



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Governor Doyle Announces Over \$11 Million in Funding to Expand Wisconsin's Health Care Workforce**

MADISON – Governor Jim Doyle today announced the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has awarded Wisconsin over \$11 million to expand the state's health care workforce.

"Wisconsin is America's health care leader," Governor Doyle said. "These funds will help strengthen our state's health care workforce and train workers in a industry that is critical to our state's well-being and economy."

The \$320 million in funding announced this week by HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius includes over \$11.2 million funds for the following initiatives in Wisconsin:

- \$3.4 million in Health Profession Opportunity Grants to the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board Inc.; \$1.8 million to Gateway Technical College in Kenosha; and \$2 million to the College of the Menominee Nation in Keshena. These funds will train entry level workers for careers in the health care field such as emergency medical technicians, registered nurses and certified nursing assistants.
- \$3.8 million in Primary Care Residency Expansion funds to the Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation.
- \$150,000 to the University of Wisconsin-Madison to conduct statewide workforce planning initiatives to begin development of a collaborative center for healthcare workforce analysis.

"These funds will result in a stronger health care workforce in communities all across our state," Department of Workforce Development Secretary Roberta Gassman said. "One key area of funding – Health Profession Opportunity Grants – will provide individuals in entry level jobs with training for careers in the growing health care industry. In Wisconsin, Opportunity Grants are already an important piece of Governor Doyle's strong workforce agenda, and this additional funding will expand this program further."

Department of Health Services Secretary Karen Timberlake added, "Strengthening and maintaining our health care workforce is vital to keep pace with the increasing demand for primary health care professionals, and will aid in the success of health care reform as we move forward. To date, Wisconsin has been successful in securing over \$16 million in Affordable Care Act funds to develop the public health and primary care workforce."