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**Economic Stimulus for Massachusetts should be used for individuals and families served at Department of Mental Retardation/Developmental Services and other disability services**

Massachusetts will receive almost \$7 Billion in economic stimulus funding for a variety of programs ranging from infrastructure/science projects to programs that address vulnerable populations. Highway and transit funds alone total \$756 million. Additional Special Education Part B funds total \$287 million while the Mass. Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) will receive \$7.9 million in vocational rehabilitation funds. The new monies can easily address recent cuts in both agencies.

\$3.09 Billion of the \$7 Billion reflects increased federal Medicaid matching funds (FMAP). Massachusetts is entitled to receive 50 cents for each dollar it spends on all services that are on the Medicaid state plan or provided through a federal Medicaid waiver. Prior to the stimulus, the Department of Mental Retardation (soon-to be Dept. of Developmental Services) was projected to obtain \$446 Million in federal Medicaid revenue for FY'2009. The chart below shows the increased FMAP coming to the state for all Medicaid reimbursable services compared to the Governor's estimate reflected in the House 1 budget filed with the legislature.

Fiscal Years	Governor's Estimate	Actual Increase in Federal Medicaid	Difference Left to Spend
2009	\$533,000,000	\$920,000,000	\$387,000,000
2010	\$711,000,000	\$1,460,000,000	\$565,000,000
2011		\$720,000,000	\$720,000,000

As the chart reflects, the Legislature has additional funds for FY'09 and FY'10 to allocate. Nearly \$600 Million in additional Medicaid revenue has not been allocated for FY2010. There is also \$387 Million for 2009.

The DMR/DDS and MRC budget cuts are onerous. 11,000 children and adults are potentially affected by one of the reductions (\$45 Million in Respite/Family Support, Day/Employment and Transportation Services, 5911-2000). Others have been, and will be, affected by cuts to the Autism Division (5920-3010), DESE-DMR(5948-0012 & 7010-0041) Program, MRC's Extended Employment Program(4120-3000), and the Salary Reserve(1599-6901). Over 1,000 Massachusetts jobs will be lost in Respite/Family Support and day services alone. Untold jobs will be lost by parents who have to leave the workforce to take care of their loved ones.

These cuts could be reinstated with Federal Medicaid dollars, some of which are made possible due to reimbursement of DMR/DDS and other disability services provided by the Commonwealth.

**Key Links**

- <http://www.cbpp.org/2-13-09sfp.pdf> Center on Budget & Policy Priorities: "Much needed Medicaid Assistance to States"
- <http://dpc.senate.gov/docs/fs-111-1-24-states/ma.pdf> Democratic Policy Committee: "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Massachusetts Impact Summary"
- National updates on disability provisions: <http://www.thearc.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=209>
- Updates state/national: [www.arcmass.org](http://www.arcmass.org)