

Alabama Medicaid receives first installment of stimulus funds

Approximately \$169 million in federal stimulus funding for the Alabama Medicaid Agency arrived February 25, the first installment of federal funds designed to help cash-strapped Medicaid agencies maintain “safety net” services during the current economic downturn. The funds are part of the approximately \$3 billion the state expects to receive as a result of the federal stimulus bill signed into law on February 17.

“The funds we have received are for the first two quarters of the fiscal year that began October 1, 2008,” said Medicaid Commissioner Carol Steckel, “We will use these funds to maintain our existing program and ensure that services are available to our recipients.”

Even though the funds were made available on February 25, many of the details, rules and regulations governing use of the money have not yet been provided, Commissioner Steckel said. “We will be working very closely with the Governor's office and the Finance Director to ensure that every dollar from the stimulus package is spent according to the rules and regulations established by the federal government and that it is done in a totally transparent manner,” she emphasized.