



CMS Snapshot

April 29-May 6, 2021

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, April 29 through 2pm Thursday, May 6, 2021.

News Releases

*April 29- [HHS Awards Over \\$32 Million in American Rescue Plan Funding to Expand COVID-19 Training and Support for Health Centers](#). Today, thanks to the American Rescue Plan, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded over \$32 million to 122 organizations that provide training and technical assistance support to HRSA Health Center Program-supported health centers nationwide. These organizations—Primary Care Associations (PCAs), National Training and Technical Assistance Partners (NTTAPs), and Health Center Controlled Networks (HCCNs)—will use the funds to provide health centers with critical COVID-19 related training, technical assistance, and health information technology support.

*April 30- [CMS to Adopt Rules to Lower Health Care Costs in 2022 Federal Health Insurance Marketplace Plans](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today adopted new provisions to lower maximum out-of-pocket costs to consumers by \$400, while increasing competition and improving the consumer experience for millions of Americans who will rely on the Federal Health Insurance Marketplaces in plan year 2022. These actions demonstrate a strong commitment by the Biden-Harris Administration to protect and build on the Affordable Care Act (ACA), reduce health care costs, and make our health care system easier to navigate and more equitable.

*April 30- [CMS Selects Winner and Runner-Up in Artificial Intelligence Health Outcomes Challenge](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today announced that ClosedLoop.ai was selected the winner and Geisinger the runner-up in the agency's Artificial Intelligence (AI) Health Outcomes Challenge. This multi-stage competition, operated by CMS's Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMS Innovation Center) in collaboration with the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) and Arnold Ventures, began in 2019 with the aim of accelerating development of AI solutions for predicting patient health outcomes for Medicare beneficiaries for potential use by the Innovation Center.

*May 1- [Pomona Fairplex Emergency Intake Site \(EIS\)](#). As part of the Biden Administration's work to move unaccompanied children out of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) facilities as quickly as possible, the Pomona Fairplex Emergency Intake Site (EIS) in Pomona, California, will receive the first unaccompanied children today, approximately 250 children. The children will be welcomed by staff, receive a medical check, and be provided needed clothing, toiletries, food and snacks, as well as a safe place to rest. The Pomona Fairplex EIS will provide shelter for boys and girls from 2-17 years of age and has a potential capacity of 2,500 beds.

*May 3- [HHS and National Partners Mark Asian Pacific Heritage Month by Encouraging Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to Enroll in Quality, Affordable Health Coverage through HealthCare.gov](#). Today, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra kicked off Asian Pacific Heritage Month by announcing that HHS will be partnering with select, national organizations the first week in May to support and enhance outreach and enrollment efforts for this population during the HealthCare.gov Special Enrollment Period (SEP). During the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Week of Action, which runs May 3-7, 2021, HHS and partnering organizations will provide education and enrollment assistance to AAPI consumers and use social media to encourage them to enroll in affordable, quality health coverage available through [HealthCare.gov](#).

*May 3- [HHS Launches New Reimbursement Program for COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Fees not Covered by Insurance](#). Today, the US Department of Health and Human Services, through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is announcing a new program covering costs of administering COVID-19 vaccines to patients enrolled in health plans that either do not cover vaccination fees or cover them with patient cost-sharing. Since providers cannot bill patients for COVID-19 vaccination fees, this new program, the COVID-19 Coverage Assistance Fund (CAF), addresses an outstanding compensation need for providers on the front lines vaccinating underinsured patients.

*May 4- [HHS Announces Nearly \\$1 Billion from American Rescue Plan for Rural COVID-19 Response](#). Today, thanks to the American Rescue Plan, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is announcing the availability of nearly \$1 billion to strengthen COVID-19 response efforts and increase vaccinations in rural communities. As part of the Biden Administration's commitment to expanding access to vaccines and ensuring equity in the COVID-19 response, the Health Resources and Services Administration, a part of HHS, will increase the number of vaccines sent to rural communities, expand testing and other COVID-19 prevention services, and work to increase vaccine confidence by empowering trusted local voices with additional funding for outreach efforts in underserved communities.

*May 4- [HHS Announces \\$250 Million from American Rescue Plan to Develop and Support a Community-Based Workforce to Increase COVID-19 Vaccinations in Underserved Communities](#). Today, thanks to the American Rescue Plan, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), announced the availability of approximately \$250 million to develop and support a community-based

workforce who will serve as trusted voices sharing information about vaccines, increase COVID-19 vaccine confidence, and address any barriers to vaccination for individuals living in vulnerable and medically underserved communities.

*May 5- [HHS Secretary Becerra, HUD Secretary Fudge Announce Joint Effort to Increase Access to COVID-19 Vaccinations](#). U.S. Health and Human Service (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra and U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Marcia L. Fudge today announced a joint-agency effort to increase access to COVID-19 prevention and treatment services, including testing and vaccinations, among disproportionately affected communities, including among HUD-assisted households and people experiencing homelessness. This program will leverage the Health Center COVID-19 health Vaccine Program which currently provides a direct supply of vaccines to nearly 800 health centers across the country. HHS and HUD expect the effort will reach over 6,000 multifamily housing properties, 6,700 homeless shelters, and approximately 7,500 public housing properties across the country to respond to and stop the spread of COVID-19.

*May 6- [HHS Secretary Becerra Announces Nearly 940,000 Americans Have Signed Up for Health Coverage through HealthCare.gov During Special Enrollment Period](#). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra announced that nearly 940,000 Americans have signed up for health insurance through HealthCare.gov as a result of the Biden Administration's Special Enrollment Period (SEP) for the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. The 2021 SEP, along with the additional financial assistance afforded by the American Rescue Plan (ARP), offers individuals and families an opportunity to take advantage of reduced premiums, increased savings, and quality, affordable health coverage through [HealthCare.gov](#).

Blogs

*May 1- [If you're unhappy with your care, let us know – file a Medicare complaint](#). When you're unhappy with the quality of your health care, you might first want to talk with the person who gave you the care. If you don't want to talk to that person or need more help, you can file a Medicare complaint. Filing a complaint is your right, so if you think you aren't getting high-quality care, we want to know.

*May 1- [Are you new to Medicare?](#) If you're just getting started with Medicare or are in [your first year](#), we have the information you need to help you understand your health care options and get the coverage that best fits your situation.

*May 6- [Do I qualify for lower costs on Marketplace coverage?](#) Need coverage for the rest of 2021? You have through **August 15, 2021** to apply and enroll through the [new Special Enrollment Period for the coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) emergency](#). You might qualify for savings, even if you didn't before. In fact, most people do!

Fact Sheets

*April 30- [Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2022 Final Rule Part Two Fact Sheet](#).

The Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2022 final rule part two finalizes some of the standards included in the proposed rule for states, exchanges, non-federal governmental plans, issuers in the individual and small-group markets (including those that participate in the federally facilitated exchange direct enrollment program), and web brokers.

*May 6- [2021 Marketplace Special Enrollment Period Report](#). **February 15 – April 30, 2021** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reports that 940,000 Americans have signed up for health insurance through HealthCare.gov since February 15, the start of the 2021 Marketplace Special Enrollment Period (SEP) opportunity, through April 30, with approximately 469,000 consumers signing up for health insurance in the month of April. [\[1\]](#)

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