



Daytona Regional CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Florida Seeks \$1.1 Billion Medicaid Boost

The State of Florida plans to tap into an additional \$945 million in federal healthcare funds made available by President Biden's administration. These funds are designated to enhance access to home-and-community-based healthcare services that target the poor, disabled, and elderly populations in Florida.

State Senator Aaron Bean said, "Governor Ron DeSantis' administration is poised to send a proposal to the federal government that would allow the state to draw down a ten percentage-point increase in federal Medicaid funds." The increase of funds was made possible through the American Rescue Plan Act, signed by President Biden in March 2021. The plan would draw down roughly \$1.1 billion over the next two years for Medicaid services in Florida if approved.

Although known, Florida lawmakers did not include the additional Medicaid funds during the 2021 legislative session's record-high budget for the fiscal year that began on July 1st.

If the federal government approves Florida's proposal, the Agency for Health Care Administration will submit an amended budget to the Florida Legislative Budget Commission. The 14 member commission composed of seven House and seven Senate members will need to sign off on the deal for the state to spend the federal money on behalf of the Florida Legislature.

According to the Florida Department of Health, Volusia County sees about 113,382 monthly Medicaid enrollments, representing 20.7% of the county's population.

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