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Date: 3/7/2014 6:19:16 PM

Subject: ACA Weekly Bulletin 3_7_2014

Attachments: [ACA Weekly Bulletin 03_07_2014.docx](#)

HHS Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs

News Bulletin:

Friday, March 7, 2014

Visit HHS.gov/Healthcare and CuidadodeSalud.Gov, two consumer-focused health care websites to: [find insurance options](#), [compare care quality](#), [and learn about the law](#). How is the Affordable Care Act helping you? Share your story [here](#).

Affordable Care Act News

✧ March 7, 2014

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the final rules establishing the standards for the Basic Health Program. The program provides states with the option to establish a health benefits coverage program for lower-income individuals as an alternative to Marketplace coverage under the Affordable Care Act. This program, which is voluntarily for states, enables them to create a program for individuals with incomes that are too high to qualify for Medicaid under the Medicaid expansion in the Affordable Care Act, but are in the lowest income bracket of individuals who would otherwise be eligible to purchase coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace. These final rules set forth a framework for Basic Health Program eligibility and enrollment, benefits, delivery of health care services, transfer of funds to participating states, state administration and federal oversight, and funding methodology. States can implement the Basic Health Program starting in 2015. You can find the BHP Final Rule (CMS-2380-F) at the Federal Register (PDF) [here](#) and the BHP Final Notice (CMS-2380-FN) Federal Register (PDF) [here](#).

✧ March 5, 2014

The Department of Health and Human Services released its guidance on the major health law policies in 2015 for consumers, states and Health insurance marketplaces, health insurers and employers all at once. This early synchronized and comprehensive effort is designed to provide stakeholders with the early information and certainty they need to plan for next year.

2015 Health Policy Standards Fact Sheet: [Here](#)

The Payment Parameters Final Regulation PDF version: [Here](#)

The 2015 AV Calculator and Methodology can be accessed [here](#)

Regulation 1: [Here](#)

Regulation 2: Minimal Essential Coverage: [Here](#)

Health Care Blog Posts

✧ March 6, 2014

As we head into the final weeks of open enrollment, visit healthcare.gov or cuidadodesalud.gov to ensure you know how many and what type of documents can be used as you are going through the enrollment process, get the latest enrollment tips, and locate where you can go to for help right in your community. You can read about how the on-line application process has been improved and get other enrollment assistance through this [blog here](#).

✧ **March 4, 2014**

Learn about what a dangerous gamble it was for LaNika Wise to go almost ten years without having health insurance and the steps she took to take control of her life. LaNika was able to enroll into a marketplace plan that costs less than a \$100 a month. Read her story [here](#).

✧ **March 1, 2014**

March is the time to enroll. With only four weeks left of open enrollment, we want to make sure you have all of the information you need to enroll into a marketplace health plan. You can learn about the multiple options you have through this [blog](#).

White House Health Care Blog Posts

✧ **March 7, 2014**

Next week, President Obama will sit down for his first-ever interview with WebMD, the leading source of health information for consumers and health care professionals, to discuss the importance of signing up for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act. During a conversation with the site's health care reform expert Lisa Zamosky, the President will answer questions about health care and the ACA directly from WebMD users in an interview that will air on March 14. To know how you can submit your question, click [here](#).

✧ **March 6, 2014**

YouTube Stars Talk Health Care (and Make History) at the White House: This year, the President is committed to using the power of his phone and pen to create opportunity for all Americans. One way he's doing that is through raising awareness about policies and priorities through non-traditional platforms, like YouTube. Read more [here](#)

✧ **March 6, 2014**

President Obama participated in a town hall at the Newseum in Washington, DC to discuss the Affordable Care Act and how the law benefits the Latino community. The town hall was hosted by Univision, Telemundo, impreMedia and the California Endowment. You can read more [here](#).

✧ **March 5, 2014**

First Lady Michelle Obama traveled to Miami to meet with folks doing extraordinary work on the ground to get more people health coverage. Read the First Lady's health care message about why it is so important that everyone, including healthy young adults sign up for health insurance [here](#).

✧ **March 3, 2014**

On Tuesday, March 6th, President Obama will participate in a Town hall discussion highlighting the impact of the ACA on the Latino community. This town hall will be will be televised, livestreamed and broadcast over radio, digital and social platforms in Spanish, will provide an opportunity for Latinos across the country to learn more about how to enroll in affordable, quality health care via the Health Insurance Marketplace. Get more of the event details [here](#).

Educational Materials

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

Info-Graphics

View all our **Flickr Info-Graphs** page [here](#).

How Obamacare Prices Shake Out: <http://m.huffpost.com/us/entry/3990491/>

Public Service Announcement/Address

Health Insurance Marketplace

For more information about the Health Insurance Marketplace including official resources, research, news, and events visit <http://marketplace.cms.gov/>

Marketplace Updates

For information on how to sign up for coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace, including text message and email updates visit <http://www.healthcare.gov/marketplace/index.html>

State by State Fact Sheets

Choose your state to learn more about the immediate benefits of the Affordable Care Act, <http://www.healthcare.gov/law/information-for-you/index.html>