

STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY & FINANCING

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Bill Owens
Governor

Stephen C. Tool
Executive Director

July 5, 2006

The Honorable Bernie Buescher, Chairman
Joint Budget Committee
200 East 14th Avenue, Third Floor
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Representative Buescher:

This letter is sent in response to the questions asked to Executive Directors in advance of the July 5, 2006 Joint Budget Committee hearing regarding illegal immigration. The responses are attached to the letter.

Please contact John Bartholomew at 303-866-2854 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Stephen C. Tool
Executive Director

Enclosures

SCT:jjb

cc: Senator Abel Tapia, Vice-Chairman, Joint Budget Committee
Representative Dale Hall, Joint Budget Committee
Senator Moe Keller, Joint Budget Committee
Representative Jack Pommer, Joint Budget Committee
Senator Dave Owen, Joint Budget Committee
John Ziegler, JBC Staff Director
Henry Sobanet, Director, Office of State Planning and Budgeting
Luke Huwar, Budget Analyst, Office of State Planning and Budgeting
HCPF Executive Director's Office
John Bartholomew, Budget Director
Lisa Esgar, Operations and Finance Office
Barbara Prehmus, Medical Assistance Office
Hollie Stevenson, Privacy and Public Policy Division
HCPF Budget Division Library

Joint Budget Committee Hearing
July 5, 2006
Questions for Department Executive Directors Regarding Illegal Immigration
Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
4:00 - 4:30 PM

1. What services are being provided by your department for illegal immigrants?

RESPONSE:

The Department pays only for emergency services to clients who cannot adequately document citizenship, but would be otherwise eligible for Medicaid. These are primarily outpatient emergency room visits, and costs for labor and delivery. The Department is required to provide these services under 42 CFR 435.139 (2005), and 26-4-203 (3) (a) C.R.S. (2005).

2. What is the cost on an annual basis to provide those services for illegal immigrants? Please break this amount down by fund source (i.e., General Fund, cash funds, cash funds exempt, federal funds).

RESPONSE:

In FY 04-05, the Department paid \$38,406,229 for services provided to non-citizens and some legal immigrants (February 15, 2006 Budget Request, page EM-2). Of this total, \$20,367,117 was paid from the General Fund, and \$18,039,112 was paid from federal funds. While this total is mostly for non-citizens, it includes clients who have documentation but have not been in the United States for enough work-quarters to qualify for Medicaid benefits. The Department also provides some state-only prenatal services to pregnant adults who do not meet requirements for Medicaid. In FY 04-05, the Department paid \$1,164,002 in prenatal care services for state-only non-citizens (February 15, 2006 Budget Request, page EF-8) at 100% General Fund. The remainder of the non-citizen services are provided on an emergency-only basis, and receive a 50% federal match. The Department does not have information to determine how many clients in these populations are illegal immigrants versus clients who are legal immigrants who do have the necessary residency to qualify for Medicaid. The Department has requested some system changes in order to report this; these will be completed some time in FY 06-07.

3. How many FTE are being utilized by your department in providing services for illegal immigrants?

RESPONSE:

Currently, the Department does not have any FTE who provide services or administer any program for providing services for illegal immigrants. However, the non-citizens are roughly 0.8% of the Department's Medicaid, Children's Basic Health Plan, and Colorado Indigent Care Program caseload. That percent applied to the Department's FY 06-07 appropriated FTE (Long Bill plus special bills) is 1.7 FTE.

4. What would be the cost and FTE impact to screen clients to determine their citizenship prior to providing services?

RESPONSE:

Due to federal requirements in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, the Department is required to screen clients to determine citizenship prior to providing services effective July 1, 2006. The Department has promulgated more stringent rules requiring specific documentary evidence of citizenship or nationality effective July 1, 2006 (10 CCR 2505-10, Section 8.100.53 A2), and does not currently require any additional staff to screen new and existing clients for citizenship. However, this was an unfunded federal mandate, and there may be some cost to change systems to record these new requirements. In addition, county departments of social services are likely to experience an increase in workload due to the requirements of the Deficit Reduction Act. However, these two impacts have not been estimated at this time.