

## Massachusetts granted three-year Medicaid waiver extension.

In continuing coverage from a previous edition of *NAHU Newswire*, the [AP](#) (10/1) reported, "Massachusetts has reached an agreement with the federal government on a three-year extension of a Medicaid waiver needed to provide critical funding for the state's landmark healthcare law." Under the agreement, the state will have access to "billions of dollars more...over the previous waiver," which, according to Gov. Deval Patrick (D), "removes a large question mark in the state's budget. Massachusetts' healthcare obligations for the current fiscal year now are fully funded."

The [Boston Globe](#) (10/1, Lazar) noted that the "agreement is unusual" because "it comes at a time when many states are fighting with federal officials for the right to extend subsidized health insurance to people with incomes higher than is traditionally allowed under Medicaid rules." Earlier this year, state officials anticipated "at least a \$130 million gap this fiscal year in paying for the newly insured." They required "hospitals and insurance companies to contribute more to the fund," and premiums and copayments were increased "for consumers who receive subsidized coverage." The state also "said it would require employers to pay more toward their workers' coverage under complex new rules that were to start" on Oct. 1. But the rules were delayed until Jan. 1 as the state faced "an uproar from businesses." The [Wall Street Journal's](#) (10/1, Goldstein) Health Blog also covered the story.