
Issue Brief – Medicaid - Restoration of Adult Dental

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH / MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

NUMBER DOH IB 07-24

SUMMARY

Adult Dental Services is one of the many optional services offered by Utah Medicaid. It is currently State funded with one-time General Fund. Elimination of the optional service has been restored in FY 2006 with one-time General Fund.

OBJECTIVE

This building block request seeks an ongoing General Fund appropriation of \$3,917,100 for dental services for Medicaid adults. Currently children and pregnant women who qualify for Medicaid can still receive dental services.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

During the budget reductions by the 2002 Legislature, the Adult Dental Services option was eliminated from Medicaid. This became effective June 1, 2002. There was no funding for this option for FY 2003 or FY 2004. The Legislature made an appropriation of \$1,000,000 one-time General Fund for FY 2005 for emergency dental services for adults.

Program Restoration

The 2005 Legislature restored the program for adult dental services for FY 2005 with a one-time appropriation of \$3,832,400 General Fund for FY 2006. This was matched with federal funds of \$9,433,100.

Medicaid is reimbursed on roughly a two to one match. This expands the number of people that can be treated.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

No funding is recommended for this building block. The Subcommittee will need to prioritize the General Fund level they feel is appropriate if they would like to restore this optional service benefit either with one-time funding or ongoing funding.