



May 29, 2015

Champions for Coverage:

Summer is upon us as we celebrate graduations, schools letting out for the summer, and much needed vacations! CMS is still hard at work preparing for the next open enrollment and this newsletter has a lot of updated information. Also if you didn't notice last week, we reorganized the newsletter. We added a table of contents for you to easily navigate topics and locate new/updated information. Please email Champion@cms.hhs.gov if you have any thoughts or comments.

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

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[NEW/UPDATED CONTENT AND WEBINARS](#)

New: Webinar Today for New Graduates

Register Here: [New Graduates and Healthcare: Learn Your Options!](#)

May 29th at 3:30 pm EDT
2:30 pm CDT, 1:30 pm MDT, 12:30 pm PDT

Graduating from high school or college is an exciting step towards becoming independent. Yet many young adults don't think about one other important step – having health insurance. Health insurance is very affordable for many people, often less than \$100 a month, as a result of the Affordable Care Act. Many young adults are just one car accident or sports injury away from an expensive health care bill and potential bankruptcy. Join us on May 29 at 3:30 pm EDT for a free webinar to learn more about health insurance options for new graduates. A question and answer period will take place at the end of the webinar. To register, please click on the title of the webinar and submit the necessary information.

New: Marketplace Update: Navigator, Certified Application Counselor and In-Person Assister Training and Registration for Plan Year 2015 Closing

Assisters who need to complete the 2014-2015 Federally-facilitated Marketplace (FFM) training on the Medicare Learning Network® (MLN) Learning Management System (LMS) must do so before June 15, 2015, when this training will no longer be available. Also, assisters who plan to sign up to take plan year 2015 training must sign up before June 1, 2015.

Beginning on June 15, 2015, the 2014-2015 Federally-facilitated Marketplace (FFM) training and training curriculum completion certificates for Navigators, Certified Application Counselors and In-Person Assisters will no longer be available on the Medicare Learning Network® (MLN) Learning Management System (LMS) as we prepare to launch the training for plan year 2016. Assisters should not sign up for a new plan year 2015 training curriculum after June 1. CMS recommends that assisters who plan to complete any of the 2014-2015 training curricula (or print any certificates), and have not yet done so, complete this training prior to June 10, 2015.

Please note that completion of the current year's training curricula (2014-2015 training) does not count towards the plan year 2016 registration process for Navigators or In-Person Assisters. To see your completed curriculum certificates from the "Training Home" page, assisters should click "Transcript" on the blue task bar under the Health Insurance Marketplace logo. Click on the "Curriculums" view under the blue task bar and then click on "View Certificate" under the "Action" column.

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:

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](https://www.grants.gov) and search for CFDA 93.332.

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.

[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.

[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.

New: Tax SEP Enrollment Numbers

From March 15 to April 30, 147,000 consumers signed up for coverage through <http://HealthCare.gov> using the tax special enrollment period.

New: Guidance on Preventative Services Including Contraception

The U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor and the Treasury issued important guidance to insurance companies and consumers to help ensure that Americans have the coverage they are entitled to under the Affordable Care Act.

The law required that important preventive services, such as contraception and well-woman visits, be covered without out-of-pocket expenses (such as a co-pay or deductible). These recommended preventive services are designed to help people stay healthy and to catch illnesses earlier on, when treatments can be more successful and costs are often lower.

But as the law has been implemented, issues have been raised by some women and from Members of Congress that insurance companies were not covering the contraceptive method recommended by doctors, as well as concerns from issuers that the existing guidance did not provide enough detail about how specific types of contraception should be covered.

The guidance seeks to eliminate any ambiguity. Insurers must cover without cost-sharing at least one form of contraception in each of the methods (currently 18) that the FDA has identified for women in its current Birth Control Guide, including the ring, the patch and intrauterine devices, according to the guidance.

Additionally, the Departments are further clarifying a series of other important preventive services protections. The guidance:

- Clarifies that if a woman is at increased risk for having a potentially harmful mutation in genes that suppress tumors – the BRCA-1 or BRCA-2 cancer susceptibility gene - a plan or issuer must cover the preventive screening, genetic counseling, and BRCA genetic testing with no cost-sharing, as long as the woman had not been diagnosed with BRCA-related cancer. Women with the BRCA-1 and 2 mutation have a risk of breast cancer that is about five times the normal risk, and a risk of ovarian cancer that is about 10 to 30 times normal.
- Makes clear for transgender people that issuers cannot limit preventive services based on an individual's sex assigned at birth, gender identity or recorded gender. Issuers should cover the preventive services that an individual's provider, not an insurance company, determines are medically appropriate.
- Clarifies that if a plan or issuer covers dependent children, they must provide recommended preventive services for those dependent children. This includes

recommended services related to pregnancy, including preconception and prenatal care.

- Indicates that issuers cannot impose cost-sharing for anesthesia services performed in connection with preventive colonoscopies.

The following quote can be attributed to Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell -

“The Affordable Care Act was a major step forward in helping women get the health care services they need to stay healthy. Tens of millions of women are eligible to receive coverage of recommended preventive services without having to pay a co-pay or deductible, including contraception,” said Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell. “Today, we are clarifying these coverage requirements, including access to the full range of contraceptive methods identified by the FDA, access to genetic counseling and testing for the BRCA gene as a preventative tool in the fight against cancer, and access to preventive services for transgender individuals.”

The FAQs are attached and are posted here: http://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Resources/Fact-Sheets-and-FAQs/Downloads/aca_implementation_faqs26.pdf

New: ASPE Data on Preventative Services

According to a new ASPE Data Point released today, about 137 million individuals nationwide, including 55 million women and 28 million children, have private health insurance that covers recommended preventive services without cost sharing.

The press release can be found here:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2015pres/05/20150514a.html>

To read a fact sheet explaining today’s data point, please visit:

http://aspe.hhs.gov/health/reports/2015/Prevention/ib_Prevention.pdf

SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH OPTIONS PROGRAM (SHOP)

Reminder: SHOP 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.

- June 11:

- 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.

- June 16: [Click to Register](#)
- July 14: [Click to Register](#)
- August 11: [Click to Register](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

- [RT @SecBurwell](#): New data point → 137M Americans have access to free preventive services.
- [RT @SecBurwell](#): Thanks to #ACA, preventive services such as vaccinations & blood pressure screenings are now more accessible and affordable. #ACAisWorking

By the Numbers: ASPE Preventive Services (137M/Total)

- 137M Americans have access to free preventive services. Read more: <http://1.usa.gov/1JgLA5M> #CheckUpForWhat
- Worth sharing: 137M Americans have access to free preventive services. <http://1.usa.gov/1JgLA5M> #CheckUpForWhat
- Worth sharing → 137M Americans have access to free preventive services. #CheckUpForWhat
- 137M have access to free preventive services. <http://1.usa.gov/1JgLA5M> #CheckUpForWhat
- Number of the day → 137M Americans have access to free preventive services. #CheckUpForWhat

Prevention & Coverage to Care

[Download Coverage to Care Graphics \(English/Spanish\)](#)

- FACT: 137M have access to free preventive services. Find out what's covered. <http://1.usa.gov/1ua3Gew> #CoveragetoCare
- Staying healthy means getting the right preventive care. See what's covered under #ACA: <http://1.usa.gov/1ua3Gew> [IMAGE] #CheckUpForWhat
- #CheckUpForWhat: 137M Americans have access to preventive services. What's covered? Here's the list: <http://1.usa.gov/1ua3Gew>
- #CheckUpForWhat: 137M Americans have access to free preventive services. See what's covered: <http://1.usa.gov/1ua3Gew> #Coverage2Care
- #Coverage2Care means getting the right preventive services to stay healthy. What's covered? Here's the list: <http://1.usa.gov/1ua3Gew>

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

Blog post from Monday, May 18

Title: The Faces of Health Care: Alison S..

Link: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/05/18/faces-healthcare-alison-s>

Blog post from Thursday, May 14

Title: The Faces of Health Care: Siobhan F.

Link: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/05/14/faces-health-care-siobhan-f>

Blog post from Wednesday, May 13

Title: The Faces of Health Care: Teresha S.

Link: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/05/13/faces-health-care-teresha-s>

Blog post from Tuesday, May 12

Title: What you need to know about the new contraception guidance

Link: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/05/12/what-you-need-know-about-new-contraception-guidance>

-CMS Office of Communications, Partner Relations Group