

Medicaid Matters

\$1.1 billion in state spending = \$8.9 billion in economic benefit

For more than 40 years, Alabama Medicaid has been a medical safety net for millions of Alabama citizens. The results of a new study by the Auburn Montgomery Center for Government now confirm another important role: Economic engine for the Alabama economy.



“Most people tend to think of Medicaid in terms of being a drain on the economy,” said Medicaid Commissioner R. Bob Mullins, Jr., MD. “What we have learned from this study is that Medicaid dollars drive a significant portion of the state’s economy by providing jobs and tax dollars that multiply several times over.”

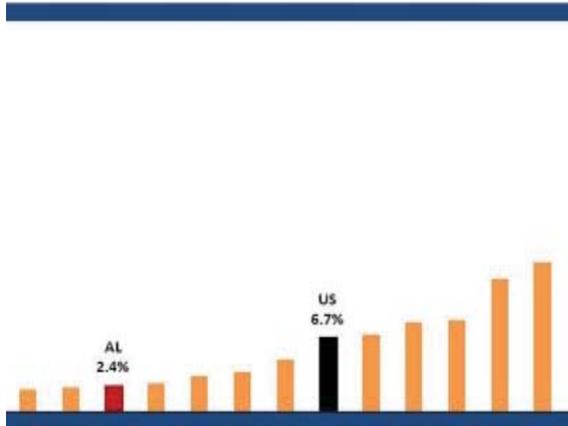
The study looked at payments to healthcare providers in the 2010 year to assess the impact of Medicaid dollars on jobs, taxes and overall monetary impact. In 2010, the Agency was responsible for nearly \$9 billion in total monetary impact and approximately 147,000 jobs created or supported and \$592 million in taxes generated. Non-federal healthcare employment represents approximately 9 percent of the state’s workforce, according to the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations. [Read more >>](#)

Agency fraud and abuse prevention efforts result in low error rate

A federal program which audits payment and eligibility accuracy has ranked the Alabama Medicaid Agency among the nation’s best, according to a report issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The federal report noted that the state’s Medicaid Error Rate was 2.4 percent, significantly below the national error rate of 6.7 percent. The Agency’s previous rate of 3.68 percent in 2007 was also substantially below the national average of 10.6 percent.

State Error Rate Relative to Other States and the National Error Rate



“We take our responsibility to the taxpayers seriously,” said Medicaid Commissioner R. Bob Mullins, Jr., M.D., noting that the Agency’s Program Integrity Division is known for its aggressive efforts to thwart fraud and abuse. The division is responsible for directing Agency efforts to identify, prevent and prosecute fraud, abuse and/or misuse in the Medicaid program. This includes verifying that medical services are appropriate and rendered as billed, that services are provided by qualified providers to eligible recipients, that payments for those services are correct and that all funds identified for collection are pursued.

The rate was based on a sample of approximately 540 fee-for-service and 280 managed care claim records from the 2010 Fiscal Year selected by the federal government to review. [Read more >>](#)



- New “My Medicaid” Web site to benefit recipients, applicants
- APEC underway to improve obstetric patient care, patient safety

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New “My Medicaid” Web site to benefit recipients, applicants

With the Feb. 6 launch of a new user-friendly Web site for Alabama Medicaid applicants and recipients, state Medicaid officials hope to better meet the needs of its customers while saving money for the Agency.

Known as “My Medicaid,” the website is now available to expedite the process of requesting a replacement ID card, checking benefit limits, changing Patient 1st primary care doctors and updating address or other personal information, according to Lee Rawlinson, Deputy Commissioner, Beneficiary Services. The site, which also allows applicants to track the status of a pending application, is available on the Agency’s website at www.medicaid.alabama.gov under “Recipients” and may be accessed from any computer.



The launch of “My Medicaid” website for applicants and recipients is an important milestone in the Agency’s strategic plan to reduce costs and increase efficiency through innovation and technology, she said. [Read more >>](#)

APEC underway to improve obstetric patient care, patient safety

A statewide initiative to improve obstetric patient safety and quality care is now underway following a series of Maternity “Town Hall” meetings in four cities to involve obstetric care providers in discussions on how to improve the care provided to Alabama Medicaid recipients.

Maternal fetal specialist William Andrews, Ph.D, M.D., of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, led the first session on Jan. 12 in Montgomery to launch the Alabama Perinatal Excellence Collaborative (APEC). Four more sessions and a webinar are planned for March.

“This program represents a partnership that is built upon the existing, successful Alabama Medicaid Maternity Care Program,” he said at the inaugural meeting. “While facilitated through Alabama Medicaid, the program will be developed and rolled out through the joint efforts of the academic medical centers in the state with the oversight of the program provided by the Obstetrics and Gynecology departments at UAB and the University of South Alabama.” [Read more >>](#)



(From left): Nancy Headley, director, Medicaid Managed Care Division, Dr. David Lewis, chairman, Obstetrics and Gynecology, USA, Dr. Susan Baker, chief, Maternal/Fetal Medicine, USA, and Dr. William Andrews, chairman, Obstetrics and Gynecology, UAB.

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