

3. Option: Eliminate Optional Medicaid Services

DPHHS Program: Health Resources Division, Senior and Long-term Care Division, Disability Serv Division, and Addictive and Mental Disorders Division

Additional research will be required to fully define and estimate costs and savings for this option

General Fund: Not yet determined

State Special Revenue: Not yet determined

Federal Special Revenue: Not yet determined

For further information see [Reference Book](#) page 21

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|---|---------------------------|
| 1. This should not be eliminated. What is considered Optional services are providing a person with a decent existence. | Wed, Sep 8, 2010 5:16 PM |
| 2. Eliminating such things as eye glasses and dental care would greatly impact the daily functioning, productivity, and independence of individuals with Developmental Disabilities. Research reveals an increasingly strong link between good dental health and overall wellness. To eliminate regular dental care will result in much higher overall health costs. | Wed, Sep 8, 2010 10:11 AM |
| 3. Will eliminating eye glasses and dental care for individuals with developmental disabilities save money? Absolutely not! You will create crisis and chaos because of the frustration of people with vision concerns not seeing correctly and those with dental concerns experiencing pain. This elimination of funds will lead to an increase in hospital and ER visits which utilized more money. | Wed, Sep 8, 2010 9:15 AM |
| 4. Most optional medicaid services are preventative in nature. Costs would simply be shifted to higher end services. | Tue, Sep 7, 2010 10:40 AM |
| 5. Knowing that "elimination" sometimes results in the increase of costs, this requires careful analysis and judgment. | Sat, Sep 4, 2010 11:49 AM |
| 6. Do the research necessary. | Fri, Sep 3, 2010 3:03 PM |
| 7. Retain the very small portion of funding that supports targetted case management of pregnant women. Local public health nurses provide this service; the reimbursement rate and total amount is low, yet it yields savings in the form of healthier newborns who are also on Medicaid. This is a small investment with large yields and one of the few funding sources that assist in keeping local public health nurses on the job. | Fri, Sep 3, 2010 2:57 PM |
| 8. The # of mentally disabled in this state is incredible, & most of these people would have to be hospitalized if they didn't get some sort of help, costing way more. What are we to do? Kill them? NO!! | Fri, Sep 3, 2010 2:16 PM |

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9.	Hospice services should not be eliminated. Hospice is much more cost effective than dying in the hospital under medicaid.	Fri, Sep 3, 2010 11:43 AM
10.	Ask yourself this: will eliminated eye glasses and dental care for individuals with Developmental Disabilities actually save money? Absolutely not! You will create crises and chaos because of the frustration of people being able to see, and being able to eat and are experiencing great pain. This elimination will increase hospital and ER utilizing, at a much higher cost.	Fri, Sep 3, 2010 11:32 AM
11.	For the elderly population we serve optional services such as eyeglasses, hearing aids, dentures, and physical, speech and occupational therapies are all very important services. Those we serve have chronic illnesses and many limitations that affect their quality of life and ability to maintain some degree of independence. Failure to address these limitations can literally have life and death consequences for these individuals. For those in assisted living and receiving personal care in their homes, failure to provide these services could lead to less independence and ultimately the need for nursing home placement sooner than might otherwise occur. Faiilure to provide some of these services - particularly therapies - can lead to the need for more expensive services. For example, an individual with dysphagia (a swallowing problem) who does not receive appropriate therapy often ends up with aspiration pneumonia - which may require physician and hospital services.	Fri, Sep 3, 2010 11:26 AM
12.	I thought the governer was not going to cut social programs ?	Fri, Sep 3, 2010 11:02 AM
13.	I would like to see the optional medicaid services remain for our montana citizens but a waiting time period for people coming into the state.	Thu, Sep 2, 2010 8:12 PM
14.	Don't deny needed services to Medicaid recipients for a short-term fix. We'd be better off in the long run to increase revenues and make sure people get the health care they need to avoid emergency care later on.	Thu, Sep 2, 2010 4:58 PM
15.	You better build another State Hospital.	Thu, Sep 2, 2010 4:07 PM
16.	This only shifts costs from less-expensive interventions that reduce disability to expensive levels of care, including institutional care that is paid for entirely with general fund.	Wed, Sep 1, 2010 9:14 PM
17.	The optional services-if they should be called that-are what keep my clients functioning i ncommunity living-such as OT/PT/Speech/dental and eye-as a case manager every 6 months we help set these up-the payoff is preventive-and I thought that was what our country is going for.	Tue, Aug 31, 2010 7:48 AM
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18.	All these services are needed	Thu, Aug 26, 2010 3:45 PM
19.	I do not support reducing funds for this. We do our part and pay our taxes. Please do you part and support our needs and the needs of our community.	Thu, Aug 26, 2010 10:50 AM
20.	If these services are eliminated it will place a large number of individuals at high risk for nursing home placement as they will not be able to afford the therapies/services they need so they will go without.	Thu, Aug 26, 2010 10:50 AM
21.	This potential cut scares the heck out of me. I know lots of people who receive these "Optional" services from Medicaid...if they want to have any reasonable quality of life in their own residence, they need these "optional" services to be able to do so. If these services are cut, I suspect more people will be forced to move into nursing homes, which I bet costs the state a lot more money than it does to provide these optional services.	Wed, Aug 25, 2010 2:00 PM
22.	As staff with an agency working for disabled clients, my first reaction is not to cut anything. I can think of clients who have benefitted so much from OT or PT or who need eyeglasses, etc. However, once again, and knowing that there is only so much money to go so far, I would offer mt two cents as follows: take a common sense approach in resolving this issue and find some balance between getting people what they need, eliminating waste in medicaid, spreading cuts all around not just to the poor and disabled populations, and close the gap in the disparity between rich and poor in this State,.	Wed, Aug 25, 2010 1:23 PM
23.	Before any optional Medicaid services are eliminated a cost savings evaluation should be conducted to determine Medicaid practices to work toward increased savings for the state and the clients.	Sun, Aug 22, 2010 5:06 PM
24.	optional services are needed to prevent other no optional services such as nursing homes and hospitals.	Tue, Aug 10, 2010 1:04 PM
25.	I have 162 consumers on Personal Assistance, approximately 5% would be able to remain in their homes without this service because of family but the rest would end up in a nursing home which will cost much more than personal care. These services are a vital assistance to most seniors and people with disability. You are talking effecting thousands of lives here and costing Montana much more in the end. The other optional services I think we will see an increase in emergency room care which will increase Medicaid spending. Not a good idea.	

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answered question

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