



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 11 3:00 pm

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

Covering Wisconsin (CWI), the state's federally-certified and state-licensed Navigator agency, received notice of renewed federal support for outreach and enrollment. Navigators connect Wisconsin residents with their coverage options, including the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace and Medicaid/BadgerCare.

CWI will receive the full federal funding assigned for Wisconsin and has been approved for a two-year project period. This amounts to \$200,000 for 2019-2020 and another \$200,000 for 2020-2021. The funds help support CWI's work educating Wisconsin residents about health insurance coverage, assisting them with enrollment, and supporting their post-enrollment needs.

Covering Wisconsin has consistently exceeded enrollment goals as outlined in its federal funding proposal, and has been awarded the federal cooperative agreement to serve as a state Navigator entity since 2014. In earlier years, CWI received over \$1 million annually in federal funding to provide in-person assistance in 23 counties. Since 2017, federal funding has declined by 80%, requiring a cut-back in direct in-person assistance.

About 313,000 Wisconsin residents remain uninsured, including about 50,000 children. Yet health coverage with no or low premiums may be available for many of these residents. Work remains to connect these residents to appropriate health insurance coverage and care. As well, 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.

The open-enrollment period for the ACA Marketplace runs from November 1 through December 15, 2019. Outside of those dates, Navigators assist with Special Enrollment Period (SEP) enrollments, Medicaid enrollment, and post-enrollment health insurance support.

CWI operates staff offices in Madison and Milwaukee and subcontracts with other agencies statewide. Subcontracting agencies include Centro Hispano serving Dane County, the Northwest Concentrated Employment Program (NWCEP) serving northern and northwestern rural counties, the Partnership Community Health Center serving the Fox Valley, The Foundation for Black Women's Wellness, and the Men's Health & Education Center.

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Last year, CWI directly served 14,273 consumers, enrolling over 3,000 consumers into health coverage. This includes 1,942 direct enrollments in the ACA Marketplace, of which 1,132 were designated complex cases. CWI completed 1,130 Medicaid enrollments, 6,119 general inquiries and 5,082 health insurance literacy appointments. Beyond this, Covering Wisconsin conducted public education and outreach events that directed consumers to other enrollment assisters and agencies 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, through changes in state and federal law and various waiver programs. As programs and policies change, Covering Wisconsin remains committed to working to assure Wisconsin residents understand the programs and how they might best gain insurance coverage. CWI works in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Office of the Commissioner of Insurance, assuring that Wisconsin residents understand ongoing changes in the Medicaid program and what insurance options are available to them via BadgerCare, the ACA, or otherwise.

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