



CMS Snapshot

March 9-16, 2023

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All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, March 9 through 2pm Thursday, March 16, 2023

News Releases

*March 10- [Remarks by HHS Secretary Becerra at the HHS FY 2024 Budget Press Conference](#). On Thursday, March 9, 2023, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra joined leaders from across HHS to deliver remarks at a press conference focused on the HHS budget for FY 2024. The Budget in Brief can be read on [HHS.gov/Budget](https://www.hhs.gov/budget).

*March 10- [HHS Announces the Availability of \\$25 Million to Expand Primary Care – Including Mental Health – Services in Schools](#). *For the first time, awardees will be required to provide mental health services in schools.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), announced the availability of approximately \$25 million to expand primary health care, including mental health services, in schools. For the first time, applicants will be required to add or expand mental health services to receive school-based funding. HRSA-funded health centers currently operate more than 3,400 school-based service sites in schools across the country.

*March 15- [HHS Releases Initial Guidance for Historic Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program for Price Applicability Year 2026](#). *For the first time, Medicare will be able to negotiate prices directly with drug companies, ensuring lower prices on some of the costliest prescription drugs.* For the first time in history, Medicare will have the ability to negotiate lower prescription drug prices because of the Inflation Reduction Act, President Biden’s historic law which lowers health care and prescription drug costs. Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), issued initial guidance detailing the requirements and parameters—including requests for public comment— on key elements of the new Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program for 2026, the first year the negotiated prices will apply. Alongside other provisions in the new drug law, the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program will strengthen Medicare’s ability to serve people currently in Medicare and for generations to come.

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*March 15- [Inflation Reduction Act Tamps Down on Prescription Drug Price Increases Above Inflation](#). *New Medicare Prescription Drug Inflation Rebate Program protects people with Medicare and taxpayers when drug companies increase prices faster than the rate of inflation. HHS announces savings for some people with Medicare on 27 Part B prescription drugs.* The Biden-Harris Administration has made lowering prescription drug costs in America a key priority — and President Biden is delivering results. Today, the Department of Health and Human Services, through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), announced 27 prescription drugs for which Part B beneficiary coinsurances may be lower from April 1 – June 30, 2023. Thanks to President Biden’s new law to lower prescription drug costs, some people with Medicare who take these drugs may save between \$2 and \$390 per average dose starting April 1, depending on their individual coverage. Through the Inflation Reduction Act, President Biden and his Administration are lowering prescription drug costs for American seniors and families.

*March 15- [Seniors and People with Disabilities Likely to Save Over \\$230 Million on Vaccines Thanks to Inflation Reduction Act, According to New HHS Report](#). *Eliminating out-of-pocket costs in Medicare Part D for recommended vaccines including shingles and others is bringing cost savings to consumers and is likely to increase vaccine uptake.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a new [report](#) showing that in 2021, 3.4 million people with Medicare paid \$234 million in out-of-pocket costs for recommended vaccines covered under Medicare Part D. As of January 1, 2023, these vaccines – including for shingles, which can cost some seniors almost \$200 dollars, and Tdap, are now free because of the Inflation Reduction Act – President Biden’s new law to lower prescription drug and health care costs.

*March 16- [Joint Statement by HHS Secretary Becerra and Ambassador Tai on the Two-Year Anniversary of the Atlanta Spa Murders](#). *Co-Chairs of the White House Initiative and President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders reaffirm the Biden-Harris Administration’s commitment to combat anti-Asian hate and gender-based violence.* Today, Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra and U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Katherine Tai issued a joint statement marking the two-year anniversary of the 2021 Atlanta spa murders, in which eight people, including six women of Asian descent, were killed by a gunman who targeted three Asian-owned businesses.

*March 16- [HHS Awards Nearly \\$1.6 Billion to Support Low Income Households to Lower Heating and Cooling Costs](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), announced the award of \$560 million this week in addition to the \$1 billion awarded last month for a total of \$1.56 billion to help cover American households home heating and cooling costs. The grant awards are part of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to help low-income households with their energy costs – a program that the Biden Administration significantly increased funding for through the American Rescue Plan and the Bipartisan Infrastructure law. This past year, LIHEAP

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served over 6 million households with heating, cooling, and weatherization services. This release brings the total LIHEAP funding for Fiscal Year 2023 to \$6.1 billion, and is part of the Biden Administration's broader efforts to lower costs for American families and give them more breathing room.

*March 16- HHS [Awards CCHBC Planning Grants to 15 States Help Address Ongoing Mental Health Crisis](#). *Note to reporters and editors: [Video b-roll of a CCBHC](#) is available for download and use in reporting, courtesy of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).* The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), today awarded 15 states each with \$1 million, one-year Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) planning grants. This announcement marks the first time these planning grants have been available since the program began in 2015.

Blog

*March 10- [HHS Leverages Data for Impact and Action at the 2023 Health Datapalooza](#).
By: [Kathleen Carroll](#), U.S. Digital Corps Fellow, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, [Trey Gordner](#), U.S. Digital Corps Fellow, Office of the Chief Data Officer (OCDO), HHS and [Kristen Honey, PhD, PMP](#), Chief Data Scientist, Executive Director of InnovationX, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Summary: The Health Datapalooza is the gathering place for innovations in health policy. Learn more about the announcements HHS shared there in 2023. On February 23 and 24, The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services participated in the [2023 Health Datapalooza](#). First held in 2010, it has been the become the gathering place for people and organizations creating knowledge from data and pioneering innovations that inform health policy and practice. HHS has a strong history of participation in the Health Datapalooza and continued that tradition this year.

*March 16- [First, Do No Harm](#). Lee Fleisher, MD., Michelle Schreiber, MD., and Jonathan Blum, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Ensuring patient safety is at the heart of the Hippocratic Oath: First, Do No Harm. As the nation's largest payer for health care, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) mission in our National Quality Strategy includes ensuring everyone is safe when they receive care. As we commemorate National Patient Safety Week, now is the perfect time to affirm our belief that no matter their background or circumstances, everyone deserves access to high-quality, safe, and equitable care. Protecting patients must always remain our first priority.

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