

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES



Take health care into your own hands

HHS Affordable Care Act Bulletin

August 26th, 2011

- [Find Insurance Options](#)
- [Learn About Prevention](#)
- [Compare Care Quality](#)
- [Understanding the Law](#)
- Click [here](#) to access the new consumer focused Health Care Website.
- Check out [50 States/50 Stories](#) to find out what's happening in your state and listen to stories from people across the country that are benefitting from the new law!
- Check out www.CuidadodeSalud.Gov the partner site of HealthCare.gov.
- For more information on the new Affordable Care Act click [here](#).
- Get information on relief the Affordable Care Act can provide to you [here](#).
- Get the Facts Straight on Health Reform [here](#).
- Check out our archived web chats [here](#).
- New brochures about the Affordable Care Act are available [here](#).
- How is the Affordable Care Act helping you? Share your story [here](#).

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Recent News

August 25: [HHS awards \\$137 million to states to boost prevention and public health](#)

August 23: [Affordable Care Act initiative to lower costs, help doctors and hospitals coordinate care](#)

August 18: [HHS awards \\$40 Million in grants to sign up children for health coverage](#)

August 17: [New Affordable Care Act Policy Helps Consumers Better Understand and Compare Benefits and Coverage](#)

August 15: [CDC awards more than \\$49 million to strengthen State and local health departments](#)

August 12: [HHS, Treasury take new steps to help states build Affordable Insurance Exchanges](#)

August 4: [Medicare prescription drug premiums will not increase, more seniors receiving free preventive care, discounts in the donut hole](#)

August 1: [Affordable Care Act Ensures Women Receive Preventive Services at No Additional Cost](#)

Recent HealthCare Blog Posts

August 26: [Making Insurance Data Transparent and Available](#), By Todd Park, HHS Chief Technology Officer

August 24: [Good News from the States](#), By Richard Sorian, Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs

August 19: [Better Medicare Products and Services at Lower Cost](#), By Jon Blum, CMS Deputy Administrator and Director of the Center for Medicare

August 18: [Celebrating National Health Center Week in Philly](#), By Joanne Grossi, HHS Regional Director

August 17: [Making Insurance Plans Easier to Understand](#), By Don Berwick, Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

August 12: [A Health Care Marketplace to Help You Find Insurance](#), By Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services

August 12: [Jobs, Healthcare, and Education Resources for the African American Community](#), By Michael Blake, Deputy Associate Director of African American Outreach and Small & Minority Business Outreach for the Office of Public Engagement

August 12: [The Latest Health Care Court Case](#), By Stephanie Cutter, Assistant to the President and Deputy Senior Advisor

August 9: [Community Health Centers: Increasing Access to Affordable, High Quality Care](#), By Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services

August 8: [Celebrating National Health Center Week](#), By Julia Eisman, HHS New Media Communications Director

August 4: [Better Health and Lower Costs for Medicare Beneficiaries](#), By Don Berwick, Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

August 3: [Prevention at the Heart of Keeping Women Healthy](#) Part 2, By Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services

August 1: [La Prevención Ayuda a Mantener a Las Mujeres Sanas](#), By Kathleen Sebelius, Secretaria de Salud y Servicios Humanos

August 1: [The Affordable Care Act Helps Women Stay Healthy](#), By Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement and Chair of the White House Council on Women and Girls

August 1: [Prevention at the Heart of Keeping Women Healthy](#), By Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services

August 1: [Making It Easier for Women to Get Care They Need](#), By Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services

July 28: [Five Things People with Medicare Should Know](#), By Don Berwick, Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Speeches

July 26, 2011 [Americans with Disabilities Act 21st Anniversary](#); Washington, D.C.

July 11, 2011 [Affordable Insurance Exchanges Announcement](#); Washington, D.C.

June 27, 2011 [2nd Annual National Accountable Care Organization Summit](#); Washington, D.C.

June 17, 2011 [US Conference of Mayors](#); Baltimore, MD

June 7, 2011 [National Disability Rights Network](#); Baltimore, MD

June 7, 2011 [Hampton University 97th Annual Ministers' Conference](#); Hampton, VA

June 6, 2011 [Federal LGBT Youth Summit](#); Washington, D.C.

Fact Sheets

The fact sheets are condensed summaries of important provisions in the Affordable Care Act.

August 23, 2011

[Improving Care Coordination and Lowering Costs by Bundling Payments](#)

August 17, 2011

[Providing Clear and Consistent Information to Consumers about Their Health Insurance Coverage](#)

August 17, 2011

[Proposed Template: Summary of Coverage and Benefits \(PDF - 1.84 MB\)](#) *Persons using assistive technology may not be able to fully access information in this file. For assistance, please email healthcareweb@hhs.gov.*

August 12, 2011

[State by State Enrollment in the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan, as of June 30, 2011](#)

August 12, 2011

[Affordable Insurance Exchanges: Simple, Seamless and Affordable Coverage - Overview](#)

August 12, 2011

[Affordable Insurance Exchanges: Simple, Seamless and Affordable Coverage - Exchange Eligibility and Employer Standards and the Affordable Care Act](#)

August 12, 2011

[Affordable Insurance Exchanges: Simple, Seamless and Affordable Coverage - Medicaid, CHIP and the Affordable Care Act](#)

August 12, 2011

[Affordable Insurance Exchanges: Simple, Seamless and Affordable Coverage - Health Insurance Premium Tax Credits and the Affordable Care Act](#) (PDF - 145 KB)

August 9, 2011

[Community Health Centers and the Affordable Care Act in 2011: Increasing Access to Affordable, Cost Effective, High Quality Care](#)

August 1, 2011

[Affordable Care Act Rules on Expanding Access to Preventive Services for Women](#)

Information for Your Community and You

[American Families](#)

[Children](#)

[Young Adults](#)

[Early Retirees](#)

[Seniors](#)

[African Americans](#)

[Latinos](#)

[Rural Americans](#)

[Women](#)

[Small Businesses](#)

[Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders](#)

[Americans with Disabilities](#)

[LGBT Communities](#)

[Veterans](#)

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 & Guidance

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

[Request for Applications for the Bundled Payments for Care Improvement Initiative \(PDF – 21.4KB\)](#) (Issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services)

[Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on the Summary of Benefits and Coverage and Uniform Glossary \(PDF – 385 KB\)](#) (Issued by the Department of the Treasury, Department of Labor, and the Department of Health and Human Services)

[Request for Public Comment on Templates, Instructions, and Related Materials under the Public Health Service Act \(PDF – 8 MB\)](#) (Issued by the Department of the Treasury, Department of Labor, and the Department of Health and Human Services)

[Proposed Rule on Exchange Functions in the Individual Market: Eligibility Determinations; Exchange Standards for Employers \(PDF – 309 KB\)](#) (Issued by the Department of Health and Human Services)

[Medicaid – Proposed Rule on Eligibility Changes under the Affordable Care Act of 2010 \(PDF – 510 KB\)](#) (Issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services)

[Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Health Insurance Premium Tax Credits \(PDF – 143 KB\)](#) (Issued by the Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service)

[CMS-9992-IFC2: Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Relating to Coverage of Preventive Services under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act](#)

[HRSA-Supported Women's Preventive Services: Required Health Plan Coverage Guidelines](#)

[CO-OPs - Establishment of Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan \(CO-OP\) Program](#) (Issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services)

[Establishment of Exchanges and Qualified Health Plans](#) (Issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services)

[Standards Related to Reinsurance, Risks Corridors and Risk Adjustment](#) (Issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services)

[Administrative Simplification – Interim Final Rule on the Adoption of Operating Rules for Eligibility for a Health Plan and Health Care Claim Status Transactions](#) (Issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services)

[Health Insurance Rate Review – Final Rule on Rate Increase Disclosure and Review](#) (Issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services)

[Medicare – Final Rule on Hospital Inpatient Value-Based Purchasing](#) (Issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services)

[Medicaid – Final Rule on Federal Funding for Medicaid Eligibility Determination and Enrollment Activities](#) (Issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services)

[Medicaid – Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Home and Community-Based Services Waivers](#) (Issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services)

[Food Labeling - Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Calorie Labeling of Articles of Food in Vending Machines](#) (Issued by the Food and Drug Administration)

[Food Labeling - Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Nutrition Labeling of Standard Menu Items in Restaurants and Similar Retail Food Establishments](#) (Issued by the Food and Drug Administration)

[Accountable Care Organizations - Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Accountable Care Organizations](#) (Issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services)

[Health Insurance Rate Review NPRM](#) (Issued by the Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight)

[Supplemental Guidance on Consumer Notices on Waivers of the Annual Limits Requirements](#) (Issued by the Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight)

[Supplemental Guidance on Sale of New Business by Issuers Receiving Waivers](#) (Issued by the Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight)

[Medical Loss Ratio Regulation](#) (Issued by the Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight). [View State MLR adjustment applications and public comments.](#)

[Initial Guidance to States on Exchanges](#) (Issued by the Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight)

[Amendment to Regulation on “Grandfathered” Health Plans under the Affordable Care Act](#) (Issued by the Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight)

[Medicaid IT NPRM - Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Federal Funding for Medicaid Eligibility Determination and Enrollment Activities](#) (Issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services)

[Medicaid RAC - Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on the Medicaid Recovery Audit Contractor \(RAC\) Program](#) (Issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services)

[Regulation on Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan](#) (Issued by the Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight)

[Request for Comment on Health Insurance Exchanges](#) (Issued by the Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight)

[Regulation on Consumers' Right to Appeal Health Plan Decisions](#) (Issued by the Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight)

Preventive Services: [Regulations](#) and [Recommendations](#)

[Patient's Bill of Rights](#) (Issued by the Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight)

[Regulation on "Grandfathered" Health Plans under the Affordable Care Act](#) (Issued by the Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight)

[Dependent Coverage of Children Who Have Not Attained Age 26](#) (Issued by the Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight)

[Early Retiree Reinsurance Program](#) (Issued by the Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight)

[Health Care Reform Insurance Web Portal Requirements](#) (Issued by the Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight)

[COBRA Continuation of Coverage](#) (Issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services)

[Health Insurance Reform for Consumers](#) (Issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services)

[Health Insurance Reform for Employers](#) (Issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services)

[Self-Funded Nonfederal Governmental Plans](#) (Issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services)

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.

[CHIPRA Grant Awards](#)

[CDC National Public Health Improvement Initiative \(NPHII\) Grants](#)

[Consumer Assistance Program Grants](#) – search for CFDA number 93.519

[OCIIO State Planning and Establishment Grants](#) – search for CFDA number 93.525.

[Office on 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](#)

Brochures/Educational Materials

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

[New Benefits for Graduates and Young Adults](#) (PDF – 206 KB)

[Better Benefits, Better Health](#) (PDF – 374 KB)

[Better Benefits, Better Health for Women](#) (PDF – 311 KB)

[Better Benefits, Better Health for Young Adults](#) (PDF – 193 KB)

[Better Benefits, Better Health for Seniors](#) (PDF – 128 KB)

[Better Benefits, Better Health for Small Businesses](#) (PDF – 160 KB)

The Affordable Care Act - What it Means for You (PDF - [English 2.78 MB](#), [Spanish 2.59 MB](#))

The Affordable Care Act - What it Means for Employers (PDF - [English 916 KB](#), [Spanish 963 KB](#))

The Affordable Care Act - What it Means for Small Business (PDF - [English 1.17 MB](#), [Spanish 1 MB](#))

The New Health Care Law - What it Means for You and Your Family (PDF - [English 899 KB](#), [Spanish 833 KB](#))

The Affordable Care Act - What it Means for Rural America (PDF - [English 1.06MB](#), [Spanish 833 KB](#))

The Affordable Care Act - What it Means for Young Adults (PDF - [English 971 KB](#), [Spanish 879 KB](#))

[Patient Protections & Insurance Reforms](#)

Poster: Are You Eligible for the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan? (PDF - [English 271 KB](#), [Spanish 231 KB](#))

[Newsletter Language for Partners](#): Use this toolkit to share information about the PCIP program with your newspaper or newsletter readers.

[Website Language for Partners](#): Use this toolkit to share information about the PCIP program with your online readers.

The Affordable Care Act — What it Means for Those with Pre-Existing Conditions (PDF - [English 354 KB](#), [Spanish 356 KB](#))

[Medicare and the New Health Care Law — What it Means for You](#)

PCIP Facts: The Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan – New Health Coverage Option for the Uninsured (PDF – [English 123 KB](#), [Spanish 162 KB](#))

Generic Flyer: [The Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan – New Health Coverage Option for the Uninsured](#) (PDF – 229 KB)

Web Badge for Partners: Add a [PCIP.gov badge](#) to your website.