

Legislative Priority # 8: The City of Norfolk supports legislation to provide sufficient state funding for additional unfunded Family Access to Medical Insurance Security (FAMIS) administrative responsibilities. (Council Priorities: *Economic Vitality and Workforce Development; Safe, Healthy and Inclusive Community; and Well-Managed Government*).

Currently, the FAMIS program has shared responsibilities between state and local governments. Local social service agency staff processes applicants who are eligible for Medicaid and the Commonwealth process applicants eligible for FAMIS.

However, effective October 1, 2013, applications for the FAMIS program will become the responsibility of local social service agencies. Effective December 31, 2013, the Commonwealth's central processing unit that has been responsible for processing FAMIS application will cease operations and become the responsibility of local agencies. No commiserate funding appropriation has been identified for these added processing responsibilities at the local level.

This unfunded shift in local in FAMIS administrative responsibilities comes at a time when local social service staffs are handling ever-increasing caseloads. Local agencies are already operating with significantly reduced state funding. This shift in FAMIS responsibilities will require additional staff and increase operational costs at the local level and should be accompanied by sufficient state funding to offset the increase local government costs.