



CMS Snapshot

March 24-31, 2022

Delivered to you by the Partner Relations Group in the Office of Communications

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, March 24 through 2pm Thursday, March 31, 2022.

News Releases

*March 24- [HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra, Education Secretary Miguel A. Cardona Announce a Joint Effort to Develop and Share Resources to Ensure Children Have Access to School-based Health Services](#). U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra and U.S. Education Department (ED) Secretary Miguel A. Cardona today reaffirmed their commitment to children and youth by launching a joint-department effort to expand school-based health services, ensuring children have the health services and supports necessary to build resilience and thrive. The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged the health and wellbeing of the Nation's children and youth further exacerbated preexisting inequities.

*March 24- [Women Leaders Unite to Combat Hate at the White House & WHIAANHPI Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Event to Commemorate Women's History Month and the One-Year Anniversary of the Atlanta Spa Shootings](#). This week, the White House Office of Public Engagement and the [White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders](#) (WHIAANHPI) hosted a virtual national Women's History Month event to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the tragic Atlanta spa shootings. The national event brought together senior Administration officials at the White House, WHIAANHPI, and Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPI) women leaders united in combating hate.

*March 24- [Readout of External Convening on 988 State-Level Plans, Featuring Remarks from Secretary Becerra](#). On Thursday, March 24, 2022, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra delivered remarks on the importance of the 988-suicide prevention line before 500+ leaders and public partners; 911 centers and emergency medical providers; crisis centers; and behavioral health providers, as HHS encourages states to step up planning for an official July launch. Participants included representatives from the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors and the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors.

*March 25- [ICYMI: HRSA Promotes Access to Gender Affirming Care and Treatment in the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program](#). The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced that it has released a letter encouraging Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program service providers to leverage their existing infrastructure to provide access to gender affirming care and treatment services to transgender and gender diverse individuals with HIV.

*March 28- [CMS Office of the Actuary Releases 2021-2030 Projections of National Health Expenditures](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the 2021-2030 National Health Expenditure (NHE) report, prepared by the CMS Office of the Actuary, that presents health spending and enrollment projections for the coming decade. The report notably shows that despite the increased demand for patient care in 2021, the growth in national health spending is estimated to have slowed to 4.2%, from 9.7% in 2020, as supplemental funding for public health activity and other federal programs, specifically those associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, declined significantly.

*March 28- [Four HIPAA Enforcement Actions Hold Healthcare Providers Accountable With Compliance](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) announced the resolution of three investigations and one matter before an Administration Law Judge related to compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule.

*March 28- [Statement by HHS Secretary Becerra on the President's Fiscal Year 2023 Budget](#). The Biden-Harris Administration today submitted to Congress the President's Budget for fiscal year 2023. The President's Budget details his vision to expand on the historic progress our country has made over the last year and deliver the agenda he laid out in his State of the Union address—to build a healthier America, reduce the deficit, reduce costs for families, and grow the economy from the bottom up and middle out.

*March 29- [Statement from HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on FDA and CDC Expanding Booster Eligibility for the Most Vulnerable](#). Today, following action by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to expand eligibility for an additional booster shot to the most vulnerable, highest-risk Americans, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra issued the following statement.

*March 30- [Settlement Agreement Reached with Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families to Address Discrimination Against Parents with Disabilities](#). The Office for Civil Rights at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and United States Attorney's Office for the District of Rhode Island (USAO) announced today that the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) has agreed to resolve alleged violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. DCYF is a state agency responsible for child welfare services, juvenile corrections, and children's behavioral health services.

*March 30- [HHS Awards \\$256.6 Million to Expand and Restore Access to Equitable and Affordable Title X Family Planning Services Nationwide](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) awarded \$256.6 million in grant funding to support 76 grantees to deliver equitable, affordable, client-centered, and high-quality family planning services. These grants will restore access to Title X services nationwide and fill service gaps caused by more than a quarter of Title X providers withdrawing from the program over the past two and a half years in response to the previous administration's Title X rule.

*March 31- [HHS to Provide \\$110 Million to Strengthen Safety Net for Seniors and People with Disabilities](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced it will offer more than \$110 million to expand access to home and community-based services (HCBS) through Medicaid's Money Follows the Person (MFP) program. First authorized in 2005, MFP has provided states with \$4.06 billion to support people who choose to transition out of institutions and back into their homes and communities. The new Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) makes individual awards of up to \$5 million available for more than 20 states and territories not currently participating in MFP.

*March 31- [Readout of HHS Secretary Becerra's Roundtable on Nursing Home Reforms](#). On Wednesday, March 30, 2022, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra hosted a roundtable with stakeholders to discuss the [nursing home reforms](#) President Biden announced on February 18 and reiterated during his State of the Union address. The roundtable discussed nursing home staffing requirements, ideas for workforce development and retention, and COVID-19 booster shots. Secretary Becerra and roundtable participants reiterated the need to improve quality of care for residents and working conditions for staff.

*March 31- [Statements by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra, Assistant Secretary for Health Admiral Rachel Levine, and Assistant Secretary for Global Affairs Loyce Pace on International Transgender Day of Visibility](#). Today, hours after making history by raising the transgender pride flag outside of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) headquarters building, HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra, alongside Assistant Secretary for Health Admiral Rachel Levine and Assistant Secretary for Global Affairs Loyce Pace, released the following statements to celebrate International Transgender Day of Visibility.

Fact Sheets

*March 30- [Fiscal Year 2023 Hospice Payment Rate Update Proposed Rule \(CMS-1773-P\)](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule (CMS-1773-P) that would provide routine updates to hospice based payments and the aggregate cap amount for fiscal year (FY) 2023 in accordance with existing statutory and regulatory requirements. This rule proposes to establish a permanent mitigation policy to smooth the

impact of year-to-year changes in hospice payments related to changes in the hospice wage index.

CMS has developed a [Virtual Toolkit](#) to help you stay informed on all CMS and HHS materials available on the COVID-19 pandemic. Please share these materials, bookmark the page, and check back often for the most up-to-date information. For more information, please email partnership@cms.hhs.gov