



HUMAN SERVICES & WELFARE COMMITTEE INFORMATION ALERT

Recovery Act FMAP Increase for Title IV-E Programs Released; HHS Announces Office of Recovery Coordination

March 20, 2009

On March 16, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced the release of \$187 million authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to support adoption assistance and foster care programs in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. This money comes in form of a 6.2% increase in the FMAP rate for Title IV E. for foster care, adoption assistance, and guardianship assistance care for eligible children. The FMAP increase is effective October 1, 2008 through December 31, 2010.

HHS is issuing these initial grants to increase the first and second quarter awards to eligible states for FY 2009. The new FMAP rates will also be applied to subsequent quarterly awards through the first quarter of FY 2011.

This enhanced match rate does not apply to administrative costs to manage the program, to train staff and foster parents, to recruit foster parents, and other related expenses. Another important criteria is that enhanced matching funds are contingent upon a state meeting all ARRA requirements for enhanced FMAP in the Medicaid program/ To learn more and to find your state's amount of the \$187 million released, go to: <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/programs/acf/adoption-foster.html>

HHS also announced the creation of the Office of Recovery Act Coordination. The Office will help ensure distribution of an estimated \$137 billion in Recovery Act Funds managed by the Department of Health and Human Services. Dennis Williams will lead the new office and serve as HHS' Deputy Assistant Secretary for Recovery Act Coordination. Mr. Williams has served in the department for more than 20 years in offices including the Health Resources Services Administration and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Management and Budget.

Contact Sheri Steisel (sheri.steisel@ncsl.org) or Lee Posey (lee.posey@ncsl.org) for more information, or call NCSL's Washington, D.C. office at (202) 624-5400.