



## MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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### **MC Says Governors Budget Proposal Would Cost Local Taxpayers \$1.5 mil a Year**

**Wampsville, NY** – Madison County Officials say if Governor Kathy Hochul's proposal to withhold federal funds from Counties passes, owning property in New York State will be even more unaffordable. Madison County and fellow counties have been working with the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) to educate the public that the proposal in the \$227 billion 2024 Executive State Budget to withhold \$625 million in Medicaid funds from all of the New York Counties, which they have been receiving for decades.

The proposed change would reverse 20 years of precedent. In 2003, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (eFMAP) created the state as a federal pass-thru to the counties and New York City. If enacted, this would eliminate that pass through and the first year it would cost counties \$281 million and another \$345 million to New York City. Madison County, in just the first year, 2023, it would be required to spend an additional \$833,000. And then starting in 2024 an estimated additional \$1.5 million a year.

"Our residents are already struggling, and if this elimination of funds is enacted, it will result in an increase in property taxes on their homes or reduce services we provide," said Madison County Board Chairman John M. Becker. "

"Congress intended for these funds to be passed down to the State and Counties, not for New York State to keep it all for themselves to offset their budget issues," said Madison County Administrator Mark Scimone. "Madison County echoes the other 56 counties and NYSAC in calling for the State Legislature to not approve this proposal. Instead of sharing these federal dollars this would just cause the state to be a less affordable place to live, work or start a business."

At \$7.6 billion a year, counties in New York contribute more towards Medicaid than all other counties in the nation combined. Madison County strongly disagrees with the need to cut county funding, forcing the County to raise taxes above the statutory tax cap limits, when the Governor's budget proposes to fully fund its own reserves two years ahead of schedule by depositing \$5.4 billion into reserves before the end of SFY 2023, while also projecting a general fund surplus of \$35 billion by the end of SFY 2024.

Also, Madison County is requesting the State reconcile the COVID eFMAP savings it is owed for the past 3 years which amount to over \$2.4 million for 2019 – 2021. This was temporary funding passed down from the federal government to the state for the counties. Including 2022 the total is more like \$4.6 million owed to Madison County.

“Governor Hochul last year came to NYSAC and talked about how she used to be part of County government, that we had an ally now in Albany. Without this funding, which was promised by Congress, not only will Madison County become more unaffordable, so will the entire state,” said Chairman Becker.

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