



CMS Snapshot

April 25-May 2, 2024

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, April 25 through 2pm Thursday, May 2, 2024.

News Releases

*April 26- [HHS Issues New Rule to Strengthen Nondiscrimination Protections and Advance Civil Rights in Health Care](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule under Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) advancing protections against discrimination in health care. By taking bold action to strengthen protections against discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, and disability, this rule reduces language access barriers, expands physical and digital accessibility, tackles bias in health technology, and much more.

*April 26- [HHS Announces Phase 1 Winners in Environmental Justice Community Innovator Challenge](#). *Challenge aims to uplift community-level solutions to address health inequities and environmental justice.* The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has awarded 12 winners in the first phase of the \$1 million [Environmental Justice Community Innovator Challenge](#). HHS created this national competition to uplift community voices with innovative solutions addressing the adverse health impacts of environmental conditions within local, disproportionately impacted communities.

Blogs

*April 30- [Celebrating the Importance of Second Chance Month](#). By: [Miranda Lynch-Smith](#), Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Services Policy, Performing the Delegable Duties of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. Summary: During Second Chance Month, HHS recognizes the importance of helping individuals successfully return to their communities after incarceration. Each April the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) honors Second Chance Month, where we recognize the importance of supporting the successful reentry of the hundreds of thousands of individuals returning to their communities from prison every year and the many more returning from jail.¹ Second Chance Month is an important time

to lift up and encourage federal, state, local, and tribal governments and community-based organizations to continue working to address the barriers faced by our returning community members. The Biden-Administration has prioritized intervention models to assist those returning from incarceration in finding success such as through funding and promoting job training, substance use and mental health services, access to health care, and more.²

*April 30- [Preventing and Addressing Sexual Violence Against People with I/DD](#). By: [Alison Barkoff](#), *Principal Deputy Administrator, Administration for Community Living (ACL)*, [Jeff Hild](#), *Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Administration for Children and Families (ACF)* and [Rachel Levine M.D.](#), *Assistant Secretary for Health (ASH)*. *Summary: April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) and a time to renew our commitment to preventing sexual assault and supporting those who have been victimized. To close Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), we are sharing this letter from Alison Barkoff, who leads ACL, Jeff Hild, who leads the Administration for Children and Families, and Admiral Rachel Levine, the HHS Assistant Secretary for Health, which was written to improve support for people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities who experience sexual violence – and to prevent it from occurring.*

*May 2- [Changes big or small, let the Marketplace know](#). Whether you moved to a new state or had or adopted a baby, let the Marketplace know. You may qualify for new savings or coverage options.