



## CMS Snapshot

May 2-9, 2024

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, May 2 through 2pm Thursday, May 9, 2024.

### News Releases

\*May 2- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces Critical More Than \\$1.5 Billion State and Tribal Opioid Response Funding Opportunities](#). Today, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), announced the 2024 State Opioid Response (SOR) and Tribal Opioid Response (TOR) Notices of Funding Opportunity, providing up to \$1.48 billion to states, territories, and the District of Columbia and \$63 million to Tribes to address the overdose crisis in fiscal year 2024. This funding is a critical investment in the [President Biden's Unity Agenda for the nation](#), and supports evidence-based, holistic practices that address the overdose crisis, including prevention, harm reduction, treatment such as the use of medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), naloxone and other opioid overdose reversal medications, and recovery supports.

\*May 3- [HHS Releases New Data Showing Over 10 million People with Medicare Received a Free Vaccine Because of the President's Inflation Reduction Act; Releases Draft Guidance for the Second Cycle of Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program](#). *Over 10 million people with Part D Medicare received a free vaccine in 2023 thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act, up from just 3 million in 2021.* President Biden's lower cost prescription drug law, the Inflation Reduction Act, is helping millions of seniors and families save money on health care costs and prescription drugs. The law took on Big Pharma to finally allow Medicare to directly negotiate with participating drug companies for the prices of covered prescription drugs, caps the cost of insulin at \$35 for seniors, and makes recommended vaccines free for Medicare Part D enrollees. Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) published a new report showing that in 2023 more than 10 million people with Medicare Part D received a free vaccine thanks to the law – an increase from just 3.4 million people receiving covered vaccines in 2021.

\*May 3- [Biden-Harris Administration Finalizes Policies to Increase Access to Health Coverage for DACA Recipients](#). As part of the Biden-Harris Administration's ongoing commitment to ensuring affordable, quality health care for all, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,

through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), finalized a rule that will expand access to health care for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients. Today's rule ensures DACA recipients will no longer be excluded from eligibility to enroll in a Qualified Health Plan (QHP) through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Health Insurance Marketplace, or for coverage through a Basic Health Program (BHP). CMS estimates that this rule could lead to 100,000 previously uninsured DACA recipients enrolling in health coverage through Marketplaces or a BHP.

\*May 3- [CMS Roundup \(May 3, 2024\)](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provides an at-a-glance summary of news from around the agency.

\*May 3- [Readout of HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra's Meeting with United States Interagency Council on Homelessness](#). *The Secretary Reiterated His Commitment to Address Homelessness among Youth and Young Adults as USICH Chair.* On Wednesday, May 1, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra hosted the second quarterly meeting of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH). The meeting focused on interagency work to prevent and address homelessness among youth and young adults (ages 12-24).

\*May 6- [CMS Statement on Agent and Broker Marketplace Activity, Update](#). CMS remains committed to protecting consumers in the Marketplaces to ensure they are enrolled in the plan of their choosing and to terminate brokers who defraud consumers. We are taking stronger actions given very concerning activity by some agents and brokers related to unauthorized plan switches and unauthorized enrollments—where a consumer was switched from their selected plan into a new one or signed up for coverage without their knowledge or consent. CMS continues to improve its processes to resolve unauthorized plan switches and unauthorized enrollments performed by agents and brokers in the Marketplaces that use the [HealthCare.gov](#) platform.

\*May 6- [HHS Office on Women's Health Announces Final Phase Winners for HHS Hypertension Innovator Award Competition](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office on Women's Health has announced the final phase winners for the HHS [Hypertension Innovator Award Competition](#). The national competition was created to identify and reward innovative programs that ensure women with hypertension during pregnancy and/or postpartum receive appropriate monitoring and follow-up. This competition supports the Biden-Harris Administration's implementation of the [White House Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis - PDF](#), a whole-of-government strategy to combat maternal mortality and improve maternal and infant health, focusing on underserved communities.

\*May 6- [COVID-19 Vaccination Public Education Campaign Saved Thousands of Lives, Billions of Dollars](#). *Study found vaccine campaign saved \$90 for every \$1 spent.* The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) COVID-19 Vaccination Public Education Campaign, *We Can Do This*, resulted in an estimated \$731.9 billion in societal benefits due to averted illness and

related costs, resulting in a nearly \$90 return in societal benefits for every \$1 spent, according to research published today in the [American Journal of Preventive Medicine](#) .

\*May 6- [Treasury Releases Social Security and Medicare Trustees Reports](#). WASHINGTON – Following a meeting of the Social Security and Medicare Boards of Trustees, the U.S. Department of the Treasury—joined by Departments of Health and Human Services and Labor, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and the Social Security Administration—released the annual Social Security and Medicare Trustees Reports.

\*May 7- [Final Rule to Establish First-Ever Regulations for Adult Protective Services](#). *Rule will improve quality and consistency of APS services across states.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Administration for Community Living (ACL), announced [a final rule](#) to establish the first federal regulations for Adult Protective Services (APS). The new regulations promote high quality APS and will improve consistency in services across states. With the final rule, ACL aims to support the national network that delivers APS, with the ultimate goal of better meeting the needs of adults who experience, or are at risk of, maltreatment and self-neglect.

\*May 8- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces \\$46.8 Million in Behavioral Health Funding Opportunities to advance President Biden’s Unity Agenda as Part of May Mental Health Awareness Month](#). *Funding to be awarded will support youth mental health, the behavioral health care workforce, substance use treatment and recovery, integrated health care solutions, and training and technical assistance.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), announced \$46.8 million in notices of funding opportunities to promote youth mental health, grow the behavioral health workforce, improve access to culturally competent behavioral care across the country, and strengthen peer recovery and recovery support. President Biden made tackling the mental health crisis and beating the opioid epidemic key pillars in his Unity Agenda for the nation. Today’s announcement will help communities transform how they address behavioral health.

\*May 8- [Biden-Harris Administration Acts to Improve Access to Kidney Transplants](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), is announcing the Increasing Organ Transplant Access (IOTA) Model. The proposed model, which would be implemented by the CMS Innovation Center, aims to increase access to kidney transplants for all people living with end-stage renal disease (ESRD), improve the quality of care for people seeking kidney transplants, reduce disparities among individuals undergoing the process to receive a kidney transplant, and increase the efficiency and capability of transplant hospitals selected to participate.

\*May 8- [Readout of HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra’s Remarks at the Sickle Cell Disease Trailblazers Event](#). The Biden-Harris Administration continues to build on progress made tackling sickle cell disease (SCD), recently holding a virtual panel to discuss SCD treatment,

policy milestones, and future goals. The panel, hosted in observance of [National Minority Health Month](#), by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), also highlighted SCD leaders who fostered advances in SCD treatment and delivery of care, their achievements, and new policy priorities and objectives.

## Fact Sheets

\*May 3- [HHS Final Rule Clarifying the Eligibility of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals \(DACA\) Recipients and Certain Other Noncitizens](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), is publishing a final rule to modify the definition of “lawfully present” applicable to eligibility for enrollment in a Qualified Health Plan (QHP) through the Health Insurance Marketplace and a Basic Health Program (BHP).