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Gov. Evers' improvements to bill ensure flexibility for crisis response funding to be used for any hospital services, including urgent care, OB-GYN, and mental health services after recent hospital closure.

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers approved Wednesday Senate Bill (SB) 1015, now 2023 Wisconsin Act 97, securing \$15 million in crisis response resources to support healthcare access in Western Wisconsin in the wake of the recent announcement of HSHS and Prevea Health's [decision to close](#) several locations. In addition to severely impacting healthcare access in the area, according to the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD), the closures have been estimated to impact approximately 1,400 workers, among others, in the surrounding region.

Gov. Evers approved Act 97 with improvements through line-item vetoes that will provide additional flexibility for the \$15 million crisis response investment, enabling the resources to be used to fund any hospital services meeting the area's pressing healthcare needs, including urgent care services, OB-GYN services, inpatient psychiatry services, and mental health substance use services, among others. Without the governor's vetoes, these services would not have been eligible under SB 1015. Gov. Evers first made the announcement today in Madison while speaking with community leaders from the Chippewa Valley region at the Chippewa Valley Rally, an annual event organized by the Chippewa Valley Chamber Alliance, which represents the Chippewa Falls, Menomonie, and Eau Claire Chambers of Commerce.

\$15 Million in Crisis Response Resources Approved to Support Healthcare Access in Western Wisconsin

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