



DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Wisconsin State Agency 101

A SERIES PREPARED BY



INSTITUTE FOR REFORMING GOVERNMENT

SEPTEMBER 2022



STATE AGENCY FAST FACTS

\$120+ MILLION BUDGET

AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) oversees the regulation of credential holders, professional and industry standards, and safe construction of public and private buildings. It covers a multitude of industries, everything from licensing **healthcare professionals** to inspecting **carnival rides**.

DSPS licenses and regulates more than **200 different types** of credentials and provides administrative services to nearly **100 boards**, councils and advisory committees.

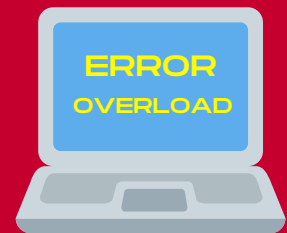
DSPS' 2021-23 budget is set at over **\$120 million** and has a total of **242 employees**.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that DSPS is also home to Wisconsin's Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (ePDMP), a tool to help **combat the ongoing prescription drug abuse epidemic** in Wisconsin. By providing valuable information about monitored prescription drugs that are dispensed in the state, it aids healthcare professionals in their prescribing and dispensing decisions. The program also helps pharmacies, healthcare professionals, law enforcement agencies, and public health officials to work together to reduce the misuse, abuse and diversion of monitored prescription drugs.

TAXPAYER ALERT!

Lingering effects of Governor Evers' COVID-19 policies, a newly launched electronic filing system, and agency mismanagement created a **licensure backlog**. DSPS employees have not been able to catch up on the mounting backlog of filed forms - leaving some Wisconsinites **waiting months, and some over a year**, for their credentials.



#DYK DSPS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR REGULATING INDUSTRIES OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES. EVERYTHING FROM CONSTRUCTION, TO CARNIVAL RIDES, AND EVEN HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS!

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REFORM HISTORY

Under Governor Walker's administration, DSPS conducted a comprehensive study on occupational licenses regulated in Wisconsin. The report included **recommendations for the elimination** and reform of 28 unnecessary occupational licenses.

KEEP AN EYE ON...

As DSPS continues its slow transition from paper records to an electronic filing system, keep an eye on the agency's ability – or inability – to properly review and efficiently approve the licensure applications so many Wisconsinites rely on. The current backlog has and continues to contribute to a **staffing crisis** in the state's healthcare system.



CLOSE CALL...

In the last budget, Governor Evers proposed recreating the Construction Contractor Registration program to **require contractors to be registered** before performing services for customers. This would have resulted in more red tape for hardworking men and women in the trades and potentially higher costs for their customers.

DSPS LEADERSHIP



Dan Hereth
DSPS Secretary



Donna Moreland
DSPS Deputy Secretary

Dan Hereth was appointed Secretary in August 2022 by Governor Evers. He previously served as the Department's Assistant Deputy Secretary since January 2019.

Donna V. Moreland was appointed Deputy Secretary in October 2020. Prior to joining state service, she worked in law firm administration for more than 15 years at several firms.

IRG WANTS TO KNOW...

WHAT WOULD YOU DO??

If you were in charge for a day, what reforms would you make to the Department? Email Alex Ignatowski, IRG's Director of State Budget and Government Reform, at ai@reforminggovernment.org.

ABOUT IRG



INSTITUTE FOR
REFORMING GOVERNMENT

The Institute for Reforming Government (IRG) is a 501 (c) 3 and Wisconsin-based think tank established to help remove the onerous barriers and red tape separating the individual from an efficient and functioning government.

Find out more about IRG and view additional state agency briefing materials by visiting ReformingGovernment.org