



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

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BROOKS ANNOUNCES FEDERAL STIMULUS PACKAGE WILL ASSIST LOCAL TAXPAYERS

FMAP funds will be used to balance budgets, protecting taxpayers

County Executive **Maggie Brooks** today announced that Monroe County will receive an estimated \$66 million in Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP) funding as a result of the recently passed federal economic stimulus package. The temporary relief funding will be used to address the County's structural resource gap and promote balanced budgets without further burdening property taxpayers.

"The temporary FMAP funding will provide critical assistance to Monroe County as we work to shield our overburdened taxpayers from the one-two punch leveled by rising costs and unfunded mandates," said Brooks. "By offsetting the cost of the Medicaid program, which is the single greatest contributor to high property taxes in New York, this funding will serve as a helping hand to all taxpayers and families who are struggling to make ends meet."

The FMAP relief funding will be used to partially reimburse the County for Medicaid costs over a nine-quarter period of October 2008 through December 2010. A lump sum payment for the first two quarters will be transferred to the County in the coming weeks. County Executive **Brooks** stressed that the stimulus funding is temporary relief that must not be used to justify additional spending in future budgets.

"County government has a strong record of protecting local taxpayers by delivering balanced budgets that control non-mandated spending and we will not stray from this fiscally-responsible approach as we receive the FMAP relief funds," continued Brooks. "This funding should not be considered a windfall and cannot lead to additional spending. In a time when taxpayers and families across the nation are being asked to tighten their belts and do more with less, we will do everything in our power to keep County spending and taxes stable."

The Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage is a matching rate that determines the federal funding share for the cost of Medicaid incurred by each state. Because, under New York State law, counties are required to share Medicaid costs with the State, Governor David Paterson has agreed to share FMAP relief funding with each of the State's constituent counties. Furthermore, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act includes a "local share" provision,

proposed by U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, to ensure that New York State counties and localities receive a portion of direct FMAP relief. Funding provided through the FMAP relief initiative can be used for a variety of purposes, allowing counties to ease pressure across their respective budgets.

“I would like to thank Senator Schumer for advocating that the FMAP funding for New York State and its counties be included in the federal stimulus package,” concluded **Brooks**. *“Senator Schumer and Governor Paterson should be commended for fighting hard to protect Monroe County’s taxpayers, and I look forward to working closely with both of them, and all of our federal, state, and local representatives, as we put our economy back on the path to prosperity.”*

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Media Inquiries, contact:

Department of Communications at 585-753-1080