

2009 Legislative budget proposals on health

Revenue:

Increases the cigarette tax by 50 cents per pack to \$2.50 each

DSS budget:

The Appropriations Committee restored most of the Governor's proposed cuts to health care programs. They also added funding for some new health proposals.

Item	Governor's proposal	Appropriations proposal
Copays on services for Medicaid clients	Impose new copays on many services	Rejects imposition of Medicaid copays
Premiums for HUSKY adults	Impose monthly premiums on HUSKY parents	Reject HUSKY parent premiums, not allowed under federal stimulus law
HUSKY Part B premiums for children	Increase premiums to \$100/month for some families	Reject HUSKY Part B premium increases
Dental care for Medicaid, SAGA adults	Eliminate most dental care for Medicaid, SAGA adults	Reject cuts to dental care, but imposes utilization review for partial savings
HUSKY coverage of legal immigrants	Eliminate coverage of all non-citizens	Reject cut, SCHIIP reauthorization provides federal funding match for these families
Self-declaration of income in HUSKY applications	Eliminate application streamlining	Restore self-declaration, change not allowed under federal stimulus law
Clinic funding for pregnant undocumented immigrants	Eliminate funding	Reject cut, restore funding for prenatal care
Medical interpretation services	Eliminate funding	Reject cut, restore funding for medical interpreters
HIV/AIDS Medicaid waiver for home & community based services	Delay program implementation until 7/1/11	Reject delay
SAGA vision and transportation services	Eliminate services	Reject cut
Family planning Medicaid waiver to provide services to residents not eligible for Medicaid or HUSKY		Provides \$2 m each year to implement waiver; funds are 90% reimbursed with federal funds
Smoking cessation services in Medicaid		Provides \$1m each year to fund smoking cessation treatment for Medicaid clients

Item	Governor's proposal	Appropriations proposal
Pharmacy utilization review in HUSKY		Provides \$1m each year to review prescribing practices in HUSKY, expected to save \$5 m net in 2010/11
Charter Oak Health Plan	Increases funding by \$24.8 m 2009/10, \$37.9m 2010/11 for expected caseload increase	Reduces increase by \$4 m 2009/10, \$7 m 2010/11 due to slower than expected caseload growth

DPH budget:

AIDS services	Cuts in AIDS services	Partially restored
Community health clinics	Cut new funding for infrastructure and transportation	Approved Governor's cut
School-based health centers	Cut funding	Rejected cuts, restored funding
Local health dept.s	Reduced state support	Mainly restored funding
Public health programs including needle exchange, community AIDS services, children's health, services for children affected by AIDS, children with special health care needs, TB care and screening, genetics program	10% cuts	Approved Governor's cuts
Loan forgiveness programs for under-represented nursing students	Proposed to eliminate – not yet implemented	Approved Governor's elimination
Personnel		Save \$3 m in DPH personal services

Other health programs:

Office of Health Care Advocate	Proposed to eliminate	Rejected elimination, restored funding
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Appropriations Committee budget proposal --
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa/Documents/OFABudget/2009/Committee/Index.htm>

Governor's 2009 budget proposal health impact --
http://www.cthealthpolicy.org/pdfs/gov_budget_impact.pdf