



WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON

**children
& families**

Raising Voices to Make Every Kid Count

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BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan Keeps Wisconsin Moving Forward

The proposed BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan--a new, unsubsidized coverage for childless adults--would allow Wisconsin to continue to chip away at the number of uninsured people in our state, building on the success of the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan. The Core Plan, initiated in July, represented a huge step toward filling the largest hole in the state's health care system by providing insurance to low-income adults who don't have dependent children. As of January 8, the Core Plan was serving more than 63,000 people, but it has a waiting list of more than 18,000.

Because many of the people applying for BadgerCare Plus have no income and are unlikely to be able to afford a monthly premium of \$130, the new BadgerCare Plus Basic coverage will only address the needs of some on the waiting list for the Core Plan. Nevertheless, BadgerCare Plus Basic represents a good-faith effort to serve people on the waiting list and to move toward the Governor's goal of making health insurance accessible for 98 percent of Wisconsin residents.

More substantial progress toward eliminating the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan waiting list will depend on approval of a comprehensive federal health care reform bill. However, the expansion of coverage in that legislation would not take effect until at least 2013.

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