

Extra News Online

Medicaid Pay Gap Widens

States With Largest Per-Patient-Day Funding Differential: Wisconsin, New Jersey, Massachusetts, New York, Wyoming, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, and Rhode Island

The states underfunded Medicaid long term care by nearly \$4.7 billion last year, according to a recent Eljay analysis.

The study finds that the states of New York, Illinois, Ohio, Texas, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Florida, California, and Wisconsin “will bear the brunt of the underfunding burden at a time when these states and many others are already suffering from rising pressure on state Medicaid budgets.”

New York, Illinois, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Wisconsin are among the states with both the largest payment gaps and the highest per patient per day nursing facility underfunding.

“We are focusing needed attention on which states’ seniors suffer from the

largest state Medicaid funding gaps at a time of deteriorating budget conditions and worsening fiscal crises in state

recession—represents a clear and present danger to America’s most vulnerable frail, elderly, and disabled citizens.”

Van Dyk cautioned that with the national and state economies in an historic cyclical downturn, this state data serves as a “stark reminder of the vital importance to evaluate both Medicare and Medicaid funding as a final federal health care reform bill takes shape.”

At stake, he said, is seniors’ “ongoing access to quality care, sustaining a strong long term care workforce and local jobs base, and the very ability of our sector to remain strong in the face of challenging demographic realities.”

capitols across America,” said Robert Van Dyk, chair of the American Health Care Association (AHCA).

“The substantial gap between the cost of providing quality care to seniors and what Medicaid actually pays—combined with the enormous pressure on state budgets caused by the ongoing

States with largest aggregate Medicaid underfunding (in millions):	
New York	\$688.3
Illinois	\$359.6
Ohio	\$306.1
Texas	\$271.1
New Jersey	\$264.2
Pennsylvania	\$254.0
Massachusetts	\$251.4
Florida	\$235.1
California	\$219.6
Wisconsin	\$201.4

States with the largest Medicaid per patient day underfunding:	
Wisconsin	\$28.41
New Jersey	\$25.13
Massachusetts	\$24.95
New York	\$24.10
Wyoming	\$23.06
Illinois	\$20.80
Minnesota	\$20.31
Missouri	\$19.15
Nebraska	\$19.09
Rhode Island	\$18.80