



Department of
Safety and Professional Services

Tony Evers, Governor
Dan Hereth, Secretary

PRESS RELEASE—Contact DSPS Newsroom at dspnewsroom@wisconsin.gov

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Wisconsin DSPS Celebrates Another Banner Licensing Year

State agency maintains efficient pace despite staffing losses

Madison, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) continues a three-year run of issuing more licenses, more quickly than at any point in the agency’s history, boasting a 39% increase in new licenses issued the last three calendar years (2023-25) compared with the previous three (2020-22).

With one day left in 2025, DSPS licensing staff had approved nearly 55,000 new professional credentials (non-renewals) this year, roughly a thousand more than the nearly 54,000 issued in 2024 and trailing only the 60,000+ issued in 2023.

“I’m incredibly proud of the work done by our licensing staff and across all other aspects of our agency,” said DSPS Secretary Dan Hereth. “Our licensing teams suffered major staff losses in the middle of this year when the legislature didn’t allow us to spend our fee-generated revenue to replace temporary staff we lost. Despite that, we’ve maintained an efficient pace to help licensed professionals quickly get to work across Wisconsin.”

The agency’s higher licensing totals coincide with a shift to a modern, online licensing platform, as well as a host of process improvements implemented since Governor Tony Evers appointed Hereth to lead the agency in August 2022. The agency also benefitted from Gov. Evers allocating temporary funding that DSPS used to bolster licensing staff; funding that expired at the end of June. Thus far, the legislature has failed to approve two proposals that would have helped address DSPS staffing losses.

DSPS also made history in 2025, when Wisconsin became the first state to [offer a digital license option](#) to all licensed professionals, who can now download their license to the digital wallet on their cell phone or tablet. The project [won the LaFollette-Gladfelter Award](#) for Innovation in State Government at the 2025 Wisconsin Policy Forum Awards.

“In addition to the convenience, the digital license is a safety tool,” Hereth explained. “Professionals can more easily provide proof of licensure to customers, and the digital license includes a QR code that links to information about the professional, including if they have any limits on their license.”

Nearly 30,000 digital licenses have been downloaded since the option became available.

Other notable 2025 DSPS accomplishments include:

- **Improving workforce surveys** - In 2025, DSPS began [using the Cross-Profession Minimum Data Set](#) (CPMDS) in its optional workforce surveys. The CPMDS is a set of core questions for collecting data elements considered to be the minimum necessary for health workforce planning. The CPMDS can help identify workforce shortage areas, forecast future employment demand, justify funding requests, and eventually show the impact of policy decisions.
- **Expanding data reporting** – DSPS added to its performance data dashboards a [chart tracking call volume and hold times](#). The chart tracks average wait time in minutes and includes a corresponding trend line showing how many thousands of calls are received each week. DSPS launched its data dashboards in 2023 to share information useful to license holders and meet the Evers Administration’s commitment to transparency.
- **Adding workforce pathways** – In 2025, DSPS began offering a new [provisional physician license](#) option to graduates trained outside the United States. Wisconsin became one of the first states to offer this alternative pathway when Gov. Evers signed 2023 Wisconsin Act 214. DSPS and the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board (MEB) spent months developing rules that define requirements for the license, provide clarity, and ensure patient safety.

DSPS worked to meet its safety mission in multiple ways throughout 2025. One notable example was the Interdisciplinary Advisory Committee (IAC) [unanimously adopting comprehensive guidance](#) on the practice of IV hydration therapy. The Committee’s aim was to address and increase in intravenous (IV) hydration therapy business and more frequent questions from license holders and the public regarding IV hydration businesses.

DSPS formed the IAC, which includes members from the state’s Medical Examining Board, Board of Nursing, Pharmacy Examining Board, Physician Assistant Affiliated Board, Cosmetology Examining Board, and Controlled Substances Board. The Committee’s guidance for IV businesses/clinics does not include any new laws or rules but clarifies how existing laws and rules apply to this emerging practice.

“As Wisconsin’s safety agency, we thought it was important to try and identify any gaps in regulation of these new businesses and offer guidance on how best to address them,” explained Hereth. “I commend the members of the IAC for their work to provide clarity that will protect Wisconsinites.”

In 2025, DSPS also:

- **Implemented Wisconsin’s first Commercial Building Code (CBC) since 2018** - The safety code update, which had been indefinitely stalled in the legislature since 2023, moved forward after the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled the legislature’s indefinite objection was unconstitutional. DSPS hosted multiple webinars to go over the code updates and help impacted professionals get ready for the change. The Department provided the industry with more than twice as much time to prepare as they received during the previous Commercial Building Codes update.
- **Earned recognition as a Wellbeing First Champion** – DSPS and the state Medical Examining Board (MEB) were [recognized as a Wellbeing First Champion](#) in recognition that the MEB’s license applications are free from overly broad and invasive questions about provider mental health. The designation means health workers in Wisconsin can seek needed care without fear of losing their license or job.

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.