

Health care in the Governor's FY 2013 Proposed Budget Adjustments

The Governor has proposed relatively small adjustments to health care accounts for the second year of the current biennial budget, with one exception.

- *Major revision:* Reduce eligibility for Low Income Adults (LIA) coverage program (formerly SAGA)

Enrollment in the LIA/SAGA program grew significantly beginning in 2010 when the program was merged with Medicaid, providing the state and many providers a large increase in federal funding. Enrollment growth has been blamed on the economy, removing the \$1,000 asset limit (applicants could not have more than \$1,000 in assets to qualify), and considering only the individual's income in eligibility. The Governor is proposing to re-impose an asset limit of \$25,000 and to count family income in eligibility determinations for applicants under age 26 living with a parent or claimed as a dependent for taxes. He has also proposed unspecified limits on medical services.

Savings \$22.5 million

Other proposed adjustments include:

- Change how medications are administered including allowing home health aides and personal care assistants to administer medications – *saves \$28.6 million*
- Expand childhood vaccination program to cover 3 new vaccines – *cost \$11.7 million*
- 1% cost of living increase for private health and human service providers – first increase in five years -- *cost \$8.5 million*
- Expand funding for Money Follows the Person to support community long term care services – *cost \$4.0 million*
- Delay (again) implementation of HIV/AIDS waiver – *saves \$1.7 million*
- Cut 10% from HUSKY outreach, Healthy Start, Safety Net Services, and Alzheimer's Respite Services – *saves \$600,000*
- Reorganize HUSKY reporting – *saves \$43,000*
- Eliminate fetal and infant mortality reviews – *saves \$300,000*
- Reduce DSH funding to hospitals to reflect increased LIA enrollment and reduced uninsured and underinsured cases
- Combine UConn Health Center with UConn
- Allow the Office of Health Care Advocate to appeal insurance denials of care for DCF children
- Create seven more regulatory positions at the CT Insurance Dept. to enhance and expedite insurance company reviews

For the full Governor's Proposed Budget Revisions, go to

<http://www.ct.gov/opm/cwp/view.asp?a=2958&Q=498758&PM=1>