



## HOT SPOTS IN HEALTH

A publication of the Utah Health Policy Project

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This year's admittedly difficult funding decisions can be framed in terms of their importance to the overall goals of state health reform, including the need to minimize the cost shifting that occurs when access to medically necessary care is compromised in any way. To this end, we are pleased to present the *hot spots*, along with commentary on relevance to the broader goals of reform. Our *Medicaid Cost Management Navigator* (on reverse) will 'show you the money,' places where additional efficiencies can be found within Medicaid. At the end of the day, however, it may be most prudent, from a fiscal and public health standpoint, to tap revenue enhancements to address these eminently cost-effective services.

| #      | Hot Item  | State     | Federal \$ |
|--------|---|-----------|------------|
| 1      | <p><b>Physical and Occupational Therapy</b></p> <p>The so called "Medicaid optional services (dental care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, vision care, and audiology) have all been eliminated or are scheduled to be eliminated by the end of fiscal year 2010. Of all the Medicaid optional services (dental, vision, audiology), these are the most critical in helping Utahns who suffer a serious accident or illness bounce back and become self-sufficient once again. Last year, the Legislature came through and found 1-time funding for FY 2010. On behalf of the thousands of Utahns who stand to benefit, please rally once more and restore these services for FY 2011. PLEASE NOTE: these items were included in the Governor's budget.</p>   | \$76,000  | \$228,000  |
| 2      | <p><b>Audiology</b></p> <p>Outpatient audiology was eliminated at the end of FY2009. This service is critical to helping low-income seniors and people with disabilities manage their hearing impairments. Without audiology services and hearing aids, hearing-impaired recipients will have difficulty getting or holding a job or living with dignity in the community. Audiology services are generally used to identify, evaluate, and rehabilitate those who have hearing problems. Access to audiology services is critical for those needing assistance in learning to speak or swallow after a stroke, for example, or those who cannot speak because of a hearing disorder or developmental delay. A <a href="#">1999 report of the National Academy on an Aging Society</a> stated that "untreated hearing impairments cost the U.S. economy \$56 billion in lost productivity, special education, and medical care – an annual per capita tax of \$216.</p> | \$134,644 | \$400,000  |
| Total: |   | \$210,644 | \$628,000  |





# The Utah Medicaid Cost Management NAVIGATOR 2010

A Utah Health Policy Project Issue Brief

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|   |              | FY 2011            |
|---|--------------|--------------------|
| <b>Medically Necessary Services</b>                           |              |                    |
| Vision Services for Adults                                    |              | \$187,084          |
| Occupational Therapy  |              | \$6,661            |
| Physical Therapy  |              | \$97,322           |
| Speech and Hearing  |              | \$134,644          |
| <b>Total Restorations</b>                                     |              | <b>\$425,711</b>   |
| <b>Medicaid Eligibility</b>                                   |              |                    |
| Restore asset limit for pregnant women to \$5000 from \$3000. |              | \$3,200,000        |
| Restore Medically Needy Program for kids                      |              | \$1,708,800        |
| <b>Total Cost Avoidance</b>                                   |              | <b>\$4,908,800</b> |
| <b>Total Medicaid Needs</b>                                   |              |                    |
|   | <b>Total</b> | <b>\$5,326,511</b> |
| <b>Revenue Enhancements</b>                                   |              |                    |
| 1. Quarterly Filings  |              | \$125,000,000      |
| 2. Tobacco Tax (\$2 per pack)                                 |              | \$60,000,000       |
| 3. Rainy Day Funds (a bit more)                               |              | \$50,000,000       |

These services will be cut at end of FY2010, yet all are critical to preserving the long term health of Medicaid enrollees.

5,600 fewer women would qualify for the Baby your Baby program. Only 7 states even look at a woman's assets. \$3,000 would be the most restrictive standard in the nation.

The Medically Needy program makes it possible for 4,000 critically ill and injured children to qualify for Medicaid without risking bankruptcy.