May 1, 2015

Champions for Coverage:

Happy Friday! The Champion program has some great updates in this week's newsletter. We had a great turnout for the From Coverage to Care Webinar on Wednesday, April 29th. The recording and transcript will be posted in the next few weeks here. You should have also received your appreciation certificates via email. Again we thank you for all you do. Please email champion@cms.hhs.gov if you did not receive a copy.

Reminder: We want to hear from you! With the second open enrollment period behind us, we are reflecting on what went well and what needs improvement. Consider providing your thoughts on what worked this enrollment season: How can CMS continue to support Champions throughout the summer and next open enrollment? Did your organization take on a larger role in outreach or enrollment his past year? Do you want to increase your involvement next year?

Please submit any thoughts and feedback to Champion@cms.hhs.gov.

Looking for Medicare Success Stories: CMS is looking for Medicare success stories to highlight the upcoming 50th Anniversary this July. Please email Champion@cms.hhs.gov if you would like to submit a story.

New/Updated Content and Webinars

New: Help Enroll Eligible Children in Medicaid and CHIP Year-Round! Join Our #Enroll365 Twitter Storm on May 5th

Twitter Storm: Join the Connecting Kids to Coverage National Campaign and co-hosts MomsRising (@MomsRising) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (@AmerAcadPeds) for a Twitter Storm on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. EDT! Campaign partners, Connecting Kids to Coverage grantees, and others will rally around the #Enroll365 hashtag to spread the message that Medicaid and CHIP enrollment is year-round and to share Connecting Kids to Coverage resources. This will be a great opportunity to harness the power of social media and share the importance of children's health coverage widely with your followers. Download our Twitter Storm Guide which features sample tweets, graphics, and instructions for

how to participate. Don't have a Twitter account? No problem! Sample posts and graphics can also be used on Facebook or on websites, as well.

Reminder: Navigator Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced a funding opportunity for organizations and individuals to operate as Navigators in Federally-facilitated Marketplaces (FFMs), including State Partnership Marketplaces (SPMs). As they have done over the past two years, and as they are doing now, Navigators will continue to assist consumers in various ways, including providing information about available coverage options through the Marketplace during open enrollment.

Navigators have been an important resource for the millions of Americans who enrolled in coverage over the past two years. This funding announcement ensures this important work will continue over the next three years in states with a FFM, including during Marketplace open enrollment periods.

Key Changes

This year's FOA creates a multi-year funding structure. The 2015 FOA expands the period of performance, or project period, from 12 months to 36 months. The multi-year grant award will have a funding period of one year and subsequent years will be funded incrementally based on funding availability. This change is designed to provide greater consistency for Navigator grantee organizations and their staff from year to year, reducing yearly start up time and providing a more efficient use of grant funds.

In addition, the 2015 FOA places a greater emphasis on re-enrollment activities and consumers enrolled in coverage through the Marketplace. Applicants are encouraged to explain how they will assist persons seeking to re-enroll in coverage through Marketplaces and how they will assist consumers with applications for coverage available through the Marketplace and selection, including renewal of a QHP. The 2015 FOA also places a greater emphasis on working with underserved populations. This year applicants are encouraged to demonstrate a focus on rural, underserved, vulnerable, or special needs populations or communities, and a commitment to serve these populations or communities.

Application and Award Information

HHS will award up to $67,000,000 to recipients across all service areas of FFMs (including SPMs).

Key Dates for Pre-Application Calls:

First call: Wednesday, April 29

Second call: Wednesday, May 6, 2015 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. Eastern Time

- Audience URL: https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1061470
- Webcast title: Navigator Funding Opportunity Announcement Pre-Application Webinar 5-6-15

Third call: Wednesday, May 20, 2015 from 11:00am-12:30 p.m. Eastern Time

- Audience URL: https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1061472
- Webcast title: Navigator Funding Opportunity Announcement Pre-Application Webinar 5-20-15

Fourth call: Wednesday, June 3, 2015 from 2:00-3:30 p.m. Eastern Time

- Audience URL: https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1061473
- Webcast title: Navigator Funding Opportunity Announcement Pre-Application Webinar 6-3-15

Letter of Intent to Apply (required) Due: June 3, 2015

Applications Due: June 15, 2015, by 1:00pm ET

Anticipated Award Date: September 2, 2015

At least $600,000 in total cooperative agreement funds will be available for each FFM (including SPM) service area. Small entities and individuals proposing to serve smaller, hard-to-reach or underserved populations are encouraged to apply, particularly by partnering with other entities and/or individuals to form a consortium which serves a larger total portion of the population.

To see the FOA for the Cooperative Agreement to Support Navigators in Federally-facilitated and State Partnership Marketplaces go to Grants.gov and search for CFDA 93.332.

Reminder: 2016 Open Enrollment Period

The 2016 Open Enrollment Period for the Marketplace will start on November 1, 2015, and run through January 31, 2016. As you prepare for the next Open Enrollment Period, and work with consumers, we wanted you to have these dates in mind. These dates are listed in the Payment Notice fact sheet, and the press release announcing the Payment Notice.

Updated: HHS Partnership Center Webinar:

The HHS Partnership Center continues to host a series of webinars for faith and community leaders. All webinars are open to the public and include a question and answer session where you can ask HHS staff any questions you may have.

To participate in one of the webinars, please select your preferred topic from the list below and submit the necessary information.

Got Coverage? Next Steps in Using Your Health Insurance
Many people now have health insurance, but may not know how to use it. This webinar will discuss how to read your insurance card, how to find a doctor, what you need to know in making an appointment, and what to do in case you have a health emergency. Key terms will be discussed as well as recommended health screenings. We will highlight the Coverage to Care materials on health insurance literacy during the webinar. We will also discuss how faith and other community-based organizations are using these tools to help those in their congregations and communities.

May 19 at 3:00 pm EDT
(2:00 pm CT, 1:00 pm MT, Noon PT)
To Join By Phone Only, Dial +1 (646) 307-1706, Access Code: 763-833-558
For those joining by phone only, the Pin Number is the # key.

June 23 at 4:00 pm EDT
(3:00 pm CT, 2:00 pm MT, 1:00 pm PT)
To Join By Phone Only, Dial +1 (415) 655-0051, Access Code: 379-833-859
For those joining by phone only, the Pin Number is the # key.

Special Enrollment Periods and Resources for the Uninsured
Individuals and families can enroll in the Health Insurance Marketplace during special enrollment periods if they experience special circumstances. Special circumstances include graduating from high school or college and losing health insurance, getting married or divorced or having a baby, losing employer insurance or turning 26 and losing coverage on a parent's health plan. Join this webinar to learn more about special enrollment periods and how to enroll in the Health Insurance Marketplace. For those who are uninsured and don't qualify for the special enrollment period, learn what resources are available and when to enroll in the Health Insurance Marketplace.

May 6 at 2:00 pm EDT
(1:00 pm CT, Noon MT, 11:00 am PT)
To Join By Phone Only, Dial +1 (415) 655-0059, Access Code: 419-734-181
For those joining by phone only, the Pin Number is the # key.

June 17 at 2:00 pm EDT
(1:00 pm CT, Noon MT, 11:00 am PT)
To Join By Phone Only, Dial 1 (415) 655-0051, Access Code: 564-443-351
For those joining by phone only, the Pin Number is the # key.

News and Updates

New: February Medicaid Enrollment Report

Today, CMS released the February Medicaid Enrollment report. As of February 2015, 11.7 million additional individuals are enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP.

Today's report can be found here: http://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid-chip-program-information/program-information/downloads/medicaid-and-chip-february-2015-application-eligibility-and-enrollment-data.pdf

To read about Keena Hick's journey to get coverage under Medicaid expansion visit here: http://www.hhs.gov/blog/2015/05/01/keenas-getcovered-story.html.

New: SEPs Available to Consumers

Individuals may qualify for SEPs outside of Open Enrollment if they experience certain events. We wanted to highlight a couple of the SEPs finalized in the recently published Final Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2016 ("Payment Notice"). Some information on these SEPs were also included in the April 14th Newsletter, and we wanted to summarize the information below.

New or amended SEPs that are available to consumers starting on April 28, 2015:

- New SEP for gaining a dependent or becoming a dependent due to a child support or other court order. The coverage effective date will be the effective date of the court order.
- Continuing the SEP for when consumers are enrolled in a non-calendar plan that ends outside of the Marketplace Open Enrollment Period. Consumers will receive a regular coverage effective date (following the 15th of the month rule).
- A change in the SEP for consumers living in a non-Medicaid expansion state who were previously ineligible for Marketplace coverage with APTC due solely to household income and were ineligible for Medicaid during the same time, who have experienced a change in household income (to 100% FPL or above), making them newly eligible for APTC. Consumer no longer need to receive a Medicaid denial in order to qualify for this SEP. Consumers will receive regular coverage effective dates.

Additional coverage effective date options that Marketplaces may make available to consumers as of April 28, 2015:

- Additional effective date options following birth, adoption, placement for adoption or placement in foster care of (1) the first day of month following birth, adoption, foster care placement and (2) regular coverage effective dates.

- Additional effective date option following a child support or other court order of regular coverage effective dates.

New or amended SEPs that the Marketplaces may make available to consumers in the future after April 28, 2015:

- New SEP for losing a dependent or dependent status due to divorce or legal separation.
- New SEP for losing a dependent or dependent status due to death.
- A consumer can report a permanent move up to 60 days in advance of the move to qualify for the SEP (this option must be available to consumers by 1.1.17).

New: Guidance on Annual Eligibility Redeterminations and Re-enrollments for Marketplace Coverage for 2016

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released Redeterminations Guidance. Final regulations issued in August, 2014 provided that each Marketplace has three options each year for how to handle the annual redetermination process for current enrollees. Today's guidance released by the Secretary describes this alternative option for coverage year 2016, which is available to the Federally-facilitated Marketplace (FFM) and State-based Marketplaces, and will be used by the FFM.

For additional information on today's guidance click here: http://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Resources/Regulations-and-Guidance/Downloads/annual-redeterminations-for-coverage-42215.pdf

Reminder: From Coverage to Care (C2C) Enrollment Toolkit: Helping Consumers Choose the Health Plan That's Right for Them

From Coverage to Care recently released an Enrollment Toolkit dedicated to helping community partners, assisters, and others who help consumers enroll in coverage or change their plan. Sections start with a few questions consumers might have and, at the top of each page, include key messages for assisters to emphasize. At the end of the section, there are links to more resources for assisters and for consumers. The Toolkit offers tips for talking with consumers about why health insurance is important and explains how health insurance works in terms that consumers can understand. It also includes tips on how to talk with consumers about the types of financial assistance for which they may qualify, how this financial assistance relates to their income level, and what actions consumers need to take at tax time if they receive financial assistance during the year.

- To view and download the *From Coverage to Care* Enrollment Toolkit, please click here.
- To view and/or order other *From Coverage to Care* materials, please click here.

To check out the new *From Coverage to Care* landing page on HHS.gov, please click here

Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP)

Reminder: SHOP Spring and Summer Webinars

SBA, CMS and Small Business Majority will host free Affordable Care Act 101 webinars so small business owners can learn the basics of the Affordable Care Act and how they can enroll in health insurance marketplaces. Join us every other Thursday at 2 PM ET.

- May 14: Click to Register
- May 28: Click to Register
- June 11: Click to Register
- June 25: Click to Register
- July 9: Click to Register
- July 30: Click to Register
- August 6: Click to Register
- August 20: Click to Register

Join us for the Affordable Care Act 101 webinars in Spanish once a month on Tuesdays at 4 PM ET.

- May 19: Click to Register
- June 16: Click to Register
- July 14: Click to Register
- August 11: Click to Register

Social Media

- Keena is one of 11.7M Americans who have enrolled in #Medicaid and #CHIP. Her #GetCovered story is a must-read: http://1.usa.gov/1IvdKcZ
- When #PA expanded #Medicaid, it changed Keena's life. Read her #GetCovered story: http://1.usa.gov/1IvdKcZ [IMAGE]
- "Being covered is about having peace of mind, and not just for me—" –Keena Hicks, on what it means to #GetCovered: http://1.usa.gov/1IvdKcZ
- When #PA became one of 28 states plus #DC to expand #Medicaid coverage thru #ACA, it changed Keena's life: http://1.usa.gov/1IvdKcZ
- Keena was in "coverage gap" until #PA expanded #Medicaid. Now she's covered and taking care of her health: http://1.usa.gov/1IvdKcZ

HHS BLOG POSTS ABOUT THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND HEALTHCARE.GOV

Blog post from Friday, May 1:
Title: Keen's #GetCovered Story: How Medicaid Expansion Helps Me Take Care of My Health
Link: http://www.hhs.gov/blog/2015/05/01/keenas-getcovered-story.html

Blog post from Tuesday, April 28:
Title: Two Days Left, One More Chance to #GetCovered for 2015
Link: http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/facts/blog/2015/04/two-days-left-one-more-chance-getcovered-2015.html

Blog post from Friday, April 24
Title: Protecting Our Kids' Health-With Help From a Furry Friend
Link: http://www.hhs.gov/blog/2015/04/24/protecting-our-kids-health-help-furry-friend.html

WHITE HOUSE UPDATES ABOUT THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND HEALTHCARE.GOV

Blog post from Tuesday, April 21
Title: Celebrating the Latest Law Improving Health Care: The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Ac
Link: https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/04/21/celebrating-latest-law-improving-health-care-medicare-access-and-chip-reauthorizatio

-CMS Office of Communications, Partner Relations Group