

1. State assists providers in complying with HIE requirements ...
2. Provider application fees ...
3. Funding will ensure more residency positions in North Carolina ...

BUDGET

HIE

Legislators viewed improving the Health Information Exchange (HIE) as a priority this session by funding this important element of the state's Medicaid reforms, instead of passing the costs to providers. The budget allocated \$3 million to support all activities related to upgrading the data exchange within the HIE network, as well as \$1 million in funds to provide ongoing maintenance. Providers of Medicaid services will be required to connect to the electronic health record system and begin submitting data by June 1, 2019. This aligns with the General Assembly's view that more information can serve as a pathway to understanding patient needs in North Carolina.

Medicaid

Provider application fees to participate in the Medicaid program was another hot topic. The budget requires each provider who submits an application to pay the federal fee and \$100. This fee will only be charged to at re-credentialing, which occurs every five years, instead of every year.



GME

Ensuring that physicians who train in North Carolina stay in the state to practice remains as a key issue for the NCMS and, this year, for legislators as well. Both the House and Senate budgets, as well as the final budget, included \$3 million in non-recurring funding to support the establishment of a residency program at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center due to its reclassification by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as a rural hospital. This funding will ensure more residency positions in North Carolina, which serve as an excellent resource in assisting physician retention efforts for our state.

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PO Box 27167 • Raleigh, NC 27611
919-833-3836 • 800-722-1350