



# GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

## EXPANDED ACCESS TO QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE



Governor Whitmer is prioritizing the health and well-being of every Michigander by ensuring access to quality, affordable health care and lowering the cost of prescription drugs.

### Lowering the cost of prescription drugs

- Signed a bill [lowering the cost](#) of [prescription drugs](#) and increasing pharmacy oversight.
- Signed a bill protecting Michiganders against [surprise medical billing](#).
- Signed a bill fostering more [competitive health care pricing](#).
- Signed a bipartisan bill [holding drug companies accountable](#) in cases of wrongdoing.
- Established [Prescription Drugs Task Force](#) and is implementing their recommendations to drive down costs, promote transparency, and improve health outcomes.
- Supported Attorney General Nessel's work to [hold drug companies accountable](#) for [skyrocketing insulin prices](#) and called on the legislature to cap insulin costs.
- Signed an [executive directive](#) to determine how the State of Michigan can lower the cost of insulin, including by developing its own manufacturing capabilities.

### Expanding health care access and affordability

- Extended [Healthy Michigan](#) Plan to [over 1 million people](#), and [eliminated red tape](#), lowering costs for working families.
- [Signed](#) bills codifying the Affordable Care Act into state law, protecting care for millions.
- [Signed an executive directive](#) to identify the potential impact that federal cuts to Medicaid would have on Michiganders' health and to protect Medicaid for Michiganders. Led an aggressive campaign against federal Medicaid cuts.
- Enacted a budget protecting Medicaid for the more than 2.6 million Michiganders who use it from federal cuts.
- [Signed](#) an executive directive to help Michiganders afford health insurance after passage of federal budget bill.
- [Signed an executive directive](#) ensuring Michiganders can access vaccines to stay healthy during COVID-19 and flu season.
- [Expanded dental care](#) for Medicaid or Healthy Michigan enrollees, lowering their costs. Expanded access to [telemedicine](#) and required insurers to [cover telehealth](#).
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- [Invested \\$300 million](#) in health care worker training, recruitment, and retention. Signed [loan forgiveness](#) for health professionals working in medically underserved communities. Enacted a [\\$2.20 per hour](#) raise for direct care workers.
- Increased [access to mental health](#) by retaining or recruiting hundreds of mental health workers, expanding crisis stabilization programs, opening the new 100-bed Caro Psychiatric hospital, and [boosted funding for](#) Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics and the Michigan Crisis and Access Line.
- [Signed](#) bills requiring mental health and substance use treatments to receive equal insurance coverage as physical health services.
- [Zeroed out](#) premiums for MI Child, offering comprehensive health care to uninsured children and saving parents money.
- Signed an [executive directive](#) instructing departments to find ways to lower costs and protect coverage for Michiganders at risk of losing coverage for health care.
- Supported Attorney General Nessel's work to [sue major opioid distributors](#) as drug dealers. Won historic [\\$800 million settlement to fight opioid addiction](#).
- [Signed a bill](#) creating a tax credit for individuals who donate an organ.
- [Signed bill](#) addressing paramedic shortage by cutting red tape.
- [Signed bills](#) to raise the minimum age of tobacco sales from 18 to 21.
- Signed bills [expanding access to naloxone](#) for those experiencing an opioid overdose.
- [Signed bills](#) to lower health care costs for orally administered chemotherapy.
- [Signed bills](#) protecting living organ donors from insurance discrimination.
- [Signed bills](#) protecting health care workers while on the job.
- [Made it easier](#) for government agencies to distribute and administer life-saving overdose reversal drugs like naloxone.
- [Secured \\$4.5 million](#) to relieve medical debt and called for larger forgiveness to help the nearly 700,000 Michiganders who have medical debt.
- [Protected](#) preventive health care coverage after a federal court struck the requirement from the ACA.



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### Addressing health inequities

- Established and expanded Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies, an initiative to address disproportionate racial impacts of maternal and infant mortality and ensure moms have the support they need for healthy pregnancies, deliveries, and postpartum care.
- Established the Racial Disparities Task Force, making Michigan a national leader in closing health equity gaps in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Declared racism a public health crisis and required medical professionals to undergo implicit bias training.
- Invested \$20 million to provide new funds to communities that identify innovative approaches to support expectant parents and newborns.
- Signed bills supporting moms and newborns by licensing freestanding birth centers, setting up a doula scholarship program, and continuing support for perinatal quality collaboratives.

### Bolstered programs to support families, lower costs

- Delivered \$37 million in new funding for the Family Independence Program, the first meaningful change to the rate since 1990, helping families who need a hand up during hard times.
- Rushed \$4.5 million to support food banks during historically long federal government shutdown.
- Increased eligibility and funding for the Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP), expanding eligibility for lower utility bills to more than 335,000 households.
- Updated the Michigan Achieving a Better Life Experience (MiABLE) savings program increasing eligibility for 500,000 disabled individuals and their families.
- Eliminated asset test requirements to allow people to receive food aid and other public assistance while they plan for a stable future, lowering their costs on the essentials.
- Signed a budget funding vaccinations, clothing and holiday allowances for children in foster care, and contraceptive coverage.
- Provided free breakfast and lunch to all 1.4 million public school students.
- Removed red tape for benefit programs through proactive referrals, cross-enrollment processes, simplified requirements, and increased online access.
- Signed bills ensuring Michigan children can have a dental checkup before kindergarten.
- Created the Food Security Council to identify opportunities to reduce food insecurity.
- Called for bipartisan legislation to limit the use of phones in classrooms, improving students' academic performance and mental health.