

"We recommend that the Department of Health pursue getting ongoing Medicaid funding for some of the costs in **Public Health Informatics Program** and report its findings to the Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee by May 1, 2020." Action passed at October 15, 2019 meeting.

Health Informatics Office Response

The Health Informatics Office (HIO) receives the enhanced federal 75% match rate under section 1903(a)(3) of the Social Security Act (Act) to support the ongoing operations of the Department of Health Master Person Index (DOHMPI). Funding for the DOHMPI project is approved on an annual basis and is contingent upon the approved cost allocation methodology and the successful completion of milestones identified during the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Operational Advance Planning Document (OAPD)-Update process. The HIO allocates costs to the Division of Medicaid and Health Financing (DMHF) based upon the number of Medicaid approved use cases to the total number of use cases utilizing the data linkages in the MPI. Presently, all costs are allocated to DMHF, therefore HIO receives the full federal match rate (75%)

The HIO also manages four projects (Controlled Substance Database integration with electronic health records-EHR, electronic POLST development and EHR integration, and an EHR-based pediatric "app") which are funded through the CMS Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) administrative funding. This funding, which is authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), provides a 90% federal match rate through the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2021. CMS has provided guidance in a series of State Medicaid director letters (SMDL) that provide a pathway for transitioning HITECH-funded technologies and services into a state's Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS). Therefore, these HITECH projects may be eligible for funding through MMIS Advance Planning Document (APD) after FFY 2021 at a 75% match rate (lower than the current development rate). The projects involve collaborating with the DHMF and several community partners. As a result, the HIO will work with external stakeholders and the DHMF to explore the possibility of transitioning funding for the current HITECH projects once the current funding stream ends in FFY2021 to at least retain 75% match.

HIO has already worked, in collaboration with Medicaid, to maximize the available ongoing federal funding for its costs. Other ongoing funding would only be available with additional projects which would require their own match.