



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

- Reduced the rate of increase for the cost of [prescription drugs](#) and increased pharmacy oversight.
- Signed a bill protecting Michiganders against [surprise medical billing](#).
- Signed a bill [requiring an insurer](#) to provide a large employer group customer with specific information about costs of its insurance plan upon request.
- Signed a bipartisan bill [holding drug companies accountable](#) in cases of wrongdoing.
- Worked to drive down costs, promote transparency, and improve health outcomes through initiatives like the [Prescription Drug Task Force](#).
- Supported Attorney General Nessel's work to [hold drug companies accountable](#) for [skyrocketing insulin prices](#) and called on the [legislature to cap insulin costs](#).

Expanding health care access and affordability

- Extended [Healthy Michigan](#) Plan to 700,000 people, 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 [signed an executive directive](#) to help Michiganders navigate their health insurance options after passage of the federal budget bill.
- [Expanded](#) behavioral health services by creating 35 new behavioral health clinics serving over 150,000 people annually.
- Enacted a budget [protecting federal financing for Medicaid](#) and the over 2.6 million Michiganders who rely on it.
- [Expanded dental care](#) through a redesign of the adult dental program that has improved both access and utilization.
- Expanded access to [telemedicine](#) and required insurers to [cover telehealth](#).
- Enacted a comprehensive strategy to support healthcare professions including [\\$300 million](#) for training, recruitment, and retention; [student loan forgiveness](#); and pay raises for direct care workers.
- Improved access to mental healthcare by hiring more workers, expanding crisis programs, opening the new 100-bed Caro Psychiatric hospital, and [increased funding](#) for community clinics and crisis support lines.
- [Signed](#) landmark bills requiring equal insurance coverage for mental health, substance use, and physical health services.
- [Zeroed out](#) premiums for MI Child, offering comprehensive health care to uninsured children and saving parents money.
- [Signed](#) bills to lower health care costs for orally administered chemotherapy.
- [Signed bills](#) protecting living organ donors from insurance discrimination, and [a bill that creates a tax credit](#) for individuals who donate an organ.
- [Signed bills](#) protecting health care workers while on the job.
- [Signed bills](#) to make it easier for occupational and physical therapists and physicians assistants and medical doctors to practice in Michigan.
- Erased over [\\$218 million in medical debt](#), helping [280,000 Michiganders](#).
- [Called on the legislature](#) to ease the burden of medical debt by capping interest rates on medical debt, preventing medical debt from showing up on credit reports, requiring hospitals to set up financial assistance programs, ban liens and foreclosures on homes, and require price transparency.

Protecting Michiganders from Opioid addiction

- [Developed](#) a coordinated approach to reduce overdose deaths, driving down opioid deaths for 4 consecutive years – a 47% decline since 2021.
- Supported Attorney General Nessel's work to [sue major opioid distributors](#) as drug dealers. Won a historic [\\$800 million settlement](#) to [fight opioid addiction](#).
- Signed bills [expanding access to naloxone](#) for those experiencing an opioid overdose.
- [Made it easier](#) for government agencies to distribute and administer life-saving overdose reversal drugs like naloxone.
- [Signed bipartisan bills](#) to help expand access to quality health care, support Michigan's health care providers, strengthen patient safety, and improve the state's response to public health challenges like the opioid crisis.



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Addressing health inequities

- [Established and expanded](#) Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies, an initiative which has helped Michigan achieve its lowest recorded infant mortality rate in state history, 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](#).
- [Launched RxKids](#), a program providing financial support to first-time parents throughout their babies first year of life. Now expanded across Michigan, [in Detroit](#) and [the U.P.](#)
- [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 to increase the payment standard in Family Independence Program, the first meaningful change to the rate since 1990, and expanded supplemental payments to families with young children, helping families who need a hand up during hard times.
- [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. [Proposed](#) expansion of MiABLE in state budget.
- Modernized Medicaid operations, increasing automated renewals from [14% to over 60%](#), reducing administrative costs, error rates, and paperwork, while improving continuity of coverage.
- 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.
- [Provided](#) free breakfast and lunch to all 1.4 million public school students.
- [Signed](#) bills ensuring Michigan children can have a dental checkup before kindergarten.
- Signed [bipartisan legislation](#) to limit the use of phones in classrooms, improving students' academic performance and mental health.
- [Signed a bill](#) to make Michigan Bridge Cards chip-enabled, modernizing assistance and protecting access for those who receive benefits.