



# 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 a budget](#) increasing reimbursement rates to Medicaid so more can access Medicaid services, expanding access to mental health services at schools, and expanding Plan First!, helping 25,000 Michiganders strengthen reproductive freedom.
- [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 and 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 equal insurance coverage for mental health and substance use treatments on the same level as physical health services.
- [Zeroed out](#) premiums for MI Child, offering comprehensive health care to uninsured children and saving parents money.
- [Issued](#) an all-hands-on-deck executive directive to keep Michiganders insured following the end of Medicaid continuous enrollment.
- 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.
- [Protected](#) preventive health care coverage after a federal court struck the requirement from the ACA.

### 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.

**UPDATED: January 16, 2025**



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### 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.
- 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 and forgiving all school meal debt. [Continued](#) summer meals so every kid eats free.
- Removed red tape for benefit programs through proactive referrals, cross-enrollment processes, simplified requirements, and increased online access.
- Signed [legislation](#) continuing vital energy assistance programs for low-income families.
- [Signed](#) bills ensuring Michigan children can have a dental checkup before kindergarten.
- Created the [Food Security Council](#) to identify opportunities to reduce food insecurity.