



Take health care into your own hands

HHS Affordable Care Act Bulletin

March 25th, 2011



- [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.

Contents:

- I. Recent News
- II. Recent Healthcare Blog Posts
- III. Fact Sheets
- IV. Information for Your Community & You
- V. State By State Fact Sheets
- VI. Regulations & Guidance
- VII. Letters
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- IX. Brochures/Educational Materials

Recent News

March 22: Nearly 4 million Medicare beneficiaries receive help with prescription drug cost under Affordable Care Act

March 21: National Quality Strategy will promote better health, quality care for Americans

Recent HealthCare Blog Posts

March 25: Better Benefits, Better Health for Young Adults, By Mayra Alvarez, HHS Director of Public Health Policy

March 24: Celebrating the One Year Anniversary of the Affordable Care Act, 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

March 24: Better Benefits, Better Health for Women, By Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services

March 23: Video: The Affordable Care Act, One Year Later, By Julia Eisman, HHS New Media Communications Director

March 23: One Year Later: Better Benefits, Better Health, By Richard Sorian, HHS Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs

March 23: One Year of the Affordable Care Act: We've Come a Long Way, By Nancy-Ann DeParle, Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff

March 22: Health Reform: A Phone Call from the President, By Kalpen Modi, Associate Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement

March 22: Nearly 4 Million People on Medicare Get Help with Prescription Drug Costs, By Jonathan Blum, Deputy Administrator and Director, Center for Medicare & Medicaid

March 22: Better Benefits, Better Health for Seniors, By Don Berwick, Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

March 21: Better Benefits, Better Health for Small Businesses, By Richard Sorian, Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs

Fact Sheets

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

March 21, 2011

The Affordable Care Act and Benefits for American Indians and Alaska Natives

March 15, 2011

New Tools to Fight Fraud, Strengthen Medicare, and Protect Taxpayer Dollars

March 10, 2011

Preparing for Innovation: Proposed Process for States to Adopt Innovative Strategies to Meet the Goals of the Affordable Care Act

February 24, 2011

Nearly \$200 Million Available to Help States Fight Health Insurance Premium Increases

February 16, 2011

States Leading the Way on Implementation: HHS Awards "Early Innovator" Grants to Seven States

February 10, 2011

Medicare Advantage & the Affordable Care Act

February 10, 2011

State by State Enrollment in the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan, as of February 1, 2011

February 9, 2011

The Affordable Care Act's Prevention and Public Health Fund in Your State

February 9, 2011

Building Healthier Communities by Investing in Prevention

February 9, 2011

Improving Health Insurance Protections for Students

January 25, 2011

The Affordable Care Act and LGBT Americans

January 24, 2011

New Tools to Fight Fraud, Strengthen Medicare and Protect Taxpayer Dollars

January 21, 2011

Donut Hole Checks Distributed, by State

January 21, 2011

New Medicare Benefits for 2011

January 20, 2011

Health Insurance Exchange Establishment Grants

January 4, 2011

The Price of Repealing the Affordable Care Act

December 21, 2010

Affordable Care Act Requires Insurance Companies to Justify High Rate Hikes

December 20, 2010

The Health Benefits of Breastfeeding

December 16, 2010

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Enhance Efforts to Prevent and Fight Health Care Fraud

December 9, 2010

[The Affordable Care Act: Increasing Transparency and Protecting Consumers](#)

November 22, 2010

[Medical Loss Ratio](#)

November 17, 2010

[Innovations for Better Health and Stronger Medicare](#)

November 16, 2010

[The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation](#)

November 16, 2010

[Affordable Care Act for Americans with Disabilities](#)

November 15, 2010

[HealthCare.gov Insurance Finder Gets Better for Consumers](#)

November 5, 2010

[New Plan Options for Federally Administered Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan in 2011](#)

November 5, 2010

[State by State Enrollment in the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan, as of November 1, 2010](#)

October 19, 2010

[Consumer Assistance Program Grants: Helping States Give Consumers Greater Control of their Health Care](#)

October 19, 2010

[Consumer Assistance Program Grants: How States Are Using New Resource to Give Consumers Greater Control of their Health Care](#)

October 4, 2010

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

October 1, 2010

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

October 1, 2010

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

September 23, 2010

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

September 23, 2010

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

September 23, 2010

[A New Day for American Consumers](#)

September 21, 2010

[New Tools to Fight Fraud, Strengthen Medicare and Protect Taxpayer Dollars](#)

September 21, 2010

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

September 14, 2010

[Affordable Care Act and Immunization](#)

September 13, 2010

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

August 16, 2010

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

August 6, 2010

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

July 29, 2010

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

July 29, 2010

[Health Insurance Exchanges: State Planning and Establishment Grants](#)

July 29, 2010

[Exchange Planning Grants: Grant Awards List](#)

July 21, 2010

[Protecting Consumers and Putting Patients Back in Charge of Their Care](#)

July 14, 2010

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

July 14, 2010

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

July 14, 2010

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

July 14, 2010

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

July 14, 2010

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

June 22, 2010

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

June 18, 2010

[Laying the Foundation for Prevention](#)

June 16, 2010

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

June 14, 2010

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

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

July 1, 2010

[Temporary High Risk Pool Program](#)

July 1, 2010

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

May 13, 2010

[New Tools to Fight Fraud](#)

April 20, 2010

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

[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.

[Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan Eligibility and Access to Other Creditable Coverage - Policy Letter #5](#) (Issued by the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight)

[States Can Apply for Nearly \\$200 Million to Help Fight Health Premium Increases](#) (Issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services)

[Affordable Care Act Supports States in Strengthening Community Living](#) (Issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services)

[HHS Announces \\$100 Million in Affordable Care Act Grants to Prevent Disease](#) (Issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services)

[CMS Releases Proposed Rule to Implement New Community First Choice Option Available to States](#) (Issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services)

[CMS Releases Proposed Rule to Implement Medicaid Payment Adjustments for Provider Preventable Conditions](#) (Issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services)

[CMS Releases Proposed Rule to Implement Medicaid Payment Adjustments for Provider Preventable Conditions](#) (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)

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is responsible for tax provisions of the Affordable Care Act that will be implemented during the next several years. A list of these provisions now in effect, and additional information soon to be added, can be found at www.irs.gov.

Letters

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

[Letter from the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight to Superintendent Kofman Regarding the State of Maine's Request for Adjustment to Medical Loss Ratio Standard](#) (March 8, 2011)

[Letter from Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, and Treasury to House Speaker John Boehner Regarding the Price of Repealing the Affordable Care Act](#) (January 5, 2011)

[Letter from HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to Insurance Commissioners Regarding Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Rate Review](#) (December 21, 2010)

[Letter from CalPERS to HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius Regarding the Affordable Care Act Implementation](#) (December 10, 2010)

[Letter from HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to Consumer Groups Regarding Supplemental Guidance on Consumer Notices and Sale of New Business](#) (December 9, 2010)

[Cover memo to States from HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius on Exchange Guidance](#) (November 18, 2010)

[Cover Memo to States from OCIIO and CMS on IT for Exchanges and Medicaid](#) (November 3, 2010)

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.

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

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

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

[OCIO 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/Educational Materials

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

[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](#)

[Closing the Prescription Drug Coverage Gap](#)