



2025-2026



About the Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians (WAFP)

The **Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians** is a statewide association of Family Medicine doctors established in 1948 to:

1. Promote and maintain high professional and ethical standards in the practice of Family Medicine.
2. Encourage young people to prepare for active careers in Family Medicine.
3. Help provide continuing education to family physicians.

The WAFP - a chapter of the **American Academy of Family Physicians** - represents 3,000 members, making the WAFP the single largest physician specialty group in Wisconsin. In addition, the Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians Foundation supports many of our educational and research programs for medical students, including those that would reduce the shortage of primary care physicians in Wisconsin.

WAFP Mission

The mission of the WAFP is to promote excellence in health care and to improve the health of the people of Wisconsin through the advancement of the art and science of Family Medicine, the specialty of Family Medicine and the professional growth of Family Physicians.

We also strive to increase access to quality health care in Wisconsin through legislative advocacy and work to support fair and meaningful legislation concerning health care issues in our state.

About Family Medicine

Family Medicine is the medical specialty that provides continuing and comprehensive primary health care for individuals and families. Family Medicine integrates the biological, clinical and behavioral sciences, and its scope encompasses all ages, both sexes, each organ system and every disease entity.

Family Medicine includes health promotion, disease prevention, health maintenance, counseling, patient education, diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic illnesses in a variety of health care settings.

Family physicians serve as the entry point for most of a patient's health care needs and more patients are seen by family doctors than any other specialty. Family physicians are advocates for patients in coordinating use of the entire health care system and are responsible for the patient's long-term care.

1. Maintain Physician-led Healthcare Team -

In recent legislative sessions, there have been attempts to expand scopes of practice for mid-level clinicians (e.g., physician assistants, nurse practitioners, etc.) in order to provide more independence for those clinicians. The WAFP continues to oppose attempts to expand the scope of practice of mid-level clinicians at the expense of eroding physician supervision and collaboration requirements as well as patient safety.

2. Medicaid Payment Parity -

Family medicine and primary care are the only areas of health care charged with longitudinal continuity of care for the whole patient. Payment for primary care services should be at least equal to Medicare's payment rate for those services when provided by a primary care physician.

3. Direct Primary Care -

Seek clarity in state statute that direct primary care agreements are not health insurance policies.

4. Family Medicine Training -

Seek to increase state funding for the family medicine residency program in the 2025-2027 budget to ensure that physicians most likely to practice in underserved rural and urban settings in our state are given the opportunity to complete residency training in Wisconsin.

5. Comprehensive Statewide Psychiatry Consultation Program -

Expand the Child Psychiatry Consultation Program, which provides primary care clinicians with free-of-charge pediatric mental health consultations for their child and adolescent patients, to a comprehensive statewide program that assists individuals of all ages in the 2025-2027 budget.

6. Expedite Occupational License Processing -

Provide additional funding to the Department of Safety and Professional Services to hire additional staff to improve the growing backlog of health care and other occupational license applications and renewals.

7. Continued Access to Reproductive Health & Birth Control Options -

WAFP supports continued access to various birth control options, including IUDs and hormonal contraceptives.

8. Student Vaccinations and Personal Conviction Exemption -

The increase in use of the "personal conviction exemption" with respect to vaccinations among K-12 students has led to an overall drop in the percentage of students who meet the minimum immunization requirements. WAFP continues to advocate for increased vaccination rates among Wisconsin's students by removing this statutory exemption, which allows parents to opt children out of receiving vaccinations for any reason, but still maintain "medical exemptions" and "religious exemptions" in state law.

9. Graduate Medical Education Grants -

Ask for the continuation of and additional funds for Graduate Medical Education Grants. These grants are a unique opportunity to partner with hospitals, health systems, and medical schools because public funds are matched dollar-for-dollar by those entities.

10. Extend Medicaid Postpartum Eligibility -

Extend Medicaid coverage for postpartum women for a total of 12 months.

