



Member Alert

December 19, 2008

MEMBER ACTION NEEDED: MEDICAID ASSISTANCE/FEDERAL LEVEL

* Why is this alert being issued?

As reported last week in *The Academy Weekly*, the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (ODJFS) held a meeting of interest groups seeking assistance in lobbying Congress for increased federal funding in an expected "Federal Fiscal Relief" bill, which President-Elect Obama has indicated he would like to pass in late January. The Strickland Administration joined other states in asking the federal government for aid, and is asking associations, such as the Academy, to have members contact Congress to help procure a needed federal recovery package. Governor Strickland is joining other Governors in asking for:

- \$100 billion in a block grant to states, to allow the individual states to ensure basic services are not cut beyond repair (education, public health programs, etc.);
- An increase in Federal Matching Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for Medicaid to meet growing enrollment in this downturn;
- \$3.2 Billion in additional Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) fund;
- Food stamps and other programs should also be bolstered to meet unprecedented needs due to the current economic problems.

* Who is impacted?

All Ohioans impacted by Medicaid.

* What action can you take?

Contact your Congressman to communicate the necessity of Medicaid assistance in the stimulus package, and let them know that a Medicaid increase is critical to Ohio providers due to the severity of Ohio's projected budget crisis. Tell them that this problem could jeopardize care to SNF residents if Medicaid funding is inadequate to meet the rising needs. Let them know that competitive wages are necessary to maintain a professional workforce.

Feel free to personalize the attached letter for use in your grassroots efforts.

To find your Congressman, go to:

<https://writerep.house.gov>

Your Ohio Senators:

Senator Sherrod Brown:

(202) 224-2315

[Contact Form](#)

Senator George Voinovich:

(202) 224-3353

[Contact Form](#)

* Where is there more information?

Watch *The Weekly* for continued updates on this initiative. View our Legislative Action Center online at:

<http://www.oanh.org/politicalactioncommittee.shtml>.