HHS Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs News Bulletin: Friday, May 3rd, 2013

*Visit **HealthCare.Gov** and **CuidadodeSalud.Gov**, two consumer-focused health care websites to: **find insurance options**, **learn about prevention**, **compare care quality**, and **learn about the law**. How is the Affordable Care Act helping you? Share your story **here**.*

Secretary's Corner

➢ **May 3, 2013**
Secretary Kathleen Sebelius released a statement on Older Americans Month. "This May, we mark the 50th anniversary of Older Americans Month. Ever since President Kennedy declared the first celebration in 1963, we have honored the contributions seniors make to our communities and have celebrated their rich years and experiences. This year's theme, "Unleash the Power of Age," acknowledges older Americans' special abilities and know-how and encourages them to share them." View the full release here.

➢ **May 2, 2013**
Secretary Kathleen Sebelius released a statement on Mental Health Month. "Mental Health Month was established in 1949 to help bring attention to the importance mental health plays in Americans' lives. The observance provides an opportunity to look back at how far we've come, while looking forward to the work that still remains." View the full statement here.

➢ **May 1, 2013**
Secretary Kathleen Sebelius released a statement on Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. "In May, we observe Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and celebrate the many contributions made by this diverse community. While we recognize the progress made in reducing health disparities in this and other communities, we realize there is still much work to be done. That is why we take this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that all Americans, regardless of race or ethnicity, have the opportunity to be as healthy as possible." View the full statement here.

Affordable Care Act News

➢ **May 2, 2013**
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule outlining proposed fiscal year (FY) 2014 Medicare payment policies and rates for the inpatient rehabilitation facilities (IRFs) Prospective Payment System (PPS), as well as updates and changes for the IRF Quality Reporting Program (QRP). View the fact sheet here.

➢ **May 1, 2013**
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule outlining proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Medicare payment rates for skilled nursing facilities (SNFs). View the fact sheet here.

➢ **May 1, 2013**
The Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO) issued Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the role of agents, brokers, and web-brokers in Health Insurance Marketplaces. View the FAQs here.

➢ **April 30, 2013**
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that the application for health coverage has been simplified and significantly shortened. The application for individuals without health insurance has been reduced from twenty-one to three pages, and the application for families is reduced by two-thirds. The consumer friendly forms are much shorter than industry standards for health insurance applications today. View the full release here, the new applications here, and the Secretary's blog here.

➢ **April 30, 2013**
The Department of the Treasury's Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issued a proposed rule on the minimum required value of employer-sponsored coverage that won't trigger the employer mandate penalty and other provisions involving the premium tax credits on the exchanges. View the proposed rule here.

➢ **April 29, 2013**
The Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS), Labor, and the Treasury released additional Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding implementation of various provisions of the Affordable Care Act. View the FAQs here.

➢ **April 29, 2013**
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)) issued a proposed rule that would update fiscal year (FY) 2014 Medicare payment rates and the wage index for hospices serving Medicare beneficiaries. View the fact sheet here.

White House Health care Blog

➢ **April 30, 2013**
President Obama takes questions from the press about Syria, the sequester, implementation of the Affordable Care Act, and more. Watch the video here.

Brochures & Educational Materials

Below you'll find brochures and materials related to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. For other brochures and resources visit: http://www.healthcare.gov/news/brochures/index.html.

➢ ACA Educational PowerPoints

The Top Five Things You Need to Know

➢ Families with Children (PDF – English 7.27 MB, Spanish 1.23 MB)

➢ Health Care Providers (PDF – English 2.71 MB, Spanish 517 KB)

➢ People with Disabilities (PDF – English 2.56 MB, Spanish 930 KB)

- Seniors (PDF – English 11.3 MB, Spanish 1.54 MB)

- Small Business Owners (PDF – English 4.22 MB, Spanish 646 KB)

- Young Adults (PDF – English 6.56 MB, Spanish 919 KB)

Information for Consumers and Small Businesses

- The Health Care Law & You (PDF – 8.99 MB)

- Information for Small Businesses (PDF – 763 KB)

MyCare: Videos and Stories

Find videos and stories related to how the Affordable Care Act has helped individuals across the country.
http://www.healthcare.gov/mycare/stories.html

State by State Fact Sheets

Choose your state to learn more about the immediate benefits of the Affordable Care Act.

- State By State Fact Sheets

- Learn the facts and statistics about how the Affordable Care Act will benefit each state.

Regulations and Guidance

Regulations and guidance are used to implement many of the Affordable Care Act provisions that address both private and public health insurance.

- Standards Related to Reinsurance, Risk Corridors and Risk Adjustment

- Eligibility Changes under Affordable Care Act

- Certain Preventive Services under Affordable Care Act

- Student Health Insurance Coverage

Grants

The Affordable Care Act creates a number of new grant opportunities. Below, you will find links to the grant centers for the agencies administering these grants. There, and at Grants.gov, you can search for relevant grant opportunities.

- CDC National Public Health Improvement Initiative (NPHII) Grants

- Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight Grants

- Administration for Children and Families Grants

- Administration on Aging Grants

- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

- Health Resources and Services Administration Grants

- ➢ [Indian Health Service Grants](#)

- ➢ [National Institutes of Health Grants](#)

- ➢ [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Grants](#)

Special Programs

Several new programs across the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services support the work of the Affordable Care Act. You will find information about these programs on this page.

- ➢ [Partnership for Patients: Better Care, Lower Costs](#)

Councils & Groups

The Affordable Care Act establishes a number of councils and groups to carry out provisions in the law. To learn more about the organizations, click on a link below:

- ➢ [Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight](#) (CCIIO)

- ➢ [Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation](#)

- ➢ [Interagency Working Group on Health Care Quality](#)

- ➢ [National Prevention, Health Promotion and Public Health Council](#)