

Medicaid Annual Report Submitted

The Department of Health and Social Services has submitted to the Legislature an annual report on Alaska's Medicaid program, as required by the law which adopted Medicaid on July 5, 1972.

The Division of Medical Assistance was created within the Department to administer the Medicaid and residual General Relief Medical assistance programs. Medicaid was implemented September 1, 1972.

During the period from July 1, 1972 through January 31, 1973, the Division of Medical Assistance has disbursed \$3,658,746, of which \$1,942,907 was spent for Medicaid. More than 8,500 Medicaid recipients have received care, and 14,500 Medicaid claims from providers of medical service have been paid.

People eligible for Medicaid are those who are eligible for, or enrolled in, any of the categorical assistance programs: Old Age Assistance, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Aid to the Blind, and Aid to the Disabled. There are currently 14,477 persons receiving categorical assistance in Alaska.

Persons who meet the financial eligibility requirements for categorical assistance but do not meet other qualifications and have no prior medical resource are eligible for General Relief Medical assistance.

During the first seven months of FY 72, the State of Alaska has saved nearly \$3 million by participating in Medicaid: \$1,341,057 in increased Federal matching funds for categorical assistance "money grants," \$1,403,600 in Federal 50 per cent financial participation in the Medicaid program, and almost \$200,000 State savings realized through establishment of the federally-mandated fee schedule for medical service.