

Medicaid and Other Health Initiatives

The Medicaid population is approaching 700,000 people – a figure that now exceeds the number of children in the Kentucky school system. Modernization efforts will result in total savings for fiscal year 2005 of approximately \$273 million and improvements in patient care. However, a large investment is needed over the biennium.

- Governor Fletcher is increasing state funding for the Medicaid program more in a single biennium than any other governor in Kentucky's history:
 - \$93.5 million in General Fund and \$214,065,800 in Federal Funds for fiscal year 2005; and
 - \$160 million in General Fund and \$364,285,500 million in Federal Funds in fiscal year 2006.
- Kentucky is one of only five states that conducts newborn metabolic screenings for only four disorders. Through an investment of \$2,106,000 in Restricted Funds in fiscal year 2006, two new mass spectrometers will be purchased to expand to 30 tests.
- The Executive Budget also includes several important capital projects that will improve efficiency and help detect fraud and abuse.
 - \$18,667,000 in capital projects to help begin the process of replacing the antiquated technology used for determining eligibility for Medicaid, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, food stamps and state supplementation. (The technology is known as KAMES --Kentucky Automated Management & Eligibility System.)
 - \$6 million invested to upgrade a computer system for services for the Division of Child Support and county attorneys' staffs across the state in their efforts to secure child support payments from absent parents.
 - \$3,393,000 to upgrade an obsolete system that allows child and adult protection service delivery system from across the state to track child. This project will upgrade the system to eliminate risk of system failure and increase the usability and flexibility of the system – including allowing social workers to document information while they're in the field. (TWIST -- The Workers Information System)
 - An additional \$5 million for a system that identifies potential abuses of controlled substances to expand the data warehouse and trend reporting capabilities, enable data validation on critical data elements and fully integrate eKASPER with the Medicaid management information system. (KASPER -- Kentucky All Schedule Prescription Electronic Reporting system)