

**Annual Report on the Estimated Costs of the
State/Local Hospitalization Program**



Department of Medical Assistance Services

December 2008

Introduction

THE STATE/LOCAL HOSPITALIZATION PROGRAM

The Requirements for This Report

Chapter 782 of the 1996 Virginia Acts of Assembly amends Section 32.1-345 Code of Virginia (Attachment A) and requires the Director of Medical Assistance Services to report each year by December 1 to the Senate Committees on Education and Health and Finance and the House Committees on Health, Welfare and Institutions and Appropriations on the estimates of the costs of the program, based on trend analyses of the estimated costs of the actual local per capita demand.

This report addresses the annual requirement that the Director report the estimated costs of the SLH Program.

Background: The State/Local Hospitalization Program (SLH) is a cooperative effort between the State and local governments designed to provide coverage for inpatient and outpatient hospital care, care in approved ambulatory surgical centers and care provided in local health departments. It became a mandatory statewide program in 1989. The services covered by the SLH program are the same as the hospital and health department related services available to Medicaid recipients including:

- Acute care inpatient hospital services (excluding rehabilitation and free-standing psychiatric hospitals);
- Acute care outpatient services;
- Ambulatory surgical services; and
- Department of Health clinic services.

All counties and cities are required to participate in financing the SLH Program. Coverage for SLH health care services is only available to indigent or needy people who are not Medicaid recipients. A person may be eligible for the SLH Program whether employed or unemployed, insured or uninsured, if the person meets the income and resource criteria established for the program.

Determination of eligibility for SLH must be made by the Department of Social Services (DSS) in the city or county where the applicant lives. An applicant may be eligible if his or her countable income is equal to or less than 100% of the federal poverty level established for the year in which the applicant is applying. Localities that had SLH income eligibility levels above 100% of the federal poverty level prior to June 30, 1989 may have a higher income level under the current program. Only Fairfax County currently has a higher level. The individual's resources are also counted when determining eligibility for assistance under the SLH Program. Resources are items of value, which could be sources of income to the individual.

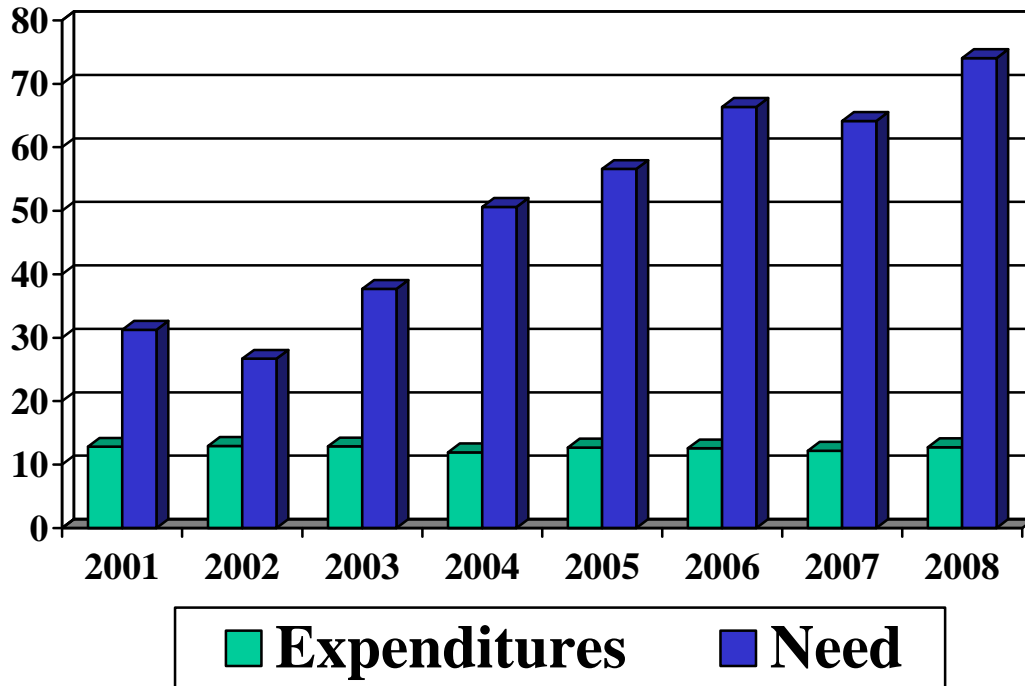
DMAS' Role: The Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) calculates the state and local share allocations; administers financing, claims processing, and provider reimbursement; and is responsible for provider communications.

Funding History and Source: The SLH Program was established in 1946 with participation by localities on a voluntary basis. Under the original SLH Program, local expenditures were matched by state funds at a rate of 50%. This program was repealed and a new mandatory statewide program was enacted in 1989. The new program requires all localities within the Commonwealth to participate and mandates a local match, not to exceed 25% of the program benefit expenditures. This enabling legislation further transferred administration of the program from localities and DSS to DMAS. The SLH Program is financed entirely by state and local funds with the state providing at least 75% percent of the cost by allocating the amount of funds appropriated to each locality on the basis of current estimated demand for covered services. Funds allocated to a locality can be used to pay for services provided to residents of that locality only. In FY 2008, total SLH expenditures were \$12,668,263 (General Fund \$10,746,503 – Local Funds \$1,921,760).

The SLH program is not an entitlement program. Once locality funds are exhausted, payment cannot be made on claims for eligible SLH recipients.

As shown in Exhibit 1 (next page), SLH program expenditures have remained relatively constant over the years, while the need has more than doubled from FY 2002 to FY 2008. Prior to fiscal year 1997, localities were required to take applications for the full year, but many did not continue to take applications after funds ran out. Beginning in fiscal year 1997, localities have only been required to take applications for the first six months or until funds ran out. DMAS assumes for this analysis that annual statewide need would be double the approved claims in the first six months. Using this assumption, the annual statewide need in FY 2008 was \$74.04 million, as the six-month need was \$37.02 million.

Exhibit 1: SLH Need vs. Expenditures (Millions)



Program Authority: Section §32.1-346 Code of Virginia establishes the State and Local Hospitalization Program (SLH) within the Department of Medical Assistance Services. The Department has promulgated State and Local Hospitalization Program Regulations at 12 VAC 30-100-70 et seq. (Part II).

Changes Affecting Reimbursement: Chapter 782 of the 1996 Virginia Acts of Assembly amended the Code to conform the hospital reimbursement rate methodology for the SLH program with the inpatient hospital reimbursements rate methodology for the Medicaid program. Beginning July 1, 1996, the SLH program began reimbursing the Medicaid per diem established for the transition to the Medicaid prospective reimbursement system. During the 2003-2004 fiscal year, the Diagnosis Related Groups (DRG) reimbursement methodology for hospital payments was used for the first time. This methodology results in more accurate expense calculation for each claim. In the past, an average cost per patient day for each hospital was calculated and used, regardless of the diagnosis. However, since many SLH claims are higher in cost than the average hospital claim, the overall SLH need figure increased significantly in some localities, and for the state overall. In general, localities whose needs grew at a higher pace than other localities will get a larger percentage of the overall state appropriation.

The statute was also amended in 1996 to establish an alternate SLH program allocation and payment method for FY 1997. In subsequent years, administrative requirements were lessened for local DSS, providers, and the state. The new method eliminates the practice of taking applications and submitting and processing claims for services once locality funds are exhausted, resulting in estimated savings to the state and participating providers of more than \$500,000 per year.

Methods and Sources of Information

This report, which was developed by staff at DMAS, draws upon prior year SLH claims and payment history. Most of the information was taken from the Virginia Medicaid Management Information System.

Funding and Service Impact of the State/Local Hospitalization Program

Trends in Utilization

Approximately 4,600 Virginians were assisted with their medical bills by the SLH program in FY 2008, nearly the exact number that was assisted in FY 2007. This is the second fewest number of SLH recipients since the figures have been recorded (since FY 1990). This is partly due to an increase in inpatient hospital rates in July 2004 ranging from 11-15%, while the overall funding for the program remained the same.

The last three years have reflected a decrease in the number of Virginians receiving assistance through the SLH program. Prior to 2004, from FY 2000 to FY 2004, the number served was relatively stable, from a high of 7,440 in FY 2004 to a low of 6,383 in FY 2002. This is depicted in Exhibit 2, below.

Exhibit 2 Utilization of SLH Services

Indicator	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number of recipients:									
For whom claims were paid	6,885	6,673	6,383	6,748	7,440	6,191	5,393	4,632	4,643
For whom claims were partially paid (last claim before budget funds exhausted)	126	114	117	122	0	0	0	0	0
For whom claims were approved, but funds were exhausted	4,101	3,646	3,843	4,274	5,830	6,691	5,856	4,462	9,083
For whom claims were denied	3,114	2,936	2,697	3,047	4	8	14	29	7
Number of Recipients for whom claims were paid/partially paid who received:									
Inpatient Services	3,055	2,742	2,816	2,783	2,050	2,005	1,876	1,696	1,498
Outpatient Services	5,350	4,985	4,744	5,195	6,380	5,032	4,386	3,844	3,841
Practitioner Services	168	507	315	298	269	213	172	56	35

Number of Inpatient Hospital Days Paid	69,788	61,818	65,104	62,109	10,705	10,439	9,164	8,873	7,738
Average Inpatient Length of Stay (Days)	11.1	12.0	11.4	10.9	5.2	5.2	4.9	5.2	5.2
Number of Inpatient Hospital Visits	6,290	5,136	5,689	5,713	2,484	2,376	2,137	2,064	1,747
Number of Ambulatory Surgical Center Visits	9	13	9	6	5	0	0	2	0
Number of Health Department Visits	264	2,068	858	965	494	374	297	139	48
Number of New Claims Received	31,298	30,881	28,675	30,648	30,402	30,238	27,289	24,776	36,179
Number of Claims Denied	5,180	5,680	4,489	5,376	4	9	7	50	44
Number of Claims Approved	26,118	25,201	24,186	25,272	30,398	30,229	27,195	24,726	36,135
Number of Claims Paid	17,867	17,867	16,242	16,981	19,057	14,058	12,327	11,982	11,573
Number of Claims Approved, but Funds Depleted	8,251	7,429	7,944	8,291	11,341	15,721	14,868	12,744	24,562

The SLH Payment Year begins May 1 of each year and ends the following April 30. The SLH Program begins making payment on claims with dates of service May 1 and later of each year after the beginning of the Commonwealth's fiscal year July 1. Payments are only paid after the locality pays its local share of the funding.

SLH recipients whose claims are paid by SLH are relieved of any financial responsibility for approved claims. Like the Medicaid program, hospitals and other providers accept the SLH approved rate as payment in full. The difference between provider charges and the amount approved by the SLH Program is discharged as a contractual adjustment. However, if the SLH Program funds are exhausted, the SLH recipient is fully responsible for the provider's charges.

DMAS pays claims on a first come, first served basis.

Estimate of State/Local Hospitalization Need for FY 2009 for Each Locality

The FY 2009 locality allocations were based on a series of calculations, as set forth in Section 32.1-343 et seq. The total need figure is derived from the last five years' averages of the first six months (May 1st through October 31st) of approved claims data per year. Localities get credit for all paid SLH claims plus all unpaid approved claims. The allocation of SLH funds among the localities is accomplished by multiplying the available funds times the ratio of the need for each locality divided by the total need for the entire state. The payment share for each county and city is calculated by dividing its per capita revenue capacity by the statewide total per capita revenue capacity, as determined by the Commission on Local Government, and by multiplying the resulting ratio by twenty-five percent. Each local share is then adjusted according to local income, as determined by dividing the median adjusted gross income for all income tax returns in the locality by the median adjusted gross income for all income tax returns statewide. The maximum local share any locality can contribute is twenty-five percent of the total cost. The resulting local, state and total shares for FY 2009 are shown in Exhibit 3.

Exhibit 3
SLH FY 2009 SHARES

	LOCALITY	LOCAL SHARE	STATE SHARE	TOTAL SHARE	LOCAL SHARE %	STATE SHARE %
001	ACCOMACK	8,731.07	63,724.57	72,455.64	12.34%	87.95%
003	ALBEMARLE	34,544.96	103,634.90	138,179.86	25.00%	75.00%
005	ALLEGHANY	6,232.00	50,952.80	57,184.80	11.58%	89.10%
007	AMELIA	4,016.66	22,429.76	26,446.42	16.67%	84.81%
009	AMHERST	7,950.96	61,240.37	69,191.33	11.78%	88.51%
011	APPOMATTOX	6,419.11	52,622.14	59,041.25	11.33%	89.13%
013	ARLINGTON	48,307.43	144,922.29	193,229.72	25.00%	75.00%
015	AUGUSTA	12,895.13	58,906.53	71,801.66	17.86%	82.04%
017	BATH	1,744.27	5,232.79	6,977.06	25.00%	75.00%
019	BEDFORD CO	23,743.54	93,850.81	117,594.35	19.98%	79.81%
021	BLAND	621.94	5,327.16	5,949.10	10.24%	89.55%
023	BOTETOURT	9,950.83	35,282.24	45,233.07	23.35%	78.00%
025	BRUNSWICK	3,400.09	37,107.14	40,507.23	8.22%	91.61%
027	BUCHANAN	4,600.11	39,943.23	44,543.34	9.73%	89.67%
029	BUCKINGHAM	4,575.66	46,029.56	50,605.22	9.03%	90.96%
031	CAMPBELL	12,644.81	97,404.57	110,049.38	12.02%	88.51%
033	CAROLINE	10,533.26	40,508.37	51,041.63	19.80%	79.36%
035	CARROLL	6,871.07	69,645.41	76,516.48	9.67%	91.02%
036	CHARLES CITY	3,640.24	17,025.50	20,665.74	18.43%	82.39%
037	CHARLOTTE	2,835.31	32,701.43	35,536.74	8.24%	92.02%
041	CHESTERFIELD	63,885.21	191,655.63	255,540.84	25.00%	75.00%
043	CLARKE	5,989.03	17,967.09	23,956.12	25.00%	75.00%
045	CRAIG	1,085.58	7,289.16	8,374.74	13.38%	87.04%
047	CULPEPER	18,662.68	55,988.04	74,650.72	25.00%	75.00%
049	CUMBERLAND	1,659.04	14,340.33	15,999.37	10.65%	89.63%
051	DICKENSON	3,701.93	45,607.59	49,309.52	7.86%	92.49%
053	DINWIDDIE	6,848.38	41,323.10	48,171.48	14.85%	85.78%
057	ESSEX	4,641.34	23,226.30	27,867.64	15.79%	83.35%
059	FAIRFAX COUNTY	182,668.98	548,006.92	730,675.90	25.00%	75.00%
061	FAUQUIER	24,064.72	72,194.18	96,258.90	25.00%	75.00%
063	FLOYD	6,460.17	39,936.78	46,396.95	13.88%	86.08%
065	FLUVANNA	6,331.82	22,154.68	28,486.50	21.12%	77.77%
067	FRANKLIN COUNTY	17,961.19	89,877.91	107,839.10	16.71%	83.34%
069	FREDERICK	30,744.90	92,234.72	122,979.62	25.00%	75.00%
071	GILES	5,736.81	43,952.19	49,689.00	11.47%	88.45%
073	GLOUCESTER	9,202.84	38,083.82	47,286.66	18.38%	80.54%
075	GOOCHLAND	5,593.95	16,781.87	22,375.82	25.00%	75.00%
077	GRAYSON	3,391.15	35,376.75	38,767.90	8.91%	91.25%
079	GREENE	4,679.29	20,798.09	25,477.38	18.72%	81.63%
081	GREENSVILLE	1,147.39	15,810.46	16,957.85	7.58%	93.23%
083	HALIFAX	11,404.81	97,760.97	109,165.78	11.34%	89.55%
085	HANOVER	17,211.68	51,635.06	68,846.74	25.00%	75.00%

	LOCALITY	LOCAL SHARE	STATE SHARE	TOTAL SHARE	LOCAL SHARE %	STATE SHARE %
087	HENRICO	50,585.41	151,756.22	202,341.63	25.00%	75.00%
089	HENRY	16,635.62	196,927.57	213,563.19	8.02%	92.21%
091	HIGHLAND	762.74	2,412.79	3,175.53	21.27%	75.98%
093	ISLE OF WIGHT	13,442.26	47,525.42	60,967.68	22.32%	77.95%
095	JAMES CITY	14,631.94	43,895.82	58,527.76	25.00%	75.00%
097	KING AND QUEEN	2,209.03	12,374.39	14,583.42	16.14%	84.85%
099	KING GEORGE	6,409.88	19,229.63	25,639.51	25.00%	75.00%
101	KING WILLIAM	3,740.46	15,197.06	18,937.52	21.00%	80.25%
103	LANCASTER	1,206.34	3,619.02	4,825.36	24.19%	75.00%
105	LEE	3,812.48	70,064.81	73,877.29	5.22%	94.84%
107	LOUDOUN	51,447.01	154,341.02	205,788.03	25.00%	75.00%
109	LOUISA	19,266.13	57,798.40	77,064.53	25.00%	75.00%
111	LUNENBURG	2,872.91	37,882.02	40,754.93	8.04%	92.95%
113	MADISON	3,688.06	12,158.37	15,846.43	20.77%	76.73%
115	MATHEWS	2,188.26	6,564.78	8,753.04	21.71%	75.00%
117	MECKLENBURG	7,313.86	65,263.04	72,576.90	9.66%	89.92%
119	MIDDLESEX	3,270.54	9,811.62	13,082.16	22.98%	75.00%
121	MONTGOMERY	16,706.05	128,859.40	145,565.45	11.37%	88.52%
125	NELSON	10,137.70	30,996.41	41,134.11	20.56%	75.35%
127	NEW KENT	1,760.41	5,281.24	7,041.65	25.00%	75.00%
131	NORTHAMPTON	7771.22	34,118.72	41,889.94	15.61%	81.45%
133	NORTHUMBERLAND	3,522.64	10,567.93	14,090.57	22.42%	75.00%
135	NOTTOWAY	3,287.60	37,298.48	40,586.08	7.93%	91.90%
137	ORANGE	12,025.61	36,076.85	48,102.46	23.14%	75.00%
139	PAGE	9,061.39	58,789.66	67,851.05	11.78%	86.65%
141	PATRICK	5,568.58	58,523.52	64,092.10	8.42%	91.31%
143	PITTSYLVANIA	17,410.08	167,740.34	185,150.42	9.97%	90.60%
145	POWHATAN	6,748.63	20,245.89	26,994.52	25.00%	75.00%
147	PRINCE EDWARD	4,074.69	42,952.57	47,027.26	8.41%	91.34%
149	PRINCE GEORGE	5,995.11	37,470.66	43,465.77	13.74%	86.21%
153	PRINCE WILLIAM	78,393.61	235,180.83	313,574.44	25.00%	75.00%
155	PULASKI	10,874.34	85,368.48	96,242.82	11.43%	88.70%
157	RAPPAHANNOCK	3,284.53	9,853.58	13,138.11	25.00%	75.00%
159	RICHMOND CO	615.49	4,110.81	4,726.30	12.11%	86.98%
161	ROANOKE CO	24664.83	97,757.43	122,422.26	20.80%	79.85%
163	ROCKBRIDGE	5,725.51	24,499.17	30,224.68	17.98%	81.06%
165	ROCKINGHAM	20,412.25	106,495.86	126,908.11	15.76%	83.92%
167	RUSSELL	9,166.95	108,740.54	117,907.49	8.01%	92.23%
169	SCOTT	3,019.74	34,938.39	37,958.13	8.29%	92.04%
171	SHENANDOAH	20,257.08	81,019.87	101,276.95	19.75%	80.00%
173	SMYTH	4,298.50	49,911.87	54,210.37	8.24%	92.07%
175	SOUTHAMPTON	4,402.47	30,695.35	35,097.82	13.07%	87.46%
177	SPOTSYLVANIA	26,063.84	78,191.51	104,255.35	25.00%	75.00%
179	STAFFORD	19,439.89	58,319.68	77,759.57	25.00%	75.00%
181	SURRY	4,989.70	14,969.10	19,958.80	25.00%	75.00%
183	SUSSEX	2,029.25	20,316.68	22,345.93	8.41%	90.92%

	LOCALITY	LOCAL SHARE	STATE SHARE	TOTAL SHARE	LOCAL SHARE %	STATE SHARE %
185	TAZEWELL	11,209.75	114,489.77	125,699.52	9.08%	91.08%
187	WARREN	33,235.99	99,707.96	132,943.95	23.78%	75.00%
191	WASHINGTON	16,601.92	105,839.91	122,441.83	12.64%	86.44%
193	WESTMORELAND	9,974.26	38,024.03	47,998.29	16.37%	79.22%
195	WISE	6,046.64	77,789.01	83,835.65	7.64%	92.79%
197	WYTHE	10,438.86	80,290.73	90,729.59	11.68%	88.49%
199	YORK	11,649.95	34,949.87	46,599.82	25.00%	75.00%
510	ALEXANDRIA	67,575.07	202,725.19	270,300.26	25.00%	75.00%
515	BEDFORD	919.83	7,947.88	8,867.71	10.16%	89.63%
520	BRISTOL	7,110.26	49,160.66	56,270.92	11.15%	87.36%
530	BUENA VISTA	1,049.61	11,324.20	12,373.81	9.65%	91.52%
540	CHARLOTTESVILLE	25,114.92	114,959.44	140,074.36	17.18%	82.07%
550	CHESAPEAKE	60583.16	267,431.86	328,015.02	18.71%	81.53%
570	COLONIAL HEIGHTS	6,778.71	26,075.11	32,853.82	19.78%	79.37%
580	COVINGTON	2,256.55	21,779.48	24,036.03	10.31%	90.61%
590	DANVILLE	11,653.18	152,606.41	164,259.59	7.35%	92.91%
595	EMPORIA	1,259.20	13,973.33	15,232.53	8.54%	91.73%
620	FRANKLIN	3,491.10	32,471.84	35,962.94	8.96%	90.29%
630	FREDERICKSBURG	15,006.29	45,018.88	60,025.17	25.00%	75.00%
640	GALAX	2,895.28	28,503.15	31,398.43	9.64%	90.78%
650	HAMPTON	17,988.71	169,817.51	187,806.22	10.25%	90.42%
660	HARRISONBURG	9,819.59	87,183.53	97,003.12	10.54%	89.88%
670	HOPEWELL	8925.14	84804.63	93729.77	9.71%	90.48%
678	LEXINGTON	51.63	372.26	423.89	10.73%	87.82%
680	LYNCHBURG	18,041.34	145,306.07	163,347.41	10.88%	88.96%
683	MANASSAS	9299.52	27,898.55	37,198.07	25.00%	75.00%
685	MANASSAS PARK	1,788.02	6,149.54	7,937.56	25.00%	77.47%
690	MARTINSVILLE	7,088.59	83,866.19	90,954.78	7.71%	92.21%
700	NEWPORT NEWS	48,213.46	391,698.68	439,912.14	10.62%	89.04%
710	NORFOLK	86,726.45	898,701.97	985,428.42	8.88%	91.20%
720	NORTON	2,420.48	18,047.82	20,468.30	10.50%	88.17%
730	PETERSBURG	13,387.77	182,632.14	196,019.91	7.15%	93.17%
735	POQUOSON	2,282.06	6,846.19	9,128.25	25.00%	75.00%
740	PORTSMOUTH	29,286.43	314,420.87	343,707.30	8.46%	91.48%
750	RADFORD	2,560.48	28,928.61	31,489.09	7.34%	91.87%
760	RICHMOND	66,481.73	402,266.43	468,748.16	13.31%	85.82%
770	ROANOKE	58,245.59	443,066.13	501,311.72	12.01%	88.38%
775	SALEM	3,786.24	19,630.90	23,417.14	16.47%	83.83%
790	STAUNTON	3,635.76	24,282.13	27,917.89	12.21%	86.98%
800	SUFFOLK	25,740.69	125,097.62	150,838.31	17.01%	82.93%
810	VIRGINIA BEACH	99,857.87	388,460.01	488,317.88	18.95%	79.55%
820	WAYNESBORO	4,070.03	25,626.60	29,696.63	12.57%	86.29%
830	WILLIAMSBURG	3,779.96	12,969.56	16,749.52	20.48%	77.43%
840	WINCHESTER	17,288.07	62,480.30	79,768.37	21.86%	78.33%
	Total	2,038,138.10	10,752,228.96	12,790,367.06		

In FY 2009, the state funding for SLH is \$10.8 million in General Funds, with local matching funds computing to be \$2.0 million, for a total available funding of \$12.8 million.

The final SLH allocations are determined in July/August of each year. DMAS bills the localities for the local share and, once the majority of locality shares are received, DMAS begins processing claims for SLH recipients for the new payment year. This usually occurs in late September/early October.

In FY 2009, the locality shares range from the maximum 25 percent to a low of 5.22 percent.

If the locality has unspent local funds at the end of the previous fiscal year, this is credited to the locality's account for the next fiscal year.

Conclusion

The SLH program provides hospital, ambulatory surgical and health department services to qualified Virginia citizens who are not Medicaid eligible. Approximately 4,600 Virginians were assisted with their medical bills by the SLH program last year.

SLH annual funding has remained roughly \$13 million since the program's inception. The locality share of annual funding is often close to \$2 million, while the state share is typically around \$11 million. In comparison, medical need in FY 2008 was \$74.04 million, when the six-month need figures are doubled.

APPENDIX A

Authority for Report

§ 32.1-345. Counties and cities required to participate; allocation and payment of funds to and payments by counties and cities.

A. The governing body of each city and county in the Commonwealth shall participate in the State/Local Hospitalization Program for indigent persons established in this chapter.

B. The Director shall allocate annually to the counties and cities of the Commonwealth such funds as may be appropriated by the General Assembly for this program. The allocation of state funds shall be based on the estimated total cost of required services in each county and city less the funds which shall be provided by the counties and cities.

Each county and city shall provide funds for a share of the estimated total costs as determined by the Director. The share for each county and city shall be calculated by dividing its per capita revenue capacity by the statewide total per capita revenue capacity, as determined by the Commission on Local Government, and by multiplying the resulting ratio by an aggregate local share of twenty-five percent. Each local share shall be adjusted according to local income, as determined by dividing the median adjusted gross income for all state income tax returns in each county and city by the median adjusted gross income for all income tax returns statewide. However, no county or city shall contribute more than twenty-five percent to the total cost for providing required hospitalization and treatment for indigent persons. The Director of Medical Assistance Services shall report each year by December 1 to the Senate Committees on Education and Health and Finance and the House Committees on Health, Welfare and Institutions and Appropriations on the estimates of the costs of the program, based on trend analyses of the estimated costs of the actual local per capita demand.