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Bloomberg Philanthropies expands initiative to five new states, commits additional \$120 million to reduce overdose deaths in U.S.

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers announced Wednesday that Wisconsin will be joining the Bloomberg Opioids Overdose Prevention Initiative. Launched in 2018 in Michigan and Pennsylvania, today's announcement is an expansion of the Initiative to Wisconsin and four other states, including Kentucky, New Jersey, New Mexico, and North Carolina. The expansion is joined by a \$120 million investment by Bloomberg Philanthropies with a \$10 million investment going directly to Wisconsin's efforts to combat the opioid epidemic over the next five years.

The Initiative is a partnership with the CDC Foundation, Global Health Advocacy Incubator, Johns Hopkins University, The Pew Charitable Trusts, and Vital Strategies, and will draw upon learnings from Michigan and Pennsylvania to communicate best practices and create models that can be replicated across the country with a focus on medication access, equity, and local community engagement. The partnership will help scale existing efforts in the state, implement new programs, and advocate for federal policies to expand treatment access and harm reduction with a goal of accelerating progress in reducing overdose deaths. The state work will include funding for technical assistance, direct services, and embedded staff at government agencies and other organizations to support state and locally-led interventions.

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-lean Seroel