

## Regional Update from HHS Regional Director Susan Johnson Region 10 - Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington



Dear Colleagues,

January 2014

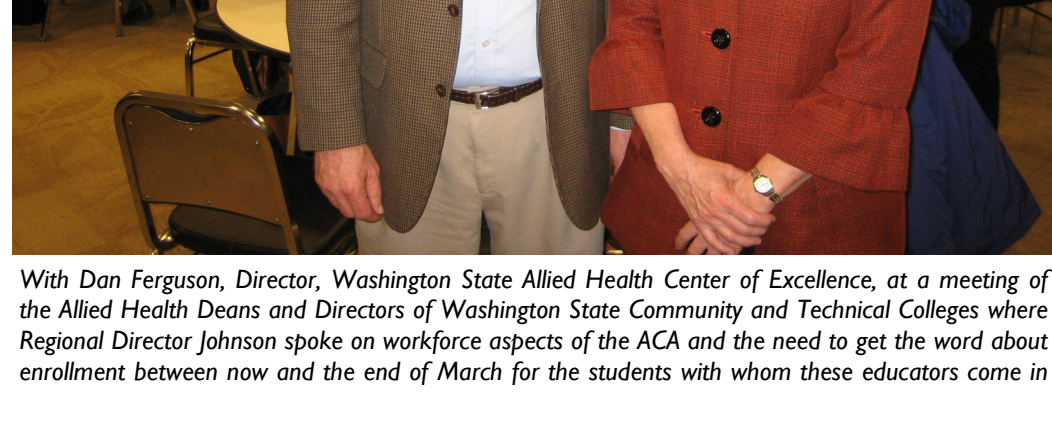
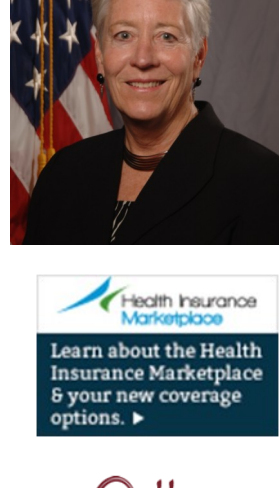
Happy New Year! Because of the Affordable Care Act, millions of Americans began the New Year with affordable and comprehensive health care coverage—many for the first time in their lives. Between October 1, 2013 and December 28, 2013, more than 2.2 million individuals enrolled in marketplace coverage or Medicaid, including hundreds of thousands here in Region 10. Thanks to all of you throughout the region doing the work on the ground to help individuals receive the health security that coverage will bring.

As a reminder, **open enrollment lasts through March 31**—so if you or someone you know, needs coverage or you need coverage, go to [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov) and sign up now.

Earlier this month I attended a meeting with the Allied Health Deans and Directors of Washington State's Community and Technical Colleges and participated in a discussion about building the workforce necessary to serve the health care needs of the future. I was also able to speak at Washington's State of Reform conference and support the state's efforts to integrate physical and behavioral health. Striving for a holistic view of health that joins the mouth, the mind and the body will continue to be a collective goal.

Regards,

Susan



With Dan Ferguson, Director, Washington State Allied Health Center of Excellence, at a meeting of the Allied Health Deans and Directors of Washington State Community and Technical Colleges where Regional Director Johnson spoke on workforce aspects of the ACA and the need to get the word about enrollment between now and the end of March for the students with whom these educators come in

### [Tips for Success with HealthCare.gov](#)

When you apply for coverage, following a few tips can improve your online experience.

- Use the [best browser for your computer's operating system](#).
- [Clear your cookies](#) and [clear your cache](#). (See content in blue box at the bottom of the page.)
- Make sure your browser is [set up to accept cookies](#). (See content in blue box at the bottom of the page.)

**You may not be able to complete an online application with a mobile device, like a smartphone or tablet. Try a laptop or desktop computer instead. [Learn about your options if you don't have a computer at home](#).**

#### When to use HealthCare.gov

- For best results during [open enrollment](#), try to use HealthCare.gov mornings, evenings, and weekends. The middle of the day is the busiest time for the site, which can sometimes mean slowdowns or waiting times.
- Scheduled maintenance is sometimes performed overnight making parts of the system unavailable.

### [Alaska Enrollment News](#)

Between October 1 and December 28, 2013, 6,386 completed applications were submitted to HealthCare.gov by Alaskans while 8,004 individuals have been determined eligible for Marketplace coverage. 3,356 of these individuals have selected a plan and 1,509 individuals have been determined eligible for Medicaid or CHIP. For more information about Alaska's enrollment, please go [here](#).

### [Washington Enrollment News](#)

Washington continues to make strong gains in enrollment through the [Washington Healthplanfinder](#). On January 14, 2014, the Healthplanfinder announced that 270,860 Washingtonians have newly enrolled in private health coverage or Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) since October 1, 2013. For more information about Washington's enrollment, please go [here](#).

### [Oregon Enrollment News](#)

As of January 16, 2014, [Cover Oregon](#) reported that over 183,000 Oregonians have enrolled in private coverage or the Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid). Of those, about 23,828 people have gained private coverage and more than 42,000 joined the Oregon Health Plan. Additionally, more than 118,000 people enrolled directly in the Oregon Health Plan through the Oregon Health Authority. An additional 25,000 people have been determined eligible for private coverage through Cover Oregon, but still need to choose a plan. For more information about Oregon's enrollment, please go [here](#).

Cover Oregon still does not have a functioning website to shop and purchase plans, but reminds Oregonians seeking coverage that you can still apply via paper or the phone.

There are many ways to get help completing an application or enrolling in a health insurance plan. Go to [CoverOregon.com](#) and find a certified community partner or insurance agent or call 1-855-CoverOR.

### [Idaho Enrollment News](#)

On January 7, 2014, [Your Health Idaho](#) reported that 19,922 Idahoans have selected a health insurance plan from an Idaho carrier. In addition, 25,828 applications have been completed, representing 48,082 Idahoans eligible to enroll in a Your Health Idaho plan. For more information about Idaho's enrollment, please go [here](#).

### [Recent HHS Events & Announcements](#)

#### CHIPRA Enrollment Bonuses

Congratulations to all four states in our region each of which received a CHIPRA enrollment bonus. These funds, part of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009, award states for making efforts to enroll children eligible for but not enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). This is the fifth and final year of performance bonus awards. States qualify for a bonus by implementing procedures to simplify Medicaid and CHIP enrollment and renewal processes to improve eligible children's access to coverage. The amount of a state's bonus corresponds to the increase in children's Medicaid enrollment over a specified target. Congratulations to leaders in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington for receiving these awards.

### [Grant Opportunities and Available Resources](#)

For HHS funding resources, please visit the [HHS Grants/Funding site](#) or [FYI: Minority Resources...Money & More](#), a newsletter published by the Office of Minority Health Resource Center. Some that may be of interest to you:

**Telehealth Resource Center Grant Program**—The purpose of this grant program is to support the establishment and development of Telehealth Resource Centers (TRCs) in order to: expedite and customize the provision of telehealth technical assistance across the country, while at the same time working together to make available a wide range of expertise that might not be available in any region. The TRCs provide technical assistance to health care organizations, health care networks, and health care providers in the implementation of cost-effective telehealth programs to serve rural and medically underserved areas and populations. The deadline for applicants is February 25th, 2014. [View Full Announcement](#)

**Planning and Developing Infrastructure to Improve the Mental Health and Wellness of Children, Youth and Families in American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) Communities (Short Title: Circles of Care VI)**—The purpose of this program is to provide tribal and urban Indian communities with tools and resources to plan and design a holistic, community-based, coordinated system of care approach to support mental health and wellness for children, youth, and families. These grants are intended to increase the capacity and effectiveness of mental health systems serving AI/AN communities. Circles of Care grantees will focus on the need to reduce the gap between the need for mental health services and the availability and coordination of mental health, substance use, and co-occurring disorders in AI/AN communities for children, youth, and young adults from birth through age 25 and their families. The Circles of Care grant program draws on the system of care philosophy and principles that are implemented in the SAMHSA Cooperative Agreements for the Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children and Their Families Program. The deadline to apply is March 7, 2014. [View Full Announcement](#)

**Cooperative Agreements for Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health (Short Title: Project LAUNCH)**—The Project LAUNCH grant program requires that the population of focus be children from birth to eight years of age and their families. Efforts to improve and integrate systems and enhance services should include not only those providers and settings serving children from birth to five years (e.g. child care, early education, primary care, Head Start) but also those systems serving children in the early elementary grades, including schools. Efforts to create better linkages between early childhood providers and schools are often much needed, and can be instrumental in ensuring that supports and skills gained in the first five years of life can be sustained and built upon when children enter school. Applicants must identify a geographic locality to serve as the local community for the grant. Applications are due March 3, 2014. [View Full Announcement](#).

#### OVW FY 2014 Technical Assistance Program

The primary purpose of the OVW Technical Assistance Program is to provide direct technical assistance to existing and potential grantees and sub grantees to enhance and support their efforts to successfully implement projects supported by OVW grant funds. In addition, OVW is focused on building the capacity of criminal justice and victim services organizations to respond effectively to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking and fostering partnerships among organizations that have not traditionally worked together to address violence against women. Applications are due March 3, 2014. [View the Full Announcement](#)

#### OVW FY 2014 Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program

The Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program (Tribal SASP) provides funding directly to tribes, tribal organizations, and nonprofit tribal organizations to create, maintain, and expand sustainable sexual assault services. Tribal agencies, organizations, and nonprofits provide critical and culturally relevant services that are specifically responsive to the needs of sexual assault victims within tribal communities. Applications are due March 12, 2014. [View the Full Announcement](#).

**BJA FY 14 Second Chance Act Technology Career Training Program for Incarcerated Adults and Juveniles Grant**  
Programs funded under the Second Chance Act help ensure that the transition individuals make from prison and jail to the community is successful and promotes public safety. Securing employment can facilitate successful reentry for people leaving correctional facilities. Improving employment outcomes for this population can contribute to recidivism reductions and increased public safety. Section 115 of the Second Chance Act authorizes federal awards to states, units of local government, territories, and federally recognized Indian tribes to provide technology career training to persons confined in state prisons, local jails, and juvenile residential facilities. This program supports the education, training, mentoring, support services, and job placement for incarcerated/detained adults and juveniles in a technology field. Applications are due March 17, 2014. [View the Full Announcement](#).

#### Health Resources & Services Administration

##### Supporting Healthy Start Performance Project (SHSPP)

This funding opportunity announcement (FOA) seeks to administer a cooperative agreement that will assist in strengthening the implementation of Healthy Start (HS) activities by providing capacity building assistance (CBA), including ongoing technical assistance, training and education to Healthy Start grantees in the implementation of the program's five approaches to reduce disparities in infant mortality and adverse perinatal outcomes. The SHSPP will ensure effectiveness and efficiency in grantee implementation of components of the Healthy Start models, and by ensuring uniformity and credibility in implementation of the Healthy Start program activities. The five approaches are: 1) improving women's health, 2) promoting quality services, 3) strengthening family resilience, 4) achieving collective impact, and 5) increasing accountability through quality improvement, performance monitoring, and evaluation. Applications are due March 3, 2014. [View the Full Announcement](#).

**Health Resources & Services Administration Traumatic Brain Injury State Implementation Partnership Grant Program Grant**  
**Purpose:** This announcement solicits applications for the Traumatic Brain Injury State Implementation Partnership Grant Program. The purpose of the HRSA TBI program is to increase access to rehabilitation and other services for individuals with traumatic brain injury (TBI). The goal of the this funding opportunity announcement (FOA) is to support State, Territorial governments, Federally recognized Indian Tribal governments and Native American organizations as they address barriers to needed services encountered by children, youth, and adults with and at high risk for TBI. Applications are due March 7, 2014. [View the Full Announcement](#).

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Questions or comments? Please contact me at [susan.johnson@hhs.gov](mailto:susan.johnson@hhs.gov) or 206-615-2012.