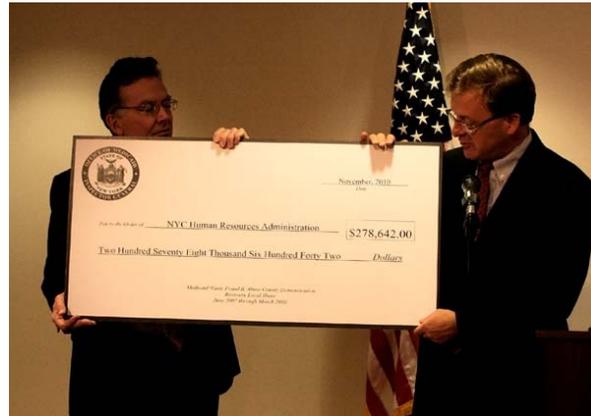




HRA and New York State Medicaid Inspector General Recover Over \$10 Million through Medicaid Fraud, Waste and Abuse Demonstration Project

In a press conference on Thursday, November 4, New York State Medicaid Inspector General James G. Sheehan presented Commissioner Doar with a check for \$278,642, the City's share of \$10,169,541 in Federal, State and City Medicaid funds recovered through the Medicaid Fraud, Waste and Abuse Demonstration Project over a three year period.

"Medicaid fraud hurts the poor and needy, wastes tax dollars and makes the public skeptical about social services," said Commissioner Doar. "HRA has a responsibility to all New Yorkers to ensure the integrity of public assistance programs. Our Medicaid Provider Fraud Office works hard to target fraud, waste and abuse by healthcare and other service providers and make sure that those who steal from public health insurance or any other program are investigated and will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. I thank State Medicaid Inspector General James G. Sheehan for this fruitful partnership."



Medicaid Inspector General James G. Sheehan and HRA Commissioner Robert Doar

"The County Demonstration Project is a pivotal part of the work that we do to protect the integrity of New York's Medicaid program," said Medicaid Inspector General James G. Sheehan. "These recoveries represent many hours of work on the part of the counties and OMIG staff, and I applaud their dedication on behalf of the taxpayers of New York State and New York City. We're sending a message to providers that someone is watching. Knowing what goes on in all the neighborhoods of the City is something that HRA does very well, and our partnership has been extremely successful."

The Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG)'s County Fraud, Waste and Abuse Demonstration Project unites the OMIG office with 16 different jurisdictions across New York State, including New York City, to better combat Medicaid provider fraud and waste. In New York City, HRA's Office of Medicaid Provider Fraud and Abuse Investigation (OMPFAI) audits medical service providers who bill Medicaid, such as hospitals and pharmacists, to determine if there has been any fraudulent or incorrect billing. If the audit identifies improper payments, the OMIG recovers those funds and restores them to the City, State and Federal governments.

Inspector General Sheehan also praised HRA's Investigation, Revenue and Enforcement Administration (IREA), and Executive Deputy Commissioner Peter Jenik, for their efforts combating recipient as well as provider fraud.

"Peter and his team at IREA have been national leaders in this area for some time. HRA is way ahead of the curve nationally as well as on a state level."