



CMS Snapshot

March 17-24, 2022

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, March 17 through 2pm Thursday, March 24, 2022.

News Releases

*March 18- [Ahead of Anniversary, Secretary Becerra and HHS Leaders Celebrate Twelve Years of the Affordable Care Act Advancing Health Equity for All Americans](#). Today, Secretary Xavier Becerra and leaders across the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released the following statements celebrating the twelve-year anniversary of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which was signed into law on March 23, 2010.

*March 18- [HHS Announces Nearly \\$44 Million to Strengthen Mental Health and Substance Use Services for Populations at Risk for or Living with HIV/AIDS](#). Today, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), announced three funding opportunities to strengthen mental health and substance use services for individuals at risk for or living with HIV/AIDS. Totalling \$43.7 million dollars, the funding opportunities reflect the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to providing accessible, evidence-based, culturally appropriate substance use prevention, treatment and recovery services to all as part of HHS's new Overdose Prevention Strategy. Funding will be awarded in the fall.

*March 21- [HHS Recognizes One-Year Anniversary of Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program to Advance Equity in Pandemic Response](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recognized the one-year anniversary of the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) [Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program](#), which received funding from President Biden's American Rescue Plan and has provided COVID-19 vaccines directly to thousands of HRSA-supported health center sites nationwide. To date, health centers have administered more than 20 million vaccines in underserved communities across the country through the HRSA program and partnerships with states.

*March 22- [HHS Distributing an Additional \\$413 Million in Provider Relief Fund Payments to Health Care Providers Impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA),

today announced more than \$413 million in Provider Relief Fund (PRF) payments to more than 3,600 providers across the country. This is the fourth round of PRF Phase 4 payments, totaling nearly \$12 billion that has been distributed to more than 82,000 providers in all 50 states, Washington D.C., and five territories since November 2021. This is in addition to HRSA's distribution of American Rescue Plan (ARP) Rural payments totaling nearly \$7.5 billion in funding to more than 44,000 providers across the country over the past four months.

*March 23- [On 12-Year Anniversary of the Affordable Care Act, New HHS Report Shows Ways the Biden-Harris Administration's American Rescue Plan Investments Are Lowering Health Care Costs and Expanding Coverage](#). Today, on the 12th anniversary of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a new report highlighting data on the record-setting 2022 Open Enrollment Period and key health care coverage gains made under the Biden-Harris Administration. The "State of the ACA" report, published by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), shows that the Affordable Care Act is at the strongest it has ever been thanks to President Biden's robust investments through the American Rescue Plan (ARP). Nationwide, 2.8 million more consumers are receiving tax credits in 2022 compared to 2021. These tax credits are helping families keep more money in their pockets for essentials as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

*March 23- [G7 Health Ministers condemn attacks on health facilities in Ukraine](#). Today, Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra joined fellow G7 health ministers in issuing the statement below condemning the attacks on Ukraine health facilities.

*March 23- [Remarks by Secretary Xavier Becerra at Livestream Event Celebrating the 12th Anniversary of the Affordable Care Act](#). On Wednesday, March 23, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) hosted a special livestream event to celebrate the 12th Anniversary of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). During the event, HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra and CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure delivered opening remarks about the [state of the ACA](#) and how the Biden-Harris Administration is building on the landmark law to expand access to quality, affordable health coverage and care. Following their opening remarks, additional HHS officials from across the Department participated in a panel discussion on the ACA.

*March 23- [ICYMI: Secretary Becerra Talks to NBC News About Latino Successes in His First Year as HHS Secretary](#). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra recently sat down with NBC News reporter Suzanne Gamboa to discuss the Department's success in the Latino community, including protecting the community from COVID-19 by increasing uptake of vaccines and boosters and expanding health care coverage in the community by increasing enrollment in the Affordable Care Act insurance marketplaces.

*March 24- [HHS Announces Dramatic Increase in Funding to Expand the Availability of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics Across the Nation](#). Today, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

(SAMHSA) is announcing two Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) funding opportunities to expand and increase access to evidence-based mental health and substance use services for all Americans. This includes providing essential mental health services—such as 24-hour mobile crisis teams, screening, and case management—to vulnerable communities that would otherwise lack access to services.

Fact Sheets

*March 18- [Fact Sheet: Celebrating the Affordable Care Act](#). Since its enactment on March 23, 2010, the Affordable Care Act has led to an historic advancement of health equity in the United States. This landmark law improved the health of all Americans, including women and families, kids, older adults, people with disabilities, LGBTQI+ and communities of color. Thanks to the ACA, millions more Americans have gained health coverage without limits, and protections are in place for people with preexisting conditions. People have access to essential health benefits, including preventive and rehabilitative care, prescription drugs, wellness visits and contraceptives, mental health and substance use treatment, among many others. The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to building on the success of the ACA and making health care a right for all Americans.

Blogs

*March 22- [Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Older Americans Act Senior Nutrition Program](#). Long before my time as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, I have worked to ensure older Americans – and *all* Americans – have access to safe, nutritious food. As a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for more than two decades, I worked tirelessly to support funding for programs that prevent hunger and food insecurity in our communities.

*March 23- [HHS Open Data Fuels the 2022 Health Equity DataJam](#). Be part of something exciting by working together. Help HHS solve real-world problems! HHS' HealthData.gov fuels new business models, scientific advancements, and collaborative innovation by making government data open to the public, easily discoverable, and machine readable.

*March 24- [You may qualify for a Special Enrollment Period with a life event](#). Open Enrollment for 2022 is over, but you may still qualify to enroll in or change Marketplace coverage for the rest of the year if you've had a recent life event. Getting married, having a baby, moving, and losing health coverage all count. (Note: These are the most common life changes; [here's the full list of qualifying life events](#)). In addition to having a life event, you may also qualify based on your estimated household income.

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