



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 equitable, affordable health care. Through the COVID-19 pandemic, her decisive, data-driven early action and focus on vulnerable communities saved thousands of lives. The Governor's steady leadership helped millions of Michiganders get vaccinated and helped Michigan's economy recover quickly. Beyond her leadership through the pandemic, Governor Whitmer has expanded access to telemedicine, signed legislation to protect people against surprise medical billing, and created a task force to tackle the high cost of prescription drugs. Governor Whitmer has led the way on health care by prioritizing access to care, driving down costs, and pursuing equity.

"Every Michigander deserves access to quality, affordable healthcare and no one should have to choose between buying prescription drugs or paying for groceries. The health of our people is inextricably linked to every challenge we face and opportunity we have. It is essential for us to take actions to make care easier to access, lower out of pocket costs, and pursue equity."

- Governor Gretchen Whitmer

Lowering the cost of prescription drugs

- Signed a bill to [lower the cost of prescription drugs](#) and increase pharmacy oversight.
- Signed a bill to protect Michiganders against [surprise medical billing](#).
- Established [Prescription Drugs Task Force](#) and is working to implement 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 pass legislation capping insulin costs.

Expanding healthcare access and affordability

- Extended [Healthy Michigan](#) to [over 1 million people](#) and suspended the Medicaid work requirement that created barriers to coverage. Worked with stakeholders to increase enrollment in both public and private health insurance programs, resulting in [over 1 million more Michiganders](#) with coverage.
- [Expanded dental care](#) for Michiganders covered by Medicaid or Healthy Michigan plans.
- [Invested \\$300 million](#) in health care worker training, recruitment, and retention.
- Increased [access to mental health](#) by retaining or recruiting hundreds of mental health workers, and expanded crisis stabilization programs.
- Secured funding to build a [new state psychiatric hospital](#), expanding inpatient capacity.
- Expanded access to [mental health professionals in schools](#), including 560+ nurses, social workers, and school counselors to support students.
- Expanded access to [telemedicine](#) and signed legislation requiring all insurers to [cover telehealth](#).
- Supported Attorney General Nessel's work to [sue major opioid distributors](#) as drug dealers. Won historic \$800 million settlement and signed [legislation](#) to [fight opioid addiction](#) through prevention, treatment, and an increased focus on education, training, and research.
- Signed a bill to foster more [competitive health care pricing](#) by increasing transparency surrounding costs and coverage.
- Signed bills [investing](#) in [loan forgiveness](#) for health professionals who work in medically underserved communities.

UPDATED: July 29, 2022

- Called on Congress to [lower health care costs](#) for over 270,000 Michiganders by making enhanced Affordable Care Act tax credits permanent.
- [Signed bills](#) to raise the minimum age of tobacco sales from 18 to 21.
- Signed bills to [expand access to life-saving medication](#) for those experiencing an opioid overdose.

Addressing health inequities

- Invested in [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. Expanded this initiative in the [FY 2023 budget](#).
- Signed [multiple budgets](#) to reduce racial health disparities by increasing community navigators to improve access to health care coverage, funding Sickle Cell Disease treatment, [uterine fibroid research](#), and more.
- Required all medical professionals to undergo [unconscious bias training](#) to reduce health care disparities.
- Signed an [executive directive](#) instructing state departments to shore up reproductive health protections in Michigan.
- Filed a lawsuit to [protect abortion access](#) for 2.2 million Michigan women if Roe v. Wade is overturned.
- Called on the legislature to [repeal the state's 1931 law](#) banning abortions, which hasn't been enforced since the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade.
- Joined 16 governors to call on the United States Congress to pass the Women's Health Protection Act, which would [codify access to safe, legal abortion](#) offered by Roe v Wade into federal law.

Bolstered programs to support families

- Invested in programs to help families [put food on the table](#).
- Increased funding for the Family Independence Program to include an additional [\\$600 per child, per year](#).
- Increased funding and launched innovative programs, including programs to expand access to high-speed internet and assist with food, housing, energy, and water costs like the Water Utility Assistance Program and the Online EBT program.
- Modified [asset test requirements](#) to allow people to receive food aid and other public assistance while they plan for a stable future.
- Removed red tape for benefit programs through proactive referrals, cross-enrollment processes, simplified requirements, increased online access, and expanded partnerships to increase access to services.

Tackling COVID-19

- Facilitated free COVID-19 vaccines and free [testing and treatment](#) for all Michiganders.
- Signed legislation to establish a [stockpile of medical supplies](#) so that we are ready and able to act quickly to assist our health care system address future emergencies.
- [Signed a bill](#) to boost lab capacity and speed up the processing of COVID-19 tests.
- Established the [Racial Disparities Task Force](#) and made "[lasting structural change](#)."
- Enacted a [\\$2 per hour raise](#) for direct care workers who support people with disabilities, older Michiganders, and those with chronic care needs.