



## **Immediate Policy Recommendations For the New Administration**

### ***State/Federal Relationships***

Declare that a "state of urgency" exists in the public human services and that investment in human capital is an equally important element of economic stimulus. [*Administrative*]

Authorize temporary enhanced administrative match for all assistance programs at a 75/25 rate.\*  
[*Administrative, legislative*]

*\*For those programs from which administrative funds would otherwise be taken from direct service funding, provide an equivalent amount of additional administrative matching funds so that no direct service funds are reduced.*

Immediately end all federal efforts to impose a "national error rate" on federal block grant programs, and suspend the imposition or collection of fiscal sanctions resulting from federal audits, monitoring, or oversight actions. [*Administrative*]

Adopt a single, government-wide, and nationally uniform process for approving state information system upgrades. [*Administrative*]

### ***Health***

Provide enhanced Medicaid FMAP. [*Legislative*]

Initiate the timely reauthorization of SCHIP. [*Legislative*]

Suspend the Medicare "clawback" rule. [*Legislative*]

Prevent the implementation of the following seven federal regulations: [*Administrative*]

- Outpatient hospital
- Case Management
- School Based Administration & Transportation
- Public Provider Cost Limit
- Graduate Medical Education
- Rehabilitation Services Option
- Provider Tax

Suspend the "60-day rule" that requires states to repay the federal government overpayments identified by the state prior to collection, and even in instances where the state can never collect. [*Legislative*]

Ease the ability to cover those eligible for Medicaid by making documentation requirements less stringent. [*Administrative*]

### ***Child Welfare and Child Well-being***

Provide states with financial incentives, as opposed to monetary penalties, under the Child and Family Services Reviews, Title IV-E audits, OIG audits, and other oversight activities. Minimize the significant administrative burden associated with determining eligibility and responding to audits and reviews. [*Administrative*]

End Title IV-E disallowances from federal audits that take away funds from an already resource-strapped child welfare system, and allow states to reinvest these funds in child welfare services. [*Administrative*]

Allow flexibility of available federal funds to help maintain children safely in their own homes. Federal funding currently gives disproportional support to out-of-home care rather than to preventing children from coming into care. [Legislative]

Any increase in Federal Medical Assistance Percentage should include an associated increase in the Title IV-E matching rate to help support children in foster care. [Legislative]

### ***Temporary Assistance for Needy Families***

Relieve states of work participation rate and work verification plan penalties for fiscal years 2007, 2008, and 2009, in recognition of the serious downturn in the national economy and the succession of more "process-based" regulations issued in the last few years. [Administrative]

Permanently withdraw the August 8, 2008, proposal that would have repealed the regulation that enables states to claim caseload reduction credit for excess MOE expenditures. [Administrative]

Rescind the May 22, 2008, HHS guidance that effectively eliminated the ability of states to offer pre-assistance programs to new TANF applicants for up to four months. [Administrative]

Rescind the final Deficit Reduction Act regulation restricting allowable state maintenance-of-effort expenditures under TANF purposes 3 and 4. [Administrative]

End federal efforts to impose a national TANF error rate. [Administrative]

### ***Child Support***

Eliminate the \$25 fee for non-IV-A families. [Legislative]

Restore the incentive match payments that were prohibited in the Deficit Reduction Act. [Legislative]

Allow the use of cash medical support for administrative costs related to fee-for-service Medicaid expenditures. [Administrative]

Allow IV-D agencies to access Health Insurance records for the purposes of Medical Support. [Administrative]

### ***Child Care***

Increase funding to support employment of low-income families through greater access to child care subsidies, and increase the access of children from eligible families to high-quality care that supports positive child development outcomes. [Legislative]

Provide flexibility at the state and local levels so that quality care can be balanced with access and parental choice. [Administrative]

Require coordination at the federal level among the various early child care and education funding streams. [Administrative]

### ***Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program***

Increase SNAP benefits as a major and immediately available element of economic stimulus. [Legislative]

Increase administrative matching funds to a true 75/25 rate (with no cost allocation reductions) so that states can deliver benefits in a timely and effective manner. [Legislative]

Suspend the restrictions applying to ABAWDs. [Administrative, Legislative]

Remove the current federal barriers that prevent some nutrition programs from employing EBT technology. [Administrative]