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Ohio receives over \$350 million in Federal stimulus fund for Medicaid costs

Ohio has received more than \$350 million in federal stimulus funds intended to provide relief to the Medicaid program since March 3, according to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. The funds reflect an increase in the share of Medicaid costs the federal government will pay.

“This assistance could not come at a better time,” said John Corlett, ODJFS Assistant Director and Ohio Medicaid Director. “In 2008, the effects of the economy added about 100,000 consumers to our caseload, but the stimulus funds allow us to continue to provide our most vulnerable citizens with vital health care coverage and services that we otherwise would have had to make tough decisions about.”

Traditionally, the US Department of Health and Human Services picked up the tab for 62 percent of Ohio’s Medicaid costs. Under the new formula, Ohio can draw down 70.25 percent of the cost in Federal fiscal year 2009 (10/1/08-9/30/09.)

Medicaid also is a major component in Ohio’s economy. In addition to providing health care coverage for 2.2 million Ohioans, Medicaid stimulates growth in the health care sector contracting with more than 60,000 health care providers each year.