



All About Florida

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Protect Local Tax Dollars - Oppose Increasing County Contributions for Medicaid Services

Policy Objective:

Ensure that the county share for Medicaid inpatient hospital days is not increased, resulting in a cost shift to counties.

Key Points:

Florida's counties are required to pay a portion of the State's share for certain Medicaid services. The Revenue Estimating Conference is reviewing a proposal that would change the number of inpatient hospital days counties are currently mandated to pay and remove a requirement that the state work in consultation with counties to determine a Medicaid recipient's county of residency.

- In the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year, counties paid over \$200 million for Medicaid services. Of that, more than \$107.5 million was for inpatient hospital stays.
- Counties already pay a fair share, contributing to many health care programs and services:
 - Medicaid nursing home services and HMO costs
 - The Low Income Pool Program
 - The Health Care Responsibility Act
 - County Health Departments
 - Federally Qualified Health Centers and,
 - Local indigent health care programs
- Tough times necessitate tough decisions. Florida's cities and counties have **already slashed \$3 billion from local budgets.**
- Removing the requirement for the State to work with counties in determining residency is unfair to local taxpayers. Counties have a fiduciary responsibility to their residents to ensure that any services they pay for with ad valorem tax dollars are for services provided to the county's residents.
 - Currently, when a county is billed incorrectly, that county can work directly with the Agency for Health Care Administration to correct the mistake. This proposal would require the State to work from a database that has historically been fraught with errors and will result in counties paying for Medicaid recipients who are not their residents.

