



HHS Affordable Care Act Bulletin October 15th, 2010

50 States / 50 Stories

Find out what's happening in your state and listen to stories from people across the country who are benefitting from the new law!

- Click [here](#) to access the new consumer focused Health Care Website.
- 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](#).
- How is the Affordable Care Act helping you? Share your story [here](#).

Webcasts and Videos

October 15: [Open Enrollment Training Webinar](#) – A webinar discussing Medicare open enrollment (November 15 – December 31).

October 1: [Pricing Information Now Available on HealthCare.gov](#) - HealthCare.gov now has pricing information in its [insurance and coverage finder](#). This pricing information continues to help put the power of information at the fingertips of consumers and help them take charge of their own healthcare.

Recent News

October 15: [HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, Sesame Street and the Ad Council Launch National PSA to Protect Families from the Flu](#)

October 15: [CDC Announces Advisory Committee on Breast Cancer in Young Women](#)

October 13: [Secretary Sebelius leads efforts to improve access to coverage for children with pre-existing conditions, urges states to take action](#)

October 8: [HHS announces a major new investment in community health centers](#)

October 6: [New resources available to improve patient safety and combat abuse in long-term care facilities](#)

October 4: [Nearly 1,000 additional employers and unions will receive help providing health coverage to early retirees and their families](#)

October 1: [Affordable Care Act gives consumers new tools, makes health insurance market more transparent](#)

Recent HealthCare Blog Posts

October 15: [Be Like Elmo: Protect Yourself & Your Family from the Flu](#), By Jenny Backus, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs

October 15: [From a Small Business in Oregon: Health Care Law Helps](#), By Erin Edgerton

October 15: [Commemorating National Latino AIDS Awareness Day](#), By James Albino

October 14: [Today's Ruling in Florida](#), Stephanie Cutter, Assistant to the President for Special Projects

October 14: [A Health Care Story from Nebraska](#), Erin Edgerton

October 13: [What Health Reform Means for African Americans](#), Michael Blake, Associate Director, White House Office of Public Engagement & Deputy Associate Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

October 13: [A Comment About Your Comments](#), By Craig Stoltz, Managing Editor of HealthCare.gov

October 12: [Putting an Old Rumor to Rest](#), By Stephanie Cutter, Assistant to the President for Special Projects

October 7: [Building the Bridge to 2014](#), By Stephanie Cutter, Assistant to the President for Special Projects

October 7: [Commonsense Improvements: Patient Safety & Combating Abuse in Long Term Care Facilities](#), By Don Berwick, M.D., Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

October 5: [Employers and Retirees Getting Help from the Affordable Care Act](#), By Jenny Backus, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Public Affairs

October 4: [ONAP Commissions Institute of Medicine to Examine Data Gaps in Monitoring Access and Quality of HIV Care](#), Jeffrey Crowley is the Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy & Gregorio Millett is the Senior Policy Advisor in the Office of National AIDS Policy

October 1: [Letting in the Sunshine: Insurer Pricing, Denial Rates Now Available on healthcare.gov](#), By Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health & Human Services

Fact Sheets

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

[New Tools for Consumers – More Transparency in the Insurance Market New on www.HealthCare.gov: Pricing and Benefits Information for Consumers](#)

[New: Pricing and Benefits Information for Consumers](#)

[Affordable Care Act: Getting Benefits into the Hands of Consumers *Progress to Date*](#)

[Making Medicare Stronger: New Savings on Prescription Drugs For Medicare Beneficiaries From the Affordable Care Act](#)

[A New Day for American Consumers](#)

[The Affordable Care Act: New Tools to Fight Fraud, Strengthen Medicare and Protect Taxpayer Dollars](#)

[New tools to fight Medicare fraud: CMS proposes new regulations to strengthen fraud prevention efforts](#)

[Affordable Care Act and Immunization](#)

[How Does the Affordable Care Act Impact People Living with HIV/AIDS?](#)

[The Affordable Care Act's Early Retiree Reinsurance Program](#)

[New Resources to Help States Crack Down on Unreasonable Health Insurance Premium Hikes](#)

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

[About the New Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan](#)

[Establishing Health Insurance Exchanges and a New Competitive Marketplace](#)

[Fact Sheet: The Affordable Care Act: Protecting Consumers and Putting Patients Back in Charge of Their Care](#)

[Fact Sheet: Benefits for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders of New Affordable Care Act Rules on Expanding Prevention Coverage](#)

[Fact Sheet: Benefits for African Americans of New Affordable Care Act Rules on Expanding Prevention Coverage](#)

[Fact Sheet: Benefits for Latinos of New Affordable Care Act Rules on Expanding Prevention Coverage](#)

[Fact Sheet: Benefits for Seniors of New Affordable Care Act Rules on Expanding Prevention Coverage](#)

[Fact Sheet: Benefits for Women and Children of New Affordable Care Act Rules on Expanding Prevention Coverage](#)

[The Affordable Care Act's New Patient's Bill of Rights](#)

[Affordable Care Act: Laying the Foundation for Prevention](#)

[Creating Jobs and Increasing the Number of Primary Care Providers](#)

[Keeping the Health Plan You Have: The Affordable Care Act and "Grandfathered" Health Plans](#)

[Young Adults and the Affordable Care Act: Protecting Young Adults and Eliminating Burdens on Families and Businesses](#)

[Increasing Choice and Saving Money for Small Businesses](#)

[Temporary High Risk Pool Program](#)

[Establishing the Web Portal Called For in The Affordable Care Act](#)

[New Tools to Fight Fraud](#)

[Learn the facts and statistics about how the Affordable Care Act will benefit each state.](#)

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](#)

Regulations & Guidance

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

Questions and Answers on Enrollment of Children Under 19 Under the New Policy That Prohibits Pre-Existing Condition Exclusions- Updated: October 13, 2010

<http://www.hhs.gov/ociio/regulations/children19/factsheet.html>

Affordable Care Act Implementation FAQs- Third Set of FAQs — Issued October 12, 2010

http://www.hhs.gov/ociio/regulations/implementation_faq.html

[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)

[Temporary High Risk Pool Fact Sheet](#) provides information about the temporary high risk pool program included in the Affordable Care Act and chart outlining potential allocations of high risk pool funds to states.

[Beneficiary Information about the \\$250 Part D Rebate Brochure](#) describes details about the tax-free, one-time check for \$250 for people who enter the Part D donut hole and are not eligible for Medicare Extra Help.

[Health Insurance Portal Bulletin](#) provides guidance to state Medicaid Directors about the health insurance portal.

[Medicare and the New Health Law – What it Means for You](#). This mailing from CMS outlines key provisions of the Affordable Care Act for people with Medicare as well as members of their families. The mailing is being sent in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Letters

Administration officials issue letters requesting information, issuing guidance, announcing progress to date, and other implementation efforts.

Letter from Secretary Sebelius to Jane L. Cline Regarding Child-Only Policies (Oct. 13, 2010)
http://www.hhs.gov/ociio/Documents/letter_to_j_cline.pdf

[Letter from Chairman Carter II to Secretary Sebelius Regarding How the IBEW Health & Welfare Trust Fund Supports ERRP](#) (September 30, 2010)

[Letter from CEO Nancy Brown to Secretary Sebelius Regarding the American Heart Association's Support for ERRP](#) (September 30, 2010)

[Letter from Mayor Cownie to Secretary Sebelius Regarding Des Moines, Iowa's Support for ERRP](#)(September 30, 2010).

[Letter from Mayor Cashell Sr. to Secretary Sebelius Regarding Reno, Nevada's Support for ERRP](#) (September 30, 2010)

[Letter from Mary Miller, Ass. Director of Human Resources, to Secretary Sebelius Regarding Olathe, Kansas's Support for ERRP](#) (September 30, 2010)

[Letter from Secretary Sebelius to Member of Congress Regarding the Six Month Anniversary of the Affordable Care Act](#) (September 23, 2010)

[Letter from Secretary Sebelius to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Submitting the Interagency Access to Health Care in Alaska Task Force Report](#) (September 17, 2010)

[Letter from HHS Secretary Sebelius and Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner to Sen. Harry Reid Regarding Senate Amendments 4595 and 4596](#) (September 13, 2010) *Persons using assistive technology may not be able to fully access information in this file. For assistance, please email healthcareweb@hhs.gov.*

[Letter from Secretary Sebelius to Governors, Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act](#) (July 26, 2010)

[Rate Review letter from Secretary Sebelius to Governors and State Insurance Commissioners](#) (June 7, 2010)

[Letter from Secretary Sebelius to Hill Leadership outlining HHS's Progress on Implementation Efforts](#) (May 24, 2010)

[State High Risk Pool cover letter from Jay Angoff, Director of the Office of Consumer Information and Oversight](#) (May 10, 2010)

[Letter from Secretary Sebelius to NAIC urging the association to provide guidance by June 1 to allow for timely implementation of the law](#) (April 12, 2010)

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.

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

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

[OCIIO Health Insurance Premium Review Grants](#)

[Health Insurance Premium Review 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](#)

Brochures

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

[Patient Protections & Insurance Reforms \(pdf\)](#)

[Poster: Are You Eligible for the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan? \(Eng pdf\) \(Span pdf\)](#)

[The Affordable Care Act — What it Means for Those with Pre-Existing \(Eng pdf\) \(Span pdf\)](#)

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

[Closing the Prescription Drug Coverage Gap \(pdf\)](#)