HHS Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs News Bulletin: Friday, March 22nd, 2013

Visit HealthCare.Gov and CuidadodeSalud.Gov, two consumer-focused health care websites to: find insurance options, learn about prevention, compare care quality, and learn about the law. How is the Affordable Care Act helping you? Share your story here.

Secretary's Corner

❋ **March 21, 2013**
Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced that as the third anniversary of the Affordable Care Act approaches, more than 6.3 million people with Medicare saved over $6.1 billion on prescription drugs because of the health care law. View the full release here.

❋ **March 18, 2013**
Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced that about 71 million Americans in private health insurance plans received coverage for at least one free preventive health care service, such as a mammogram or flu shot, in 2011 and 2012 because of the Affordable Care Act. View the full release here.

Affordable Care Act News

❋ **March 18, 2013**
The Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, and the Treasury issued a proposed rule that prohibits health plans from imposing waiting periods greater than 90 days on enrollees before coverage begins. The authority for this provision is found under sec. 2708 of the Public Health Services Act, as added by the Affordable Care Act. View the proposed rule here.

❋ **March 18, 2013**
Be sure to check out HHS' updated state by state fact sheets here and the national fact sheet here.

Healthcare.gov Blog

❋ **March 22, 2013**
Secretary Kathleen Sebelius wrote a blog that the moving forward the Affordable Care Act will expand access. "Three years ago, the Affordable Care Act ushered in a new day for health care." View the full post here.

❋ **March 21, 2013**
Secretary Kathleen Sebelius wrote a blog that the Affordable Care Act has increased savings for seniors. "In the three years since the Affordalbe Care Act became law, the slower growth of health care costs is saving money in Medicare and the private insurance market, helping to curb previously skyrocketing premiums and making Medicare stronger." View the full post here.

❋ **March 20, 2013**
Secretary Kathleen Sebelius wrote a blog that paying for quality saves health care dollars. "For decades before the passage of the Affordable Care Act, health care costs outstripped inflation, without corresponding improvements in health care quality. Our system didn't incentivize quality or efficiency. We paid providers for the quantity of care, not the quality of care. And we were not using technology to deliver smarter care." View the full post here.

❋ **March 19, 2013**
Secretary Kathleen Sebelius wrote a blog about the Affordable Care Act holding insurance companies accountable. "Enacted three years ago, the health care law is making the insurance market work better for you by prohibiting some of the worst insurance industry practices that have kept affordable health coverage out of reach for millions of Americans." View the full post here.

❋ **March 18, 2013**

Secretary Kathleen Sebelius wrote a blog about the Affordable Care Act providing consumer protections. "In the past, too many parents had to worry about how they would pay the mortgage or the car payment if their sick children were dropped from insurance coverage. Victims of breast cancer worried about what would happen to them or their families if they reached a lifetime limit on coverage and no longer could afford treatment." View the full post here.

MyCare Story
❋ **March 19, 2013**

Abby was born with a serious, rare disease. Without high-quality health care, or health insurance, she would suffer potentially fatal consequences. But everything changed three years ago, when President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act. View Abby's story here.

Brochures & Educational Materials

Below you'll find brochures and materials related to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. For other brochures and resources visit: http://www.healthcare.gov/news/brochures/index.html.

❋ ACA Educational PowerPoints

The Top Five Things You Need to Know

❋ Families with Children (PDF – English 7.27 MB, Spanish 1.23 MB)

❋ Health Care Providers (PDF – English 2.71 MB, Spanish 517 KB)

❋ People with Disabilities (PDF – English 2.56 MB, Spanish 930 KB)

❋ Seniors (PDF – English 11.3 MB, Spanish 1.54 MB)

❋ Small Business Owners (PDF – English 4.22 MB, Spanish 646 KB)

❋ Young Adults (PDF – English 6.56 MB, Spanish 919 KB)

Information for Consumers and Small Businesses

❋ The Health Care Law & You (PDF – 8.99 MB)

❋ Information for Small Businesses (PDF – 763 KB)

MyCare: Videos and Stories

Find videos and stories related to how the Affordable Care Act has helped individuals across the country. http://www. healthcare.gov/mycare/stories.html

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

❋ Learn the facts and statistics about how the Affordable Care Act will benefit each state.

Regulations and Guidance

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

❋ Standards Related to Reinsurance, Risk Corridors and Risk Adjustment

❋ Eligibility Changes under Affordable Care Act

❋ Certain Preventive Services under Affordable Care Act

❋ Student Health Insurance Coverage

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

❋ Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight 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

Special Programs

Several new programs across the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services support the work of the Affordable Care Act. You will find information about these programs on this page.

❋ Partnership for Patients: Better Care, Lower Costs

Councils & Groups

The Affordable Care Act establishes a number of councils and groups to carry out provisions in the law. To learn more about the organizations, click on a link below:

❋ Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO)

❋ Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation

❋ Interagency Working Group on Health Care Quality

❋ National Prevention, Health Promotion and Public Health Council