



Ballroom Bailout: What \$1 Billion Could Do for Wisconsin

President Donald Trump is building a luxury ballroom, and despite saying it would be funded by private donors, Republicans this week unveiled a bill to use \$1 billion in taxpayer money for this glitzy ballroom. While Trump tries to use \$1 billion in taxpayer money for his own pet projects, here's how that funding could be used to meet the needs of Wisconsin working families instead:

Childcare for 66,000 Kids: The annual cost of childcare for a 4-year-old in Wisconsin is [\\$15,039 on average](#), more than in-state tuition at UW-Madison. \$1 billion could pay for a full year of childcare for over 66,000 Wisconsin children.

Save 275,000 Wisconsinites \$3,500 on Health Care Costs: Before Donald Trump and Republicans terminated enhanced premium tax credits, 275,000 Wisconsinites on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) saved an average of [\\$585 per month](#). \$1 billion could fund just over 6 months of enhanced ACA tax credits at this level in Wisconsin – saving 275,000 Wisconsinites on average \$3,510 in total.

Save Medicaid for 63,000 Wisconsinites: Republicans' One Big Beautiful Bill took nearly \$1 trillion out of the Medicaid program. In 2022, Wisconsin's median Medicaid enrollee spent [\\$7,311](#), meaning \$1 billion could pay for Medicaid coverage at that rate for over two years for the [63,000 adults](#) who are at high risk of losing care because of Republicans' new law.

Cover 650,000 Wisconsinites Annual Grocery Bill: Wisconsinites spend [\\$1,531.40 annually](#), or about \$126 monthly, to buy common grocery items. \$1 billion would pick up the annual grocery bill for nearly 653,000 Wisconsinites.

Restore SNAP for Wisconsinites Who Had Benefits Cut: As of [April 2026](#), just over 650,000 Wisconsinites received SNAP benefits, down [nearly 50,000 Wisconsinites](#) since Donald Trump and Republicans made the largest cut to SNAP in history last summer. With the average monthly benefits at [\\$303 per household](#) as of April 2026 in Wisconsin, \$1 billion could fund 275,000 households' SNAP benefits for a year.

Replace Wisconsin's Lead Service Lines: [\\$1 billion](#) could replace every single remaining lead service line in the state of Wisconsin.

Foot the Bill on Broadband: \$1 billion is the [total amount](#) Wisconsin needs, and was awarded by the federal government under the Baldwin-backed Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, to provide high-speed internet across the state.