



CMS Snapshot

May 13-20, 2021

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, May 13 through 2pm Thursday, May 20, 2021.

News Releases

*May 13- [CMS Issues Guidance on American Rescue Plan Funding for Medicaid Home and Community Based Services](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is issuing guidance on how states can receive enhanced funding, provided through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP), to increase access to home and community based services (HCBS) for Medicaid beneficiaries. These benefits provide critical services to millions of older adults and individuals with disabilities, allowing them to receive health services in their homes and communities, rather than in nursing homes and other institutions.

*May 13- [Secretary Becerra Statement on Visit to Emergency Intake Site in Long Beach, California](#). "Providing unaccompanied children a safe, healthy place is both our legal and moral obligation. That's why today I visited the Long Beach Convention Center, an Emergency Intake Site that HHS launched three weeks ago, which has a potential capacity of 1,000 beds to help us meet the influx of arrivals. Our federal volunteers and the many staff members here today are working tirelessly to care for the children as we move to safely unite them with their parents or legal sponsors.

*May 14- [CMS Data Shows Vulnerable Americans Forgoing Mental Health Care During COVID-19 Pandemic](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released data today highlighting the continued impact the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) is having on Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) beneficiaries and utilization of health services. The data show that, from March through October 2020, beneficiaries have foregone millions of primary, preventive, and mental health care visits due to the COVID-19 PHE, compared to the same time period in 2019.

*May 18- [HHS Announces \\$3 Billion in American Rescue Plan Funding for SAMHSA Block Grants to Address Addiction, Mental Health Crisis](#). The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is distributing \$3 billion in American Rescue Plan funding — the

largest aggregate amount of funding to date for its mental health and substance use block grant programs.

*May 19- [More Than 10 Million COVID-19 Vaccine Doses Administered by Community Health Centers](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Health Center Program-funded health centers and Health Center Program look-alikes (LALs) have administered more than 10 million COVID-19 vaccine doses nationwide—with 61% provided to racial and ethnic minorities. Community health centers, which largely serve the nation’s underserved and most vulnerable communities, have been central to President Biden’s commitment to ensuring equity and access in the COVID-19 response and vaccination program.

*May 20- [HHS Announces \\$14.2 Million from American Rescue Plan to Expand Pediatric Mental Health Care Access](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), announced the availability of \$14.2 million from the American Rescue Plan to expand pediatric mental health care access by integrating telehealth services into pediatric primary care.

Fact Sheet

*May 13- [Medicaid & CHIP and the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#). To monitor the impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) conducted extensive data analysis using the Transformed Medicaid Statistical Information System (T-MSIS) Analytic Files (TAF) and is releasing a comprehensive overview of the PHE’s impact on Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries and service utilization through October 2020.

Blog

*May 20- [What does my Marketplace health plan cover?](#) All private health plans offered in the Marketplace must cover these 10 essential health benefits regardless of the plan category and type. (Note: These are the minimum requirements for all Marketplace plans. Specific services covered in each broad benefit category can vary based on your state’s requirements.)

CMS has developed a [Virtual Toolkit](#) to help you stay informed on CMS and HHS materials available on the COVID-19. 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