

Sacramento County In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS): What FMAP Changes Mean for the County Budget

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Millions of dollars in federal stimulus money is now available to help counties offset the state's potential cuts to IHSS.

The Federal Stimulus Act (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act or ARRA) would dramatically increase the FMAP (Federal Medical Assistance Percentage) for Medicaid-funded programs like IHSS, reducing the non-federal share of cost for these programs and thereby reducing county outlays for providers' wages & benefits.

Even if the state succeeds in winning federal approval to reduce its share of cost to \$9.50 for wages and \$0.60 for benefits, the ARRA funding will be more than enough to offset the county's increased share of non-federal cost for Budget Year 2009-10 and allow the county to maintain current provider rates at \$10.40 and \$0.70, with money to spare for potential increases in healthcare costs.

In fact, the ARRA changes would

- Save the County of Sacramento a net \$6.2 million in IHSS program costs over the 2009-10 Budget Year if the County maintained current hourly wage & benefit expenditures ⁱ
- Reduce the County's per hour cost share by \$0.22 (from \$1.96 to \$1.74)
- Bring in almost \$9.3 million in guaranteed retroactive funding for IHSS expenditures in the 2008-09 Budget Year, bringing the County's total cash flow savings on the IHSS program from October 2008 through June 2010 to \$15.5 million.

Current & New FMAP Shares

	Federal	State	County
Current Cost Share	49.50%	32.80%	17.70%
New ARRA Share	61.59%	24.97%	13.44%

If the County's hourly wage and benefit expenditures for the IHSS providers were maintained at current levels for the 2009-10 Budget Year, the change in cost sharing displayed above would result in the following breakdown for caregivers' \$10.40 in wages and \$0.70 in benefits, after accounting for the reduction in state matching funds:

Wages

	First \$9.50			Remaining \$0.90			Total
	Federal	State	County	Federal	State	County	
Current Cost Share	\$4.70	\$3.12	\$1.68	\$0.45	\$0.30	\$0.16	\$10.40
New ARRA Share	\$5.85	\$2.37	\$1.28	\$0.55	\$0.00	\$0.35	\$10.40

Benefits ⁱⁱ

	First \$0.60			Remaining \$0.10			Total
	Federal	State	County	Federal	State	County	
Current Cost Share	\$0.30	\$0.20	\$0.11	\$0.05	\$0.03	\$0.02	\$0.70
New ARRA Share	\$0.37	\$0.15	\$0.08	\$0.06	\$0.00	\$0.04	\$0.70

Retroactive Savings

Better yet, the above change in federal/non-federal cost sharing is retroactive to October 2008, so the County will be paid its portion of the additional federal funds available back to that date, through realignment funding, for the remainder of Budget Year 2008-09, providing an extra **\$9.3 million** in retroactive savings to offset its IHSS program expenditures for the coming year: ⁱⁱⁱ

Compensation Rate	Reduction in Cost Share for Oct 2008 – June 2009	Retroactive Savings
\$11.10 (\$10.40 + \$0.70)	4.26%	\$9,289,761

County Share of Cost

2009-10 County Share on first \$9.50 + \$0.60 of IHSS Provider Wage and Benefit Expenditures

Up to State Match	Wages		Benefits	
	County Share	2009-10 IHSS Cost to County	County Share	2009-10 IHSS Cost to County
Current	\$1.68	\$46,508,496	\$0.11	\$2,937,379
With ARRA changes	\$1.28	\$35,314,926	\$0.08	\$2,230,416
Difference (savings)	(\$0.40)	(\$11,193,570)	(\$0.03)	(\$706,962)

2009-10 County Share on remaining \$0.90 + \$0.10 of IHSS Provider Wage and Benefit Expenditures

Remainder	Wages		Benefits	
	County Share	2009-10 IHSS Cost to County	County Share	2009-10 IHSS Cost to County
Current	\$0.16	\$4,406,068	\$0.02	\$489,563
With ARRA changes	\$0.35	\$9,561,417	\$0.04	\$1,062,380
Difference (savings)	\$0.19	\$5,155,349	\$0.02	\$572,817

Summary

Total Change in County Cost to Maintain Current Level of IHSS Provider Wage and Benefit Expenditures

	Change in County Share	Change in County Cost
Up to \$9.50 + \$0.60	(\$0.43)	(\$11,900,533)
Remainder to maintain current rates	\$0.21	\$5,728,165
Total Net Program Cost/(Savings) due to State and Federal Changes	(\$0.22)	(\$6,172,368)
Total Retroactive Savings for Budget Year 2008-09	N/A	(\$9,289,761)
Total Cash Flow Savings		(\$15,462,129)

ⁱ All annualized costs for Budget Year 2009-10 assume caseload growth based on average monthly growth over the past three years (Budget Year 2009-10 Total Hours = 27,658,933).

ⁱⁱ Does not account for any increases in health benefit premiums.

ⁱⁱⁱ Retroactive hours used are for October 2008 – June 2009, with projected hours March 2009-June 2009 calculated as in footnote i. (Total Hours 10/08-6/09 = 19,645,902).