do not have access to BadgerCare coverage often have to rely on a [patchwork](#) of care programs in order to receive the health care they need. For example, many of these women may have to go to publicly-funded safety net clinics to receive reproductive health care services.

Take Action Now:

Contact your legislators and urge them to support full expansion of BadgerCare.