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GOVERNOR

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SECRETARY

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**GOVERNOR CRIST'S PROPOSED BUDGET PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR
FLORIDA TO IMPROVE HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

~Successful health information exchange will result in better care for Floridians~

TALLAHASSEE – Secretary Thomas W. Arnold today applauded the Governor's budget recommendations for Fiscal Year 2010 – 11 for the Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) of \$20.6 billion.

The Governor's budget recommendations for Fiscal Year 2010-11 include funding to implement health information exchange programs that will help health care providers improve the quality and continuity of care provided to Floridians, as well as funding for nursing home transition case management.

"This funding will enable the Agency to lead Florida in the successful implementation of health information exchange," said Agency Secretary, Thomas W. Arnold. "Comprehensive execution of these programs will allow Florida's health care providers to deliver high-quality care at a lower cost."

The Governor's budget recommendations for Fiscal Year 2010-11 include:

State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program: \$289,680

The Agency will be able to receive federal funding for the planning and implementation of a state-level health information exchange. This program will help expand the secure, electronic movement of health information, improving the continuity of care provided to Floridians by their health care providers.

Medicaid Provider Electronic Health Record Incentive Program: \$4.3 million

The Agency will be able to access funding for the management and implementation of the Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentive Program from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This program will provide monetary incentives for Medicaid providers in Florida to implement an electronic health records system in their practice. The Agency estimates that Medicaid provider incentives will total an estimated \$200 million for hospitals, and more than \$100 million for eligible professionals working at Federally Qualified Health-Care Centers, rural clinics and County Health Departments over the course of the six-year program.



Nursing Home Transition Case Management: \$660,000

The Agency will be able to contract with case managers in order to facilitate the safe transition of individuals enrolled in Medicaid from nursing homes into the community to live-in settings that are less restrictive and less costly than nursing homes.

For additional details on the Governor's recommended Fiscal Year 2010-11 budget, visit www.MyFlorida.com and click on "The People's Budget," or visit www.ThePeoplesBudget.state.fl.us.

The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to better health care for all Floridians. AHCA administers Florida's Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 41,000 health care facilities and 43 health maintenance organizations, and publishes health care data and statistics. For more information, please visit www.ahca.myflorida.com.

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