

Associated Taxpayers of Idaho

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- ▶ The State of the Economy Is No Mystery
- ▶ But Our Response . . . Might Be

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- ▶ Government Should be No Different in Dealing with Our Challenging Economy . . . but we are.
- ▶ We should be looking at where and why our revenues are dropping and make corresponding cuts in Expenditures.

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- ▶ That said . . .
- ▶ We are Different
 - Type of Services We Provide.
 - Higher Demand during Difficult Economic Times

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- ▶ Failure is a Stimulus for Success
 - ▶ Zig Ziglar
- ▶ The Economic Crisis we are in, is no different.
- ▶ It is an Opportunity

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- ▶ What is the Role of Government?

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- ▶ What is the Role of Business?

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- ▶ What is the Role of the Individual?

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- ▶ Clearly, there should be Clear and Distinct Differences Between These Three Segments and the Roles and Responsibilities of Each

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► What is the Role of the

- State Government
- County Government
- City Government
- Local Taxing Districts

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▶ An Example of the Role of Government

Indigent Medical Care

- State's Role – Catastrophic Fund
 - ▶ Funded via the General Fund
 - ▶ Approximately \$22 million
- County's Role – Indigent Process and \$10,000 "Deductible"
 - ▶ Funded via Property Taxes
 - ▶ Approximately \$18 million

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▶ Indigent Medical Care is:

- By Definition

- ▶ Emergent (Idaho Code 31-3502 (13))
- ▶ Medically Necessary (Idaho Code 31-3502 (18))

- It is NOT

- ▶ Chronic Care
- ▶ Long-term Care

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▶ Indigent Process

- Medical Incident Occurs
- Treatment is Provided
- Application is Completed by Hospital (Provider) or Individual
- County Contacts Applicant for Interviews/Verification
- County Commissioners make decision to Approve or Deny Application and Request
- Appeal Process, if Needed

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► Strengths of the Current Process

- Knowledge of Applicant in Smaller Counties
- Local Control of Funds

► Weaknesses of the Current Process

- As with Attorneys, Different Interpretations on Code
- No Upper Limits on Expenditures (State)
- Emergent v. On-going Care
- 3rd Party Applications from Hospitals

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- ▶ Why are we Talking about this Today?
 - What is the Role of Government in Health Care?
 - ▶ Payment
 - ▶ Availability of Insurance Plans (Dept. of Insurance)
 - What is the Role of Business in Health Care?
 - ▶ Provision of Insurance for Employees
 - ▶ Provision of Insurance Plans
 - What is the Role of the Individual in Health Care?
 - ▶ Payment
 - ▶ Wellness

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- ▶ What are Counties Doing in these Economic Times to Prepare or Respond?
 - Indigent Claims
 - ▶ What is Indigent
 - ▶ What is Medically Necessary
 - ▶ What is Reasonable Repayment

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- ▶ What are Counties Doing in these Economic Times to Prepare or Respond?
 - Cuts in Service – Except . . .
 - ▶ Indigent Claims
 - ▶ Court System
 - ▶ Jail Programs
 - ▶ Minimum Requirements
 - Cuts in Personnel (last resort)
 - Eliminating Capital Purchases
 - Increases in Fees
 - Proliferation of Taxing Districts

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- ▶ Are These Good Options?
 - No
- ▶ Are These Good Choices?
 - No
- ▶ What are the Alternatives?
 - Back to Original Question – What is Our Respective Role?

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- ▶ The Opportunities We Have Before Us
 - Revisit Government's Responsibility
 - Fund These Programs that Support Government's Responsibility
 - ▶ Fund them Appropriately
 - ▶ With the Appropriate Tax
 - Acknowledge that Government Was Not Created to Provide Everything to Everyone
 - ▶ Limited Revenues
 - ▶ Limited Expenditures
 - ▶ Even More Evident Today

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- ▶ Taxes are the Price We Pay for Civilization
 - ▶ Oliver Wendell Homes, Jr.

- ▶ Taxes, after all, are dues that we pay for the privileges of membership in an organized society.
 - ▶ Franklin D. Roosevelt