



CMS Snapshot

August 25- September 1, 2022

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, August 25 through 2pm Thursday, September 1, 2022

News Releases

*August 26- [HHS Takes Action to Strengthen Access to Reproductive Health Care, Including Abortion Care](#). *Invites states to apply for Medicaid waivers to increase access to care for women from states where reproductive rights are under attack.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) took action to continue its work to enhance and strengthen access to reproductive health care, including safe and legal abortion care. Secretary Xavier Becerra and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure issued a letter to U.S. governors inviting them to work with CMS and apply for Medicaid 1115 waivers to provide increased access to care for women from states where reproductive rights are under attack and women may be denied medical care.

*August 26- [Biden-Harris Administration Makes Largest Investment Ever in Navigators Ahead of HealthCare.gov Open Enrollment Period](#). *Historic investment of nearly \$100 million builds on the Administration's quadrupling of Navigators last year to help connect people to coverage.* The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), is investing \$98.9 million in grant funding to 59 returning Navigator organizations for the 2023 Open Enrollment Period to help consumers navigate enrollment through the Marketplace, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and make health coverage more equitable and accessible to everyone.

*August 29- [HHS Secretary Becerra Appoints New National Fitness Foundation's Board of Directors](#). U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra has appointed new members to the Board of Directors of the National Fitness Foundation (Foundation). The Foundation was established by Congress in 2010 to collaborate with the President's Council on Sports, Fitness & Nutrition (President's Council) and to identify strategic priorities to further the purposes and functions of President's Council. The Foundation supports and strengthens the President's Council's mission by facilitating investments and partnerships that engage, educate, and empower all Americans to lead healthy, active lives.

*August 29- [HHS Funds U.S.-Based Production of Smallpox and Monkeypox Vaccine](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will provide approximately \$11 million to support the first U.S.-based fill and finish manufacturing of JYNNEOS – a vaccine approved to prevent smallpox and monkeypox – at Grand River Aseptic Manufacturing (GRAM) in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

*August 29- [HHS Announces Over \\$20 Million in Awards to Implement Biden-Harris Administration Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis; Reduce Disparities in Maternal and Infant Health](#). *Funding Supports Community-based Doulas, Rural Obstetric Care, New State Task Forces to Tackle Maternal Health Disparities, and Investments in Infant Health Equity*. Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), announced investments of over \$20 million to improve maternal and infant health and implement the [White House Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis - PDF](#). Funding aims to help reduce disparities in maternal and birth outcomes, expand and diversify the workforce caring for pregnant and postpartum individuals, increase access to obstetrics care in rural communities, and support states in tackling inequities in maternal and infant health.

*August 30- [Medicare Shared Savings Program Saves Medicare More Than \\$1.6 Billion in 2021 and Continues to Deliver High-quality Care](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced today that the Medicare Shared Savings Program, through its work with Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) – groups of doctors, hospitals and other health care providers -- saved Medicare money while continuing to deliver high-quality care. Specifically, the program saved Medicare \$1.66 billion in 2021 compared to spending targets. This marks the fifth consecutive year the program has generated overall savings and high-quality performance results.

*August 31- [Increased Use of Telehealth for Opioid Use Disorder Services During COVID-19 Pandemic Associated with Reduced Risk of Overdose](#). The expansion of telehealth services during the COVID-19 pandemic was associated with individuals staying in treatment longer and reducing their risk of medically treated overdose, according to a new [study](#).

*August 31- [On International Overdose Awareness Day, HHS announces awarding of \\$79.1 million in overdose prevention grants](#). On International Overdose Awareness Day, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is announcing the awarding of \$79.1 million in overdose prevention [grants](#), as part of President Biden's [National Drug Control Strategy](#), the HHS [Overdose Prevention Strategy](#), and the Biden-Harris [Unity Agenda](#) to address the opioid and overdose epidemic.

*August 31- [Biden-Harris Administration Proposes to Make Health Care Enrollment Easier for Millions of Americans](#). Today, in a landmark effort to improve access to health care for millions of Americans, the Biden-Harris Administration proposed a new rule to overhaul the enrollment

processes for Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and Basic Health Programs (BHPs), and eliminate arbitrary coverage caps for children in CHIP. In a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), is working to reduce red tape and simplify application and verification processes to make it easier for children, older adults, and people with lower incomes with Medicaid and CHIP coverage to enroll in and retain vital health insurance.

*September 1- [Back to School: HHS Announces \\$40.22 Million in Youth Mental Health Grants Awarded in August Plus \\$47.6 Million in New Grant Funding Opportunities for School-Based Mental Health Program](#). *The \$47.6 million in new grant funding opportunities were developed from the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), announced that it awarded \$40.22 million in youth mental health [grants](#) throughout the month of August. This includes \$5.3 million from American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding intended to address pandemic-related stressors that have increased mental health conditions among younger Americans. HHS also announced \$47.6 million in new grant funding opportunities developed from the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act.

Fact Sheet

*August 31- [Streamlining Eligibility & Enrollment Notice of Propose Rulemaking \(NPRM\)](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS') new proposed rule would make it easier for millions of eligible people to enroll in and retain their Medicaid coverage. The rule would reduce red tape and simplify applications, verifications, enrollment, and renewals for health care coverage through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The proposed rule responds to President Biden's [January 2021](#) and [April 2022](#) Executive Orders to strengthen Medicaid and access to affordable, quality health coverage.

Blogs

*August 25- [When can I enroll in 2023 Marketplace insurance?](#) If you need 2023 health coverage, here are some important dates to mark on your calendar.

*August 30- [Year One of the Office of Climate Change and Health Equity](#). By: [John Balbus](#), *Interim Director of the Office of Climate Change and Health Equity within OASH*. It's been one year since the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) launched the Office of Climate Change and Health Equity (OCCHE) to protect people in America from the health hazards associated with climate change. In that time, OCCHE has partnered with other countries on shared goals, launched a [voluntary pledge](#) and associated webinar series on supports for U.S.

health sector resilience and decarbonization, and developed the [Climate and Health Outlook](#) linking seasonal forecasting to health effects. These accomplishments reflect OCCHE's commitment to collaboration and leveraging the best data, programs, and expertise to fight the [biggest global health threat of the 21st century](#) .

For more information, please email partnership@cms.hhs.gov