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HHS Releases $7.3 Million in Recovery Act Funding for Adoption and Foster Care Programs in Michigan

The Department of Health and Human Services today announced the release of $7.3 million authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to support foster care and adoption assistance programs in Michigan. $5.4 million will support adoption assistance programs, while $1.9 million will go to foster care programs.

"Adoptive parents and foster families care for some of the youngest and most vulnerable Americans," said HHS Spokeswoman Jenny Backus. "These critical funds will improve state services and help ensure children in need are placed in safe, loving adoptive and foster homes."

HHS' Administration for Children and Families will distribute nearly $187 million nationwide for the first and second quarters of FY 2009as part of the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) funding increase to support states' adoption, foster care and guardianship assistance programs. This funding represents a 6.2 percentage point increase for states, under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act.

Increasing the federal matching rate for federal foster care and adoption assistance programs helps provide much-needed fiscal relief to states across the country so they may maintain core operations and undertake projects that will put Americans to work during the worst economic crisis in decades.

About 496,000 children were in foster care in 2007 (the most recent year for which complete data are available), of which approximately 198,000 children receive Federal IV-E foster care assistance per month, and the average monthly number of children receiving Federal adoption assistance was over 398,000 in 2008.

The funding increase is effective from October 1, 2008 through December 31, 2010. In Fiscal Year 2010 tribes will also be eligible for the funds.

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