



## CMS Snapshot

### April 21-28, 2022

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, April 21 through 2pm Thursday, April 28, 2022

#### News Releases

\*April 21- [HHS Awards Over \\$385 Million to Help Households Lower Cooling and Heating Costs.](#)

Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra announced the award of more than \$385 million to help families and individuals with their energy costs. This release follows recent significant investments in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program ([LIHEAP](#)) through the [American Rescue Plan](#) (ARP), the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#) and congressional appropriations.

\*April 22- [CMS Proposes Updates to Reduce Barriers to Coverage, Simplify Medicare Enrollment and Expand Access.](#) Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule to update Medicare enrollment and eligibility rules that would expand coverage for people with Medicare and advance health equity. This proposed rule would provide Medicare coverage the month immediately after enrollment, thereby reducing the uninsured period and expand access through Medicare special enrollment periods (SEPs). It would also allow eligible beneficiaries to receive Medicare Part B coverage without a late enrollment penalty.

\*April 22- [HHS Launches Pledge Initiative to Mobilize Health Care Sector to Reduce Emissions.](#)

Today, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), in partnership with the White House, is issuing a call to action for health care stakeholders to commit to tackling the climate crisis through a new initiative aimed at reducing emissions across the health care sector.

\*April 22- [Statement on the Swearing-In of January Contreras as Assistant Secretary at the Administration for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.](#)

Thursday, April 21, 2022, following bipartisan confirmation by the U.S. Senate, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra formally swore in January Contreras as Assistant Secretary at the Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

\*April 25- [Indian Health Service Announces Five Million Dollars in Funding for Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S.](#) The Indian Health Service is announcing five million dollars in funding for

[“Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S.”](#) to support work toward the elimination of HIV and hepatitis C in Indian Country. At HHS, we continue to confront the HIV epidemic head-on by ensuring resources are focused on the communities and people who most need them,” said HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra. “This funding will help us reach people in Indian Country and engage people who are disproportionately impacted by HIV.”

\*April 26- [Readout of the HHS Mental Health Roundtable with Historically Black Colleges and Universities \(HBCUs\)](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) partnered with the African American Behavioral Health-Center of Excellence (AABH-COE) at Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia to host a roundtable event on the mental health of students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The event was held on April 21, 2022, at the Morehouse School of Medicine, which is part of the Atlanta University Center, the oldest and largest consortium of Black higher education in the world. Students and administrators from 25 HBCUs across the country participated in the discussion.

\*April 26- [Remarks by HHS Secretary Becerra for the Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Administration for Community Living](#). *As Prepared for Delivery*. On Tuesday, April 26, U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra spoke at the celebration of the [tenth anniversary](#) of the creation of the Administration for Community Living. Thank you, Alison, for that warm introduction. And to our ACL colleagues, congratulations on 10 years of vital work!

\*April 27- [HHS's New Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Benefit Resources Will Help People Seeking Care to Better Understand Their Rights](#). In partnership with the Department of Labor, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has developed new, free informational resources that inform Americans of their rights under law on coverage for mental health benefits.

\*April 28- [HHS Announces New Policy to Make Coverage More Accessible and Affordable for Millions of Americans in 2023](#). Today, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), announced new measures that will allow consumers to more easily find the right form of quality, affordable health care coverage on HealthCare.gov that best meets their needs. These measures set the landscape for the upcoming HealthCare.gov Open Enrollment Period, which will begin on November 1, 2022, and are part of the Biden-Harris Administration’s ongoing effort to strengthen and build on the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

\*April 28- [Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on the White House LGBTQI+ Report](#). Today, the U.S. Government released a first of its kind progress [report](#) on implementation of President Biden’s [Memorandum on Advancing the Human Rights of LGBTQI+ Persons Around the World](#). The progress demonstrates the U.S. commitment to promoting and protecting the human rights of LGBTQI+ people around the world through our diplomacy and foreign assistance.

## Fact Sheets

\* April 22- [Implementing Certain Provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 and other Revisions to Medicare Enrollment and Eligibility Rules \(CMS-4199-P\)](#). On April 22, 2022 the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule to implement sections of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA) that would simplify Medicare enrollment rules and extend coverage of immunosuppressive drugs for certain beneficiaries. Section 120 of the CAA makes changes to Traditional Medicare by revising the effective dates of coverage and giving the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (the Secretary) the authority to establish new special enrollment periods (SEPs) for individuals who meet exceptional conditions.

\*April 22- [Fact Sheet: Celebrating Earth Day 2022](#). The Biden-Harris Administration is celebrating Earth Day by focusing on its theme, “invest in our planet”, and is committed to addressing climate change, advancing health equity and pursuing environmental justice - which all depends on a healthy, clean planet. The following is a snapshot of various Earth Day activities the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, its new Office of Climate Change and Health Equity and other divisions are coordinating as part of a commitment to building a healthier, more climate-resilient future.

\*April 28- [HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2023 Final Rule Fact Sheet](#). In the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2023 Final Rule released today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is finalizing standards for issuers and Marketplaces, as well as requirements for agents, brokers, web-brokers, and issuers assisting consumers with enrollment through Marketplaces that use the federal platform.

## Blog

\*April 21- [5 preventive services covered by Marketplace plans](#). All Marketplace plans cover a set of [preventive services](#) to prevent illness, disease, and other health problems at no cost to you, even if you haven't met your yearly deductible. These services are free only when you get them from a doctor or other provider in your plan's network. Contact your health plan to see which providers are "in-network."

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