



AFFORDABLE CARE ACT MASSACHUSETTS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

April 13, 2015

Quick Links

[MA-ACA Website](#)



These Updates, published by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) in consultation with the other state agencies involved in ACA implementation, will bring you news related to the implementation of provisions of the ACA here in Massachusetts.

Grants and Demonstrations

The ACA provides funding opportunities to transform how health care is delivered, expand access to care and support healthcare workforce training.

Grant Announcements

National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Tuberculosis Prevention (NCHHSTP) Public Health Conference Support, §4204. Announced April 6, 2015.

Funding is available to provide support for specific conferences focusing on HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis, and/or adolescent and school health. The goal for such conferences is to decrease the incidence and prevalence of HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases, and tuberculosis among at-risk populations, including adolescents.

Eligible applicants include state and local governments, American Indian or Alaskan Native Tribal governments, private and public institutions of higher education, faith based organizations and community based organizations. \$500,000 is available for ten awards.

Applications are due June 8, 2015.

View the announcement at: GRANTS.GOV

Cooperative Agreements for State-Sponsored Youth Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention, §4002. Announced April 2, 2015.

Funding is available to support development and implementation of statewide or tribal youth suicide prevention and early intervention strategies. The program includes public and private collaboration among youth-serving institutions and agencies and should include schools, educational institutions, juvenile justice systems, foster care systems, substance abuse and mental health programs, and other child and youth supporting organizations. The goal of such programs is to reduce suicide deaths and non-fatal suicide attempts.

Eligible applicants include states, public and private nonprofit organizations, and federally recognized Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations. \$8,644,636 is available for twelve awards.

Applications are due June 2, 2015.

View the announcement at: GRANTS.GOV

Empowering Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities through Chronic Disease Self-Management Education Programs, §4002. Announced April 1, 2015.

Funding is available to design and sustain evidence-based chronic disease self-management education programs that empower older adults and adults with disabilities from underserved areas and populations to better manage their chronic conditions. The awards are intended to increase the number of chronic disease self-management education program participants, while increasing the sustainability of the programs.

Eligible applicants include state and local governments, public or private non-profit organizations, faith and community based organizations, Native American Tribal organizations, hospitals and institutions of higher education. \$6,470,000 is available for ten awards.

Suggested letters of Intent are due May 1, 2015.

Applications are due June 1, 2015.

View the announcement at: GRANTS.GOV

Grant Activity

For information about ACA grants awarded to and grant proposals submitted by the Commonwealth, visit the Grants page of the **Massachusetts National Health Care Reform website** at: www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/commissions-and-initiatives/healthcare-reform/national-health-care-reform-plan/grants-and-demonstrations.html

Guidance

4/6/15 HHS/CMS issued a proposed rule called "Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Programs; Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008; the Application of Mental Health Parity Requirements to Coverage Offered by Medicaid Managed Care Organizations, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and Alternative Benefit Plans.

The proposed rule addresses the requirements under the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (MHPAEA) to Medicaid Alternative Benefit Plans (ABPs, as required by ACA §2001), Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs).

According to CMS, the proposed rule ensures that all beneficiaries who receive services through Medicaid managed

care organizations, alternative benefit plans, or CHIP will have access to mental health and substance use disorder benefits regardless of whether services are provided through the managed care organization or another service delivery system. It also prevents inequity between beneficiaries who have mental health or substance use disorder conditions in the commercial market (including the state and federal marketplace) and those in Medicaid and CHIP, and helps promote greater consistency for these beneficiaries.

The Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (MHPAEA) is a federal law that generally prevents group health plans and health insurance issuers that provide mental health or substance use disorder (MH/SUD) benefits from imposing less favorable benefit limitations on those benefits than on medical/surgical benefits.

MHPAEA originally applied to group health plans and group health insurance coverage and was amended by the ACA to also apply to individual health insurance coverage, as well as Medicaid ABPs. MHPAEA does not apply directly to small group health plans, although the ACA builds on MHPAEA and requires coverage of mental health and substance use disorder services as one of ten essential health benefits (EHB) categories.

Comments are due June 9, 2015.

For more information about MHPAEA visit: www.medicaid.gov/medicaid-chip-program-information/by-topics/benefits/mental-health-services.html

Read the proposed rule (which was published in the Federal Register on April 10, 2015) at: www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-04-10/pdf/2015-08135.pdf

4/3/15 IRS/Treasury announced penalty relief for individuals enrolled in qualifying health insurance coverage through a Marketplace (Exchange) who are unable to file an accurate tax return by April 15 due to problems related to a Marketplace tax statement (Form 1095-A, Health Insurance Marketplace Statements). According to the agency, taxpayers receiving erroneous 2014 Forms 1095-A should file [Form 4868](#) (request for an automatic extension) with the IRS by April 15, 2015. When taxpayers receive their corrected Form 1095-A, they should file their return using the information from the corrected form. Treasury and IRS intend to release guidance shortly implementing penalty relief for individuals in this situation as long as they file a tax return by October 15, 2015. According to the IRS, if a taxpayer receives their corrected Form 1095-A before April 15, 2015 and is able to file using the form before the deadline, they should do so.

This announcement builds on [previously announced relief](#) (from March 20, 2015) that any individual who enrolled in qualifying Marketplace coverage, received an incorrect Form 1095-A, and filed his or her tax return based on that form does not need to file an amended tax return. The IRS will not pursue the collection of any additional taxes from these individuals based on updated information in the corrected forms.

For additional information, read the IRS's FAQs at: www.irs.gov/Affordable-Care-Act/Individuals-and-Families/Questions-and-Answers-Incorrect-Forms-1095A-and-the-Premium-Tax-Credit

Read the Treasury press release at: www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl10018.aspx

Prior guidance can be found at: www.hhs.gov/healthcare/index.html

Upcoming Events

Integrating Medicare and Medicaid for Dual Eligible Individuals (also known as One Care) Implementation Council Meetings

Friday, April 24, 2015
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
1 Ashburton Place, 21st Floor
Boston, MA

Friday, May 29, 2015
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
1 Ashburton Place, 21st Floor
Boston, MA

MBTA and driving directions to the Transportation Building are available here:
www.mhd.state.ma.us/default.asp?pgid=dist/HQ_directions&sid=about.

MBTA and driving directions to 1 Ashburton Place are located here: www.sec.state.ma.us/secdir.htm.

A meeting agenda and any meeting material will be distributed prior to the meeting.

Reasonable accommodations are available upon request. Please contact Donna Kymalainen at Donna.Kymalainen@umassmed.edu to request accommodations.

Bookmark the **Massachusetts National Health Care Reform website** at: [National Health Care Reform](#) to read updates on ACA implementation in Massachusetts.

Remember to check the Mass.Gov website at: [Dual Eligibles](#) for information on the "**Integrating Medicare and Medicaid for Dual Eligible Individuals**" initiative.



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