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## WHN/UPDATES

### **WHIO looks to state budget for support studying low-value care**

The Wisconsin Health Information Organization is seeking state support for studying low-value care.

The organization, which runs the state's all-payer claims database, has been studying care in Wisconsin that is unsupported by research, doesn't improve patient outcomes and creates unnecessary costs.

It partnered with VBID Health recently on a four-state [study](#) that found Wisconsin has similar low-value care to the other participants. That led to a task force providing more direction on what to do with the data.

This year, the organization has established a committee to create a statewide report, set to be released this summer, to build awareness about low-value care. Support for that report is coming from the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

The group is also seeking funding in the state's budget to build on the work. They'd like to offer individual reports to provider organizations, identify a few low-value-care topics and create some improvement activities around them. The money would allow them to refresh their data too.

"Our hope was that we could expand on the work that we've been doing for the last couple of years to actually begin to work on the improvement side," CEO Dana Richardson said.

Gov. Tony Evers' 2023-25 budget did not include specific funding for the initiative, but Richardson said they're still hoping to see support. They're also looking for additional funding opportunities.

The organization released a [report](#) last month detailing its activities last year, including its [work](#) with the Business Health Care Group and Centivo to help steer patients toward high-value clinicians. They've created reports on the data for provider organizations. Four are using the data, and Richardson is in talks with three other groups.

The organization has also been working with the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, the Medical College of Wisconsin, Marshfield Clinic Research Institute and the Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality on [reports](#) on health disparities. They're planning to release one on behavioral health this summer, Richardson said.