



Department of  
Safety and Professional Services

**Tony Evers, Governor**  
**Dan Hereth, Secretary**

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**PRESS RELEASE—Contact DSPS Newsroom at [dspnewsroom@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dspnewsroom@wisconsin.gov)**

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**DSPS Communications**  
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## **DSPS Issued Near-Record Number of Initial Licenses in June**

*Agency approved nearly 6,800 new license applications last month*

**Madison, Wis.** – The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) is celebrating a near-record month for new licenses issued while also looking for ways to mitigate the impact of deep staffing cuts imposed by the Legislature, which declined to approve necessary resources in the state budget that would enable the department to continue processing license applications at the fastest rate in state history. The cuts will dramatically slow the agency’s current licensing pace, reversing historic progress at the agency.

“The June licensing numbers further prove what we’ve been saying for two years: that we are licensing more people, more quickly than at any point in Wisconsin history,” said DSPS Secretary Dan Hereth. “It’s unfortunate that members in the legislature voted against continuing efficiency like this. We know their vote on our budget will increase licensing timelines, but we will pursue every opportunity to minimize the negative impact.”

The DSPS Division of Professional Credential Processing (DPCP) issued 6,775 new licenses in the month of June, making it one of the top three most productive months in the history of the agency, all coming since 2023.

The numbers from June continue a string of licensing success at DSPS since Governor Tony Evers appointed Hereth to lead the department and allocated temporary resources to boost agency staffing:

- **114,000 new licenses** issued in 2023-24
- **35% more new licenses** issued than any previous two-year period
- Regularly averaging **2-5 calendar days** to review new application submissions
- Added efficiency in 2023 alone equating to **\$54 million in added wages** for Wisconsin workers

“Governor Evers allocating funds to help us bolster our staffing allowed us to reach even greater efficiency in licensing, putting licensed professionals into the workforce faster than ever so they can earn more money for their families more quickly. With the governor’s support, we were able to make a lot of progress over the past three years improving our processes, moving to an online licensing platform, and looking for efficiencies. Now, all of that progress will be jeopardized because the Legislature didn’t approve the resources we need to maintain our efficient pace,” Hereth explained.

In his budget request this year, Gov. Evers asked for nine full-time licensing positions at DSPS and 14 full-time positions in the agency’s call center, to permanently replace a portion of the staff being lost when temporary funding expired. The legislature’s Joint Committee on Finance voted to ignore the Governor’s request and instead renewed just five of 22 positions being lost in the call center and none of the positions lost on license review teams, meaning professionals in Wisconsin who have unique and complex questions about their license applications will wait longer for assistance and longer to get a license.

#### **Call Center staffing**

Before July 1, 2025 – 28 positions

July 1, 2025 – 12 (57% decrease)

Oct. 1, 2025 – 11 (61% decrease)

#### **Licensing team staffing (excluding legal staff who support credentialing)**

Before July 1, 2025 – 47 positions

July 1, 2025 – 38 (19% decrease)

Oct. 1, 2027 – 32 (32% decrease)

“Remember that DSPS is a self-funded agency. We are funded by things like the licensing fees and plan review fees Wisconsin professionals pay for our services, not by general purpose tax revenue,” Hereth said. “The Governor’s ask was to spend the fee dollars DSPS collects from professionals to better serve those same professionals.”

Hereth says, with the temporary jobs expiring, wait times are already trending up for people reaching out to the DSPS call center. He notes the department is exploring shifting staff resources from other divisions to licensing as a way to limit the impact of position losses but acknowledges this will slow the agency’s work in other areas.

#### **About DSPS**

DSPS issues more than 240 unique licenses, administers dozens of boards and councils that regulate professions, enforces state building codes, runs the state fire prevention program, and maintains the award-winning Wisconsin Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, which is a key tool in the multi-faceted public health campaign to stem excessive opioid prescribing. A fee-based agency, DSPS is self-sustaining and receives no general fund tax dollars for its day-to-day operations. With five offices and 250 employees throughout Wisconsin, DSPS collaborates with constituents and stakeholders across a wide range of industries to promote safety and advance the economy.

