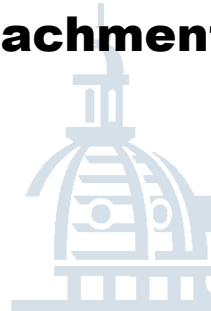


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TO: Members of the Fiscal Committee
FROM: Kent Ohms
DATE: October 17, 2014

Iowa Poison Control Center

In 2014 Iowa Act chapter 1140 (FY 2015 Health and Human Services Appropriations Act), the General Assembly directed the Department of Human Services (DHS) to implement a new health services initiative under the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to provide funding for the Iowa Poison Control Center (IPCC). This provision was effective upon enactment on May 30, 2014. Previously, the State provided a General Fund appropriation to the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) to be passed through to the IPCC. The intent of this new initiative was to obtain federal CHIP matching dollars to provide additional funding to the IPCC.

The DHS submitted a State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) proposing the new health services initiative on September 29, 2014. The CMS is currently reviewing the SPA and has requested the IPCC budget for review. The CMS has not indicated a timeframe for its review, and SPAs can take six months from the date of submission to receive approval. CHIP matching funds may be drawn down only after approval, and after actual State expenditures are incurred.

Administrative costs of the CHIP are capped at 10.0% and include costs incurred related to poison control centers. To remain under this administrative cap, the total amount of funds that could potentially be submitted for matching expenditures during FY 2015 is between \$275,000 and \$309,000. The current enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for the CHIP is 68.9%. Only funds used to provide services for children would be eligible to be matched. Half of all calls to the IPCC are for children under age six. When including all children, estimates are closer to 60.0% to 65.0%. Given these metrics, the total federal match available for FY 2015 is estimated to be in the range of \$609,000 to \$683,000.

The FY 2015 allocation to the IPCC was \$598,751 from the IDPH Public Protection appropriation. This amount was equal to the FY 2014 allocation. The IPCC reports that its current budget shortfall is projected to create a funding gap in FY 2015 of about \$500,000. Unity Point Health and University of Iowa Clinics have pledged to provide cash flow support to the IPCC until a funding source can be identified.

Additional background information on the IPCC allocation is available in this ***Fiscal Topic: Budget Unit: Department of Public Health – Public Protection Iowa Statewide Poison Control Center*** (<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/FT/17690.pdf>).