



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

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COUNTY TAXPAYERS RECEIVE REFUND CHECK FOR FIGHT AGAINST MEDICAID FRAUD AND ABUSE

Brooks-Led Local Effort to Eliminate Medicaid Waste, Fraud, and Abuse Results in over \$500,000 Refund from the New York State Medicaid Inspector General

On behalf of local taxpayers, Monroe County Executive **Maggie Brooks** today accepted a refund check reimbursing Monroe County for questionable Medicaid claims revealed by County-led collaborative audits.

The check, which totals \$515,745 and was presented by New York State Medicaid Inspector General **James G. Sheehan**, is the direct result of Monroe's participation in the Medicaid Fraud Waste and Abuse County Demonstration Project, a statewide initiative established in 2006 following a proposal by the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC). **Stephen J. Acquario**, NYSAC Executive Director, was also on hand for today's announcement. The New York State Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG) administers the project in conjunction with participating counties.

"On behalf of our community's hardworking taxpayers and families, I am incredibly proud to accept this check in recognition of Monroe County's efforts to root-out waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicaid Program," said **Brooks**. *"With Medicaid standing as the greatest contributor to high property taxes across the State, I am very pleased that Monroe County has done its part to operate a delivery system that cracks down on abuse. Not only does this refund do justice for local taxpayers, it serves as tangible evidence of Monroe County's longstanding commitment to protecting their resources."*

The refund is the cumulative result of investigations performed jointly by the OMIG, the Monroe County Law Department, the Monroe County Department of Human Services, and impartial private auditing firms as part of Monroe's participation in the Medicaid Fraud Waste and Abuse County Demonstration Project. To date, this team has systematically identified nearly \$12,000,000 in Medicaid claim overpayments made to local providers, with the OMIG taking action to successfully recover over \$4,000,000. Monroe County's local share percentage of these collections, which amounts to approximately 20% of net repayments after the cost of all related audits are covered, accounts for the \$515,745 reimbursement.

"The County Antifraud Demonstration Project is one component of New York State's major efforts to identify Medicaid fraud and abuse," **Sheehan** said. *"New York leads the nation in recovering and preventing improper Medicaid payments. Through*

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innovative programs such as this partnership with Monroe, we are able to work with county officials to recover improper Medicaid payments. But even more importantly, this kind of cooperation helps the state to protect the integrity of the Medicaid program so that the funds are available for those in need. Monroe County residents should be pleased with the efforts of both county and state officials in monitoring Medicaid payments on behalf of the taxpayers, and with the return of these funds to the county coffers.”

NYSAC spearheaded the effort to create the County Medicaid Demonstration Project four years ago with the intent of protecting the integrity of New York State’s Medicaid program. Monroe County is one of 11 counties in the Program and was the first to sign on to participate. Currently, only one other county – New York City – has received a refund payment for their efforts. With nearly \$12,000,000 in identified claim overpayments, Monroe County far outpaces all other counties, including New York City, in the collection of wrongly claimed Medicaid funds.

*“For decades, NYSAC has been working to raise awareness about the high cost of Medicaid and its impact on county taxpayers,” said **Acquario**. “Through the diligent efforts of County Executive Maggie Brooks, Monroe County has demonstrated it can help identify and prevent waste and abuse in the Medicaid Program and save Monroe County taxpayers Money. Today’s refund by the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG) is proof that abuse exists in this massive health care program, the state’s largest expense, and that efforts need to continue to preserve the integrity of this important health care program.”*

The New York State Association of Counties is a bipartisan municipal association serving the counties of New York State including the City of New York. **Brooks** is incoming President of the New York State Association of County Executives, an affiliate of NYSAC, effective January 1. Additionally, **Brooks** is incoming President of the County Executives’ of America, effective the same day.

Monroe County citizens are strongly encouraged to report any form of suspected Medicaid fraud, waste or abuse. If you have information concerning Medicaid fraud or abuse, please contact the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General’s statewide hotline at 1-877-87FRAUD (1-877-873-7283) or online at www.omig.ny.gov.

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