



## CMS Snapshot

### August 27- September 2, 2021

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, August 27 through 2pm Thursday, September 2, 2021.

#### News Releases

\*August 27- [Biden-Harris Administration Quadruples the Number of Health Care Navigators Ahead of HealthCare.gov Open Enrollment Period](#). The Biden-Harris Administration is expanding the number of Navigator organizations to help people enroll in coverage through the Marketplace, Medicaid, or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 30 states with a Federally-Facilitated Marketplace. Through \$80 million in grant awards for the 2022 plan year, 60 Navigator awardee organizations will be able to train and certify more than 1,500 Navigators to help uninsured consumers find affordable and comprehensive health coverage.

\*August 27- [Biden-Harris Administration Invests \\$10.7 Million in American Rescue Plan Funds to Expand Pediatric Mental Health Care Access](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) awarded \$10.7 million from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) to expand pediatric mental health care access by integrating telehealth services into pediatric care. The awards were made through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

\*August 27- [SAMHSA Awards \\$74.2M in Grants to Strengthen Youth Mental Health](#). As students head back to school, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is awarding grants that will strengthen the structures that serve the mental health needs of our nation's youth. The first raises awareness of mental health issues for youths and trains school personnel. The second coordinates treatment for young people who have emotional disorders. The first-year awards for the two programs total \$74.2 million.

\*August 30- [CMS Announces Director of Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight \(CCIIO\); First-Ever Chief Dental Officer; and Director of the Center for Program Integrity \(CPI\)](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced Dr. Ellen Montz as Deputy Administrator and Director of the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO); Dr. Natalia Chalmers as its first-ever Chief Dental Officer in the Office of the Administrator; and Dara Corrigan as Deputy Administrator and Director of the Center for Program Integrity (CPI). With decades of expertise in the clinic, government, and

community, these leaders will lead across the agency's portfolio of programs, which connect millions of people to high-quality, affordable, and accessible health coverage. Dr. Montz, Dr. Chalmers, and Ms. Corrigan start on Monday, August 30.

\*August 30- [Biden-Harris Administration Releases Medicaid and CHIP Guidance Targeting Vaccination and Testing for COVID-19](#). As part of its implementation of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP), the Biden-Harris Administration is issuing guidance that provides essential information to states as they navigate the options available to advance COVID-19 vaccination and testing, and the Medicaid program's broader aim of providing much-needed health coverage for millions of eligible individuals.

\*August 30- [HHS Establishes Office of Climate Change and Health Equity](#). Protecting Americans' health and well-being has always been at the heart of fighting climate change, and now for the first time, its importance is being elevated at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). HHS is establishing the Office of Climate Change and Health Equity (OCCHE) in response to President Joe Biden's Executive Order Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. This is the first office of its kind at the national level to address climate change and health equity.

\*August 30- [HHS Secretary Becerra declares public health emergencies for states of Louisiana and Mississippi due to Hurricane Ida](#). Following President Biden's lead in declaring an emergency for the states of Louisiana and Mississippi due to Hurricane Ida, Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra today declared public health emergencies for both states. The declarations, along with waivers Secretary Becerra authorized under the Social Security Act, give the HHS Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) beneficiaries and their healthcare providers and suppliers greater flexibility in meeting emergency health needs in disasters.

\*September 1- [In Response to Hurricane Ida Public Health Emergency, CMS Announces Support for Residents of Louisiana and Mississippi](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is announcing flexibilities being provided to ensure health care access continues for residents in Louisiana and Mississippi impacted by Hurricane Ida. On August 30, 2021, Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier [Becerra declared Public Health Emergencies \(PHEs\)](#) for Louisiana and Mississippi.

\*September 1- [Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on Texas Law SB8](#). "Every American, no matter who they are or where they live, deserves access to quality, affordable health care — including safe and legal abortion. Texas law SB8 is dangerous and dubious. The burdens of this law descend disproportionately upon low-income families and communities of color. The 21st century must be about protecting and expanding Americans' health care, not illegally and discriminatorily denying it."

*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](mailto:partnership@cms.hhs.gov)*