



CATASTROPHIC HEALTH CARE COST PROGRAM

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June 30, 2011

Division of Financial Management
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COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PLAN Catastrophic Health Care Cost Program

Mission

The mission of the Catastrophic Health Care Cost Program is to meet the needs of the medically indigent in the state of Idaho who do not qualify for state or federal health and welfare programs, but who qualify for county assistance. Each county is responsible for the first \$11,000.00 in medical bills incurred by the medically indigent resident of that county in any 12-month period. The Catastrophic Health Care Cost Program is responsible for medical bills during the 12 month period in excess of \$11,000.00.

General Goals

The general goals and functions of the Catastrophic Health Care Cost Program are as follows:

1. To pay medical bills for qualified medically indigent person exceeding \$11,000;
2. Administer the fees and costs paid; and
3. Obtain reimbursement from or on behalf of the indigents.

How Goals and Objectives Are Achieved

1. Pay medical bills -
Intake payment request from County;
 - Track claims
 - by provider
 - by county
 - by diagnostic code
2. Administer fees and costs paid -
 - Contract for program administrator;
 - Catastrophic Board expenses; and
 - Administrative costs
3. Obtain reimbursement -
 - Amount reimbursed;
 - Number of claims

Performance Standards and Measures As It Relates to Strategic Plan

1. The board insures county compliance with the statutory definition of medical indigency in each case.
2. We require counties to obtain reimbursements from medically indigent individuals who have received assistance and are capable of making full or partial reimbursement.
3. Assist county prosecuting attorneys in defending difficult claims made by health care providers against their county and/or the Catastrophic Health Care Cost Program.

Key Factors External to Agency and Beyond Its Control

Inasmuch as the definition of medical indigency is statutory, the Catastrophic Health Care Cost Program has no ability to control who qualifies and who does not qualify for assistance. As such, when the economy is strong and there is a low level of unemployment, less people qualify through the counties for participation in the program. When the economy is weak and unemployment increases, greater numbers of individuals qualify for participation in the program. Obviously, the Catastrophic Health Care Cost Program has no ability to control the state of the economy or the level of employment. Medical inflation is also an external factor controlling costs to the Catastrophic Health Care Cost Program over which it has no control.

Division of Human Resources

The Catastrophic Health Care Cost Program is administered as a state agency, however, has no state employees. All labor is performed by an appointed Board of Directors. The board meets approximately nine times per year. As of March 1, 2010, the board contracted for one year with the Idaho Association of Counties as an independent contractor, to provide all necessary day-to-day operations of the agency. The current contract was extended and expires August 31, 2011.

Program Evaluations Used

1. The Catastrophic Health Care Cost Program audits each case submitted by a county to insure compliance with the statutory requirements and eligibility for participation in the program.
2. The Catastrophic Health Care Cost Program requires the counties to file medical indigency liens in each case where assistance is rendered.
3. The Catastrophic Program maintains constant vigilance with regard to maintaining low administrative costs.



Roger Christensen, Chairman
Board of Directors