



October 2013

# Healthcare Integrated General Ledger Accounting System Highlights

Brought to you by the Financial Management Systems Group (FMSG) under the Office of Financial Management (OFM)

## Celebrating Accomplishments

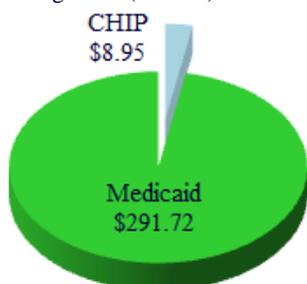
HIGLAS recouped \$217.5 million of cumulative Federal Tax debts and \$96.4 million of Federal Non-Tax debts from Medicare Provider Payments through August 30, 2013 under the Treasury Federal Payment Levy Program (FPLP).

Thirteen HIGLAS Change Requests (HCRs) were implemented as part of the October HIGLAS Quarterly Release (QR) on October 7, 2013 to enhance Medicare Benefits and Administrative Program Accounting (APA) functionality.

## HIGLAS Statistics

Since FY 2007, HIGLAS has been accounting for federal grants to states for Medicaid as well as the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) federal funding. The cumulative FY 2013 federal obligations for these programs are \$291.72 billion for Medicaid and \$8.95 billion for CHIP.

FY 2013 Cumulative Federal Obligations (billions)



\*Medicaid data includes Recovery Act Grants to States as of August 2013

## Federal News

After a 16-day partial shutdown, the Federal government, including the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), reopened on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

During the shutdown, HIGLAS continued to process claims and record financial activities in order to

avoid lapses in support to Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

This experience served as a reminder of the patience, resilience, and dedication of Federal employees, whose work is critical to the operation of our nation.

**"Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful"**

~Joshua J. Marine



## Making Improvements

Updates to HIGLAS are regularly rolled out to increase functionality and repair software issues. Every three months, a HIGLAS Quarterly Release (QR) is deployed, implementing planned enhancements into the system. The HIGLAS QR cycle, managed by the Division of Financial Application Systems (DFAS) within FMSG, spans seven months and includes five phases:

- Baselining;
- Analysis;

- Design and development;
- Testing; and
- Deployment.

The process begins with the submission of enhancement requests (ERs) to make a change to the core functionality of HIGLAS. After evaluation and prioritization, each selected ER is assigned a HIGLAS Change Request (HCR) and submitted to CMS' Requirements Management Committee (RMC). Once approved by the RMC,

business requirements and technical and functional design are determined, followed by multiple testing cycles. After testing is complete, approved changes are presented to CMS' Change Authorization Board (CAB) and, if authorized, the HCR is included in the next QR.

The most recent QR went live on Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup> (see *Celebrating Accomplishments*) and the next QR is scheduled for January 6, 2014.

## Technology News

Using data analytics to understand business performance and needs is critical to CMS. HIGLAS leverages Oracle Business Intelligence Enterprise Edition (OBIEE) to develop scorecards, dashboards,

and reports for executive leadership through operational staff. This information is used to measure performance against key metrics, synchronize with the Department of Treasury to

track and trend receivables data, and report financial transactions by fiscal year.

An upgrade to the newest version of OBIEE is planned for later this year.

**Have an idea for an article? Want to share feedback on a story? Please contact Sophia Shahverdian at [Sophia.Shahverdian@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Sophia.Shahverdian@cms.hhs.gov) Or Leslie Engel at [Leslie.Engel@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Leslie.Engel@cms.hhs.gov).**