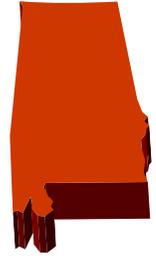


Medicaid Matters

New General Fund budget provides \$398 million for Medicaid

Signed April 11 by Gov. Bob Riley, Alabama's General Fund budget will provide \$398 million in state funding for the Alabama Medicaid program during the 2007 fiscal year. The funds are part of the \$1.65 billion state General Fund budget approved almost unanimously by both the Alabama House and Senate during their last full week of meetings. The budgeted funds will provide the state's share of the agency's total budget of \$3.9 billion for FY 2007.



The state Legislature's final meeting day for the 2006 regular session is April 17.

Uncompensated Care Plan approved by federal government

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved the Alabama Medicaid Agency's plan to reimburse state Medicaid providers who furnished services, medications, supplies or equipment to hurricane evacuees not covered by insurance or other programs at the time of service. Gov. Bob Riley announced the plan's approval on March 28, noting that the plan will provide a maximum of \$5 million to help reimburse Alabama providers for medically necessary services not otherwise covered by other programs.

Providers have until June 30, 2006 to submit requests for reimbursement for service provided to eligible individuals from August 24, 2005, to January 31, 2006.

[Click here for provider forms and instructions](#) now available on the Agency's website.

Plan First program cited as major reason for national ranking

Alabama's Plan First program, which extends Medicaid eligibility for family planning services to women who would not qualify for Medicaid unless pregnant, was one of the major reasons the state was ranked fourth nationally for its overall effectiveness by the Guttmacher Institute, a non-profit research organization which studies reproductive health issues. The yearlong study compared all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The top three states were California, Alaska and South Carolina, respectively.



The Plan First program, jointly operated by Medicaid and the Alabama Department of Public Health, had 94,807 women ages 19-44 enrolled in the program as of February 2006.

[Click here](#) for more information on Alabama's Plan First program.



- Inside:

 - ◆ "Town Hall" Meetings for Providers Planned for May 9-June 1, 2006
 - ◆ Ruby Garner Lee Selected as "Extra Mile" Award Winner
 - ◆ Helpful Resources and Links on Medicaid's Website



Provider “Town Hall” Meetings Planned May 9-June 1

Alabama health care professionals and provider support personnel are invited to join Medicaid Commissioner Carol A. Herrmann-Steckel and senior Medicaid staff members for one of 22 Town Hall meetings, to be held in ten Alabama cities between May 9 and June 1, 2006.

Each two-hour session is designed to update Medicaid providers and/or their employees on the Alabama Medicaid program, including presentations on Medicaid’s Patient 1st and Pharmacy programs, and a preview of Medicaid’s updated billing and information system. There is no charge to attend any of the sessions.

For more information or to register, visit the [Town Hall Meeting page](#) on the Agency’s website or call the Alabama Medicaid Agency’s Outreach and Education Unit at (334) 353-5203.

Ruby Garner Lee selected as Medicaid “Extra Mile” Award winner

Even though she holds a degree designed for the classroom, Ruby Garner Lee chose a different career path for one reason: she wanted to be a social worker. Mrs. Lee’s personal approach and sense of duty to those in need has singled her out as the Alabama Medicaid Agency’s newest “Extra Mile” Award winner.



Ruby Garner Lee, left, with Medicaid Commissioner Carol Herrmann-Steckel

When volunteers were needed to help Hurricane Katrina victims last September, Mrs. Lee was one of the first to volunteer to take applications and coordinate the workflow at the disaster relief center set up at Birmingham’s Boutwell Auditorium, according to Annie Smith, Central Regional Coordinator for Medicaid’s Family Certification Division, who nominated Mrs. Lee for the award.

“Mrs. Lee went the extra mile for the Agency in helping people who had lost everything and had nowhere else to go,” she said.

The “Extra Mile” Award is given quarterly to an outstanding Medicaid employee who has gone beyond his/her assigned job duties. Nominated by a supervisor or co-worker, the recipient is chosen through a selection committee of Agency employees.

[Click here to read the full story](#) on this quarter’s “Extra Mile” award winner.

Click below for helpful resources and links on Medicaid’s website:

[Annual Reports](#)
[Applying for Medicaid](#)
[Billing Information](#)
[Contact Information](#)

[Patient 1st Program](#)
[News](#)
[Medicare Part D](#)
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Provider Assistance (EDS) 1-800-688-7989
Website: www.medicaid.state.al.us

