



## CMS Snapshot

### September 14-20, 2023

Delivered to you by the Partner Relations Group in the Office of Communications

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, September 14 through 2pm Thursday, September 20, 2023

#### News Releases

\*September 15- [Statement from HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on National Hispanic Heritage Month](#). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra issued the following statement to mark the beginning of National Hispanic Heritage Month.

\*September 15- [HHS Invests \\$8 Million to Improve Health Care Access by Training New Physicians to Care for Individuals with Disabilities and Individuals with Limited English Proficiency](#). *Medical students and residents will participate in medical language programs, learn to care for individuals with disabilities or limited English proficiency during their training.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), announced more than \$8 million through 18 awards to train primary care medical students, physician assistant students, and medical residents in providing culturally and linguistically appropriate care for individuals with limited English proficiency and individuals with physical or intellectual and developmental disabilities. HRSA's mission focuses on improving health care access for historically underserved communities, and today's investments address critical gaps that can occur in health care training and impede access to care.

\*September 15- [Readout of HHS Deputy Secretary Palm's Trip to San Diego during National Recovery Month](#). *Deputy Secretary Palm Highlighted the Biden-Harris Administration's Efforts to Improve Access to Mental Health Services and Increase Support for Substance Use Disorder.* On Monday, September 11th, 2023, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Deputy Secretary Andrea Palm traveled to San Diego, California to highlight the Biden-Harris Administration's efforts to address access to mental health services and increase support for substance use disorder. During her trip she visited health facilities dedicated to incorporating mental health care into primary care and participated in a roundtable on youth mental health with Congressman Scott Peters (CA-50) and local students from Bernardo Heights Middle School and Rancho Bernardo High School.

\*September 18- [HHS Takes the Most Significant Action in a Decade to Make Care for Older Adults & People with Disabilities More Affordable and Accessible](#). *New Rule Reduces Red Tape and Simplifies Medicare Savings Program Enrollment, Helping Millions of Older Adults and People with Disabilities Afford Coverage.* In their continued efforts to improve access to health care and lower costs for millions of Americans, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), today [finalized a rule](#) to streamline enrollment in the Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs), making coverage more affordable for an estimated 860,000 people.

\*September 18- [HHS Launches Environmental Justice Community Innovator Challenge](#). *Challenge aims to bolster community and Tribal-led solutions with \$1 million in total prizes over the next year, advance Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to environmental justice.* Today, as part of the Biden-Harris Administration's historic climate and environmental justice agenda, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the launch of a nation-wide HHS Environmental Justice Community Innovator Challenge to support disadvantaged communities and Tribes facing the brunt of environmental injustices, including health harms due to climate change. This Challenge aims to uplift community-level solutions to address health inequities with prizes totaling \$1,000,000 that will be awarded in two phases. The Biden-Harris Administration is delivering on the most ambitious climate and environmental justice agenda in our nation's history, advancing President Biden's belief that every person has a right to breathe clean air, drink clean water, and live in a healthy community.

\*September 20- [HHS Awards \\$45 Million in Grants to Expand Access to Care for People with Long COVID](#). *Funding will help implement and evaluate models for delivering comprehensive, coordinated, person-centered care to people with Long COVID.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), announced nine grant awards of \$1 million each for up to 5 years to support existing multidisciplinary Long COVID clinics across the country to expand access to comprehensive, coordinated, and person-centered care for people with Long COVID, particularly underserved, rural, vulnerable, and minority populations that are disproportionately impacted by the effects of Long COVID.

\*September 20- [HHS Awards \\$8.1M to Fund the Third Cohort of the Diaper Distribution Pilot](#). Today, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the award of \$8.1 million to fund the third cohort of grant recipients of the diaper distribution demonstration and research pilot program, bringing the total funding to \$24.3 million since the program's inception in September 2022.

\*September 20- [Biden-Harris Administration Awards \\$600 Million to Bolster US Manufacturing of COVID-19 Tests and Announces the Re-Opening of COVIDTests.gov](#). *Actions are part of ASPR's comprehensive strategy to strengthen the domestic supply chain and promote access to COVID-19 tests.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR), is announcing an investment

of \$600 million across 12 domestic COVID-19 test manufacturers and the reopening of COVIDTests.gov to deliver COVID-19 tests for free to households across the country.

\*September 21- [Approaching 60th Anniversary of Community Mental Health Act of 1963, the Biden-Harris Administration Awards Nearly \\$130 Million to Expand Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics Across US](#). Signed by President John F. Kennedy on Oct. 31, 1963, the law established community mental health centers and research facilities across the United States. Note to editors and reporters: Explainer video "[What is a CCBHC?](#)" is available for download and use in reporting, courtesy of SAMHSA. Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), announced that it has awarded \$127.7 million to expand Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) across the country. These grant awards support the Biden-Harris Administration's ongoing efforts to advance President Biden's Unity Agenda to tackle the country's mental health crisis and beat the opioid epidemic.

## Fact Sheets

\*September 18- [Streamlining Medicaid and CHIP, Final Rule, Fact Sheet](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS') final rule will make it easier for millions of eligible people to enroll in and retain their Medicare Savings Program (MSP) coverage. The final rule Reduces red tape and simplifies Medicare Savings Program enrollment, helping millions of seniors and people with disabilities afford coverage. The final rule follows President Biden's executive orders in [January 2021](#), [December 2021](#), and [April 2022](#), directing federal agencies to take action to expand affordable, quality health coverage.

## Blogs

\*September 15- [Organ Transplantation Affinity Group \(OTAG\): Strengthening accountability, equity, and performance](#). Jean D. Moody-Williams, RN, MPP, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and Suma Nair PhD, MS, RD, Health Resources and Services Administration. Improving the organ transplantation system is a priority for the Biden-Harris Administration. In 2021, the Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Becerra established a coordinated effort to improve organ donation, procurement, and transplantation. Led by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), this collaborative seeks to drive improvements in donations, clinical outcomes, system improvement, quality measurement, transparency, and regulatory oversight.

\*September 18- [National Hispanic Heritage Month Blog by Dr. Fátima Coronado](#). By: [Fátima Coronado MD, MPH](#), Associate Director for Science at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention. Summary: Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to recognize and honor the Hispanic and Latino community's achievements, culture, and contributions to the nation's history. Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15) is a time to honor the Hispanic and Latino community's achievements, culture, and contributions to the nation's history. It's an occasion to highlight the positive influence of Hispanics and

Latinos throughout the country's history, and this year we take the opportunity to recognize that our country is stronger, healthier, and safer when we recognize our shared humanity and value every individual and community: Todos Somos, Somos Uno: We Are All, We Are One.

\*September 21- [Get your flu shot this fall at no cost](#). It's important to get the flu shot to protect you and your family from this potentially serious disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that everyone 6 months and older get a flu shot by the end of October.