

Medicaid as a Service

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In that regard, 2013 proved a banner year with the implementation of the first ever cloud computing platform for Medicaid Management Information Systems (MMIS).

As a concept, cloud computing describes a large network of computing systems that can run a program or application simultaneously and that are served by virtual hardware. Since the virtual hardware doesn't physically exist, programs that run on them can be edited or updated as necessary from any location.

What's more, by utilizing virtual servers cloud computing allows for an increase in capacity and capabilities without necessarily having to invest in additional infrastructure.

When applied to health care, cloud computing not only increases the efficiency of managing government programs such as Medicaid, but reduces cost. It also enables innovation associated with those programs on a scale that is just beginning to show its total value.

According to [CDW's 2013 State of the Cloud report](#), 88 percent of healthcare organizations that utilize cloud computing have reduced IT costs by an average of 20 percent. However, through 2012 just 35 percent of health care organizations were implementing cloud computing services.

This year, [CNSI announced a partnership with Michigan and Illinois](#) to implement a completely automated real-time and cloud enabled MMIS, [referred to as Medicaid as a Service \(MaaS\)](#).

MaaS meets security requirements including authentication, authorization, availability, identity management, integrity, and incident response while dramatically reducing costs for both the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and for each state involved.

For Michigan and Illinois, the cloud is expected to bring Medicaid management and implementation costs down by 40 percent.

With those kinds of savings, state governments can better serve their populace and allocate additional resources to communities in need. The end result_ better care, better health and lower costs.

What other ways can cloud computing advance health care? Tweet @CNSICorp to let us know! *Follow CNSI on [Twitter](#).*