

# HHS Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs News Bulletin: Friday, June 20, 2014

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## ACA News

### ➤ June 20, 2014

Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell announced a series of management changes designed to strengthen the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. This new management structure comes in response to lessons learned from the rollout of HealthCare.gov and recommendations put forth to the Secretary. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will have a new operations-focused Principal Deputy Administrator for agency-wide policy and operational program coordination. CMS will also have a single Marketplace Chief Executive Officer (CEO). In addition to the Marketplace CEO, CMS is announcing and actively recruiting a Marketplace Chief Technology Officer (CTO).

Andy Slavitt will join the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) as the agency's Principal Deputy Administrator, bringing a wealth of private sector experience to oversee day-to-day agency program operations. As Principal Deputy Administrator, Slavitt will be responsible for cross cutting policy and operational coordination for the agency's Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP and Marketplace initiatives; combatting health care fraud; reforming health care delivery; and improving health outcomes.

CMS is also recruiting two leaders to fill key roles:

1. A new, permanent **Marketplace CEO**, who will be the Chief Executive with responsibility and accountability for leading the federal marketplace, managing relationships with state marketplaces, and running the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO), which regulates health insurance at the federal level. The Marketplace CEO will report to the CMS Administrator with a dotted line to the Secretary of Health and Human Services.
2. A new, permanent **Marketplace CTO** who will report to the new Marketplace CEO and work closely with the Deputy Chief Operating Officer and Office of Information Services within CMS in order to ensure proper alignment of project milestones and deliverables.

These individuals, who will also work directly with Secretary Burwell, and Administrator Tavenner will be accountable for policy development and technical operations of the federal Health Insurance Marketplace, working closely with a variety of stakeholders and states on ongoing implementation efforts.

Secretary Burwell and CMS Administrator Tavenner believe these steps will build on the implementation progress to date and best position CMS and HHS to carry out their mission of providing access to quality, affordable health coverage for millions of Americans in the months and years ahead.

You can read the press release [here](#)

You can help spread the word through social media by using the text below:

- Sec Burwell announced [@CMSSGov](#) to bolster Marketplace management team to strengthen implementation, accountability <http://1.usa.gov/1IRpW8i>
- [@CMSSGov](#) to add Principal Dep. Admin, Marketplace CEO, CTO to bolster Marketplace team, provide quality care <http://1.usa.gov/1IRpW8i>

➤ **June 18, 2014**

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a report that finds that people who selected silver plans, the most popular plan type in the federal Marketplace, with tax credits paid an average premium of \$69 per month. In the federal Marketplace, 69 percent of enrollees who selected Marketplace plans with tax credits had premiums of \$100 a month or less, and 46 percent of \$50 a month or less after tax credits.

The report also looks at competition and choice nationwide among health insurance plans in 2013-2014, and finds that most individuals shopping in the Marketplace had a wide range of health plans from which to choose. On average, consumers could choose from five health insurers and 47 Marketplace plans.

According to the report, on average, monthly premiums for people who selected plans with tax credits fell 76 percent after tax credits, dropping the cost of the average monthly premium from \$346 before tax credits to \$82 after tax credits across all plan types. The Marketplace is also providing consumers more easily comparable, quality health plan choices than ever before. In 2014, there were a total of 266 issuers in the Marketplace by state, offering over 19,000 Marketplace plans across all ratings areas, excluding catastrophic plans.

You can read the press release and get more details on the findings from the report [here](#)

You can read the report in its entirety [here](#)

You can share findings from the report via Facebook or twitter by using the text below:

**@HHSMedia & @HHSGov Twitter**

- New report shows premium affordability, competition & choice in Marketplace – shoppers paid \$69 on avg for coverage [pic.twitter.com/wBb8XGjw5](http://pic.twitter.com/wBb8XGjw5)

**HHS Facebook:**

- Status: New reports shows how the Affordable Care Act is providing affordable coverage competition and choice in 2014: <http://go.usa.gov/9CAH>

➤ **June 16, 2014**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced the availability of funding, totaling \$60 million, to support Navigators in Federally-facilitated and State Partnership Marketplaces in 2014-2015. The funding opportunity announcement is open to eligible individuals, as well as private and public entities, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations applying to serve as Navigators in states with a Federally-facilitated or State Partnership Marketplace. It is open to new and returning Navigator applicants.

**Pre-application conference calls:**

**Third call:** Tuesday, June 24, 2014 from 1:30-3:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time

Audience URL: <https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1036408>

Title: Navigator Funding Opportunity Announcement Pre-Application Webinar 6-24-14

**Fourth call:** Tuesday, July 1, 2014 from 1:30-3:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time

Audience URL: <https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1036406>

Title: Navigator Funding Opportunity Announcement Pre-Application Webinar 7-1-14

**Applications are due by July 10, 2014.**

You can access the funding opportunity announcement [here](#) or you can visit <http://www.grants.gov> and search for CFDA # **93.332**.

**CONNECTING KIDS TO COVERAGE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT (FOA):**

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released the Connecting Kids to Coverage Outreach and Enrollment Grants Focused on Increasing Enrollment of American Indian/Alaska Native Children (Connecting Kids to Coverage – AI/AN Grants). A total of \$4 million is available with grant awards expected in the range of \$250,000 to \$500,000 over a two year period.

**Applications for this grant opportunity are due June 30, 2014 (3 p.m. ET). Grant awards are expected to be made on September 2, 2014.**

The application, for this grant opportunity, can be downloaded at the [Insurekidsnow](#) website. CMS has received many questions regarding the grant opportunity through the applicant support mailbox at [OAGMGrantsBaltimore@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:OAGMGrantsBaltimore@cms.hhs.gov). All questions received and the corresponding answers are also posted at the [Insurekidsnow](#) website.

Please continue to send your questions and concerns regarding this grant opportunity to [OAGMGrantsBaltimore@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:OAGMGrantsBaltimore@cms.hhs.gov).

#### ➤ June 16, 2014

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) launched a national initiative “*From Coverage to Care*” (C2C), which is designed to help answer questions that people may have about their new health coverage, to help them make the most of their new benefits, including taking full advantage of primary care and preventive services. It also seeks to give health care providers the tools they need to promote patient engagement.

The launch also marks the release of the new [Roadmap to Better Care and a Healthier You](#), which includes 8 steps to help consumers and health care providers be informed about the diverse benefits available through their coverage and how to use it appropriately to access primary care and preventive services. Among other things, the “[Roadmap](#)” contains information on health care coverage terms, the differences between primary care and emergency care, and the cost differences of decisions to seek care in- and out-of-network, where applicable to the consumer’s health plan.

More information about C2C and other helpful resources, including a 10-part video series, to help those with new health care coverage make the most of their coverage, and raise awareness about the importance of getting routine primary care and regular preventive care are available at: <http://marketplace.cms.gov/c2c>. People with related questions about the C2C initiative should write to [Coveragetocare@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Coveragetocare@cms.hhs.gov)

#### HC.gov Blog English:

<https://www.healthcare.gov/blog/from-coverage-to-care-a-roadmap-for-using-your-new-coverage/>

HC.gov Blog Spanish: <https://www.cuidadodesalud.gov/es/blog/from-coverage-to-care-a-roadmap-for-using-your-new-coverage/>

Order *From Coverage to care* Materials: <http://marketplace.cms.gov/help-us/order-coverage-to-care-materials.html>

**Additional resources and videos (Chapters 1-10) are located here:** <http://marketplace.cms.gov/help-us/c2c.html>

#### ➤ June 10, 2014

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the availability of funding, totaling \$60 million, to support Navigators in Federally-facilitated and State Partnership Marketplaces in 2014-2015. Navigators provide unbiased information to consumers about health insurance, the Health Insurance Marketplace, qualified health plans, and public programs including Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program.

The funding opportunity announcement is open to eligible individuals, as well as private and public entities, applying to serve as Navigators in states with a Federally-facilitated or State Partnership

Marketplace. It is open to new and returning Navigator applicants, and **applications are due by July 10, 2014.**

Last month, CMS finalized regulations that update the requirements applicable to Navigators. The final rule is available at the [Federal Register](#)

To access the funding opportunity announcement, visit: <http://www.grants.gov>, and search for CFDA # **93.332**.

More information about Navigators is available [here](#)

Additional information about the funding opportunity can be found [here](#)

Consumer Assistance Roles Fact Sheet is available [here](#)

Funding Opportunity Announcement FAQs are available [here](#)

➤ **Special Enrollment Period Categories:**

**The LGBT community and the Special Enrollment Period:**

**[GRAPHIC: You Got Married, Now #GetCovered](#)**

- Tying the knot? It's time to #GetCovered! <http://go.usa.gov/9cSY> #GetCovered #PrideMonth
- Getting married means you have new options for healthcare: <http://1.usa.gov/1umMaWN>. #LoveIsLove #GetCovered

**[GRAPHIC: Affordable Coverage for Your New Arrival](#)**

- Having a baby? Your growing family may have new options for coverage: <http://1.usa.gov/1qGzMCu> #GetCovered
- Having a baby or adopting a child qualifies you for a Special Enrollment Period: <http://go.usa.gov/9cSY> #PrideMonth
- Baby on the way? You're #DueToGetCovered! Learn more about your health care options: <http://1.usa.gov/1umMaWN>.
- Make sure every toe is covered - #BabyOnTheWay means you have new health care options available to you!

**[GRAPHIC: New Coverage for Your New Family](#)**

- Your growing family may have new options for coverage: <http://1.usa.gov/1qGzMCu> #GetCovered #PrideMonth
- Your new family may have new options for coverage. <http://1.usa.gov/1qGzMCu> #GetCovered #PrideMonth
- Have a new addition to the family? Learn more about getting coverage outside of open enrollment: <http://go.usa.gov/9cSY> #GetCovered

**[GRAPHIC: Say "I Do" to Health Insurance](#)**

- It's time to say "I Do" to health insurance. Take that next big step and #GetCovered: <http://go.usa.gov/9cSY> #PrideMonth
- If you're saying "I do" you have new options for health care: <http://1.usa.gov/1umMaWN>. #LoveIsLove #PrideMonth
- Tying the knot? It's time to #GetCovered! <http://go.usa.gov/9cSY> #GetCovered #PrideMonth

**[GRAPHIC: Take Pride In Your Health \(attached\)](#)**

- Equality. Access. Security. Wellness. Learn how the #ACA helps #LGBTAmericans: <http://1.usa.gov/1vRi6TQ>
- The health care law helps #LGBT Americans access high-quality health care and protects their rights to affordable insurance. Learn more at <http://www.hhs.gov/lgbt/>.

## The Affordable Care Act & LGBT – Top 5

- 5 reasons the #ACA benefits the #LGBT community. Learn more at <http://www.hhs.gov/lgbt>
- FACT: You can't be charged a higher premium just because you're #LGBT. Learn more about #ACA benefits for #LGBT Americans: <http://go.usa.gov/9reV>

**Job-change:** If you lose your job-based health insurance, you have two options for health insurance coverage. You may buy an individual plan through the Marketplace. Or, you may be able to keep your health insurance for a limited time through a program called [COBRA continuation coverage](#).

## Options Available for COBRA Enrollees Between Now and July 1, 2014

Consumers who are currently enrolled in COBRA continuation have the option of switching to a Marketplace plan between now and July 1, 2014. If interested, COBRA enrollees should call the Marketplace Call Center at 1-800-318-2596, and inform the Call Center that they are calling about their COBRA benefits and the Marketplace. Once determined eligible, consumers can view all plans available to them and continue the enrollment process over the phone or online, by creating an account on HealthCare.Gov or logging into their existing account.

Additional information on COBRA is available [here](#).

A fact sheet on losing employer sponsored coverage is available [here](#).

A press release announcing the Department of Labor's proposal to clarify COBRA notices is available [here](#).

The updated COBRA model notices are posted on the Department of Labor website at <http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/modelgeneralnotice.doc> and <http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/modelectionnotice.doc>

The Spanish version of the COBRA general notice is available [here](#)

The Spanish version of the COBRA election notice is available [here](#)

You can read more about the options you have if you have a job-change in this **Job-Change One-Pager** available [here](#).

**Job-change for assisters:** A loss of a job and income in the family is hard enough and many people in this situation are also losing their employer-sponsored health insurance coverage. As assisters, you can help consumers who are facing this difficult situation find the best coverage option. This fact sheet entitled, **Job-Change for assisters**, will provide help assisters *understand* how they can help individuals that are losing Employer-sponsored coverage. The fact sheet is available [here](#).

**College Graduates:** As a new college graduate, you're taking the next steps on your professional and personal journeys. But to handle the bumps on those journeys, you also need health insurance. This fact sheet will help college graduates understand the importance of having health care, and will provide them with information on where they can go to enroll into a health plan upon graduation. The **College Graduates** fact sheet is available [here](#)

## Health Care Blog Posts

### ➤ June 16, 2014

For those newly insured Americans with questions about how to utilize their new health insurance, or what to do now that they have health coverage, the newly launched, **From Coverage to Care** initiative, developed materials to help answer questions from the public about how to make the most of your health coverage. You can access additional information through this [blog](#).

### ➤ June 13, 2014

[Health coverage with Medicaid is the perfect Father's Day gift](#), this blog provides resources such as the [screener tool](#) to find out if you may qualify for Medicaid and/or CHIP and it also highlights some of the benefits for families. You will be able to obtain more information by reading this blog.

➤ **June 13, 2014**

As part of Men's Health Week, courageous men shared their stories about how important taking care of their own health and their family's has been. Read this story about Phillip Wise, a retired Air Force medical technician, and how he made it a point to ensure his daughter, LaNika, got health coverage and took care of her health. You can read **I'm Covered Stories: A Persistent Dad Wins the Day**, [here](#).

➤ **June 12, 2014**

Dr. George Askew, Chief Medical Officer at the Administration for Children and Families, shares his father's story about how important it is to take care of your health. His father neglected his health and for many years did not see a primary care provider. Nearly 10 years ago, he suffered a stroke and that changed his father's and Dr. Askew's life forever. You can read Dr. Askew's story in his blog, **My Father's Story: Taking Control of Your Health**, [here](#).

➤ **June 12, 2014**

**The Power of Prevention**, a blog authored by Dr. Koh, the Assistant Secretary for Health, he discusses some of the racial and ethnic disparities men of color face in their health. Additionally, Dr. Koh, also highlights some of the ways men can improve their lives and the well-being of their family. You can read Dr. Koh's blog [here](#).

➤ **June 10, 2014**

Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services, Bill Corr, authored a blog urging men to make a commitment during Men's Health Week (June 9<sup>th</sup> – June 15<sup>th</sup>) to their health by eating healthy, engaging in physical exercise and seeking routine preventive services. While Men's Health Week is a great opportunity for men to pay attention to their health, it is important to lead a healthy life year round and the Affordable care act makes it easier for all Americans to access important, life-saving health services. You can read Deputy Secretary Corr's blog **Men: Take Control of Your Health – Present and Future** [here](#).

## **White House Health Care Blog Posts**

### **Educational Materials**

*Below you'll find materials related to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.*

### **Info-Graphics**

View all our **Flickr Info-Graphs** page [here](#).

### **Public Service Announcement/Address**

### **Twitter/Facebook**

➤ **Men's Health Week:**

Please remember to use the hashtag [#ShowUsYourBlue](#) and [#MHW14](#) to raise awareness for men's health week & remind men of the importance of staying healthy.

### **Marketplace Updates**

*For information on how to sign up for coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace, including text message and email updates visit <http://www.healthcare.gov/marketplace/index.html>*

## **State by State Fact Sheets**

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

The ACA state by state fact sheets have been updated with the most current stats available.  
They can be found here: <http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/facts/bystate/statebystate.html>