



CMS Snapshot

March 14-21, 2024

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, March 14 through 2pm Thursday, March 21, 2024.

News Releases

*March 15- [Statement for Change Healthcare Non-enforcement Medicaid Informational Bulletin](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) continues to address the impact of the cybersecurity incident at UnitedHealth Group's subsidiary, Change Healthcare. Today, CMS announced important flexibilities to help state Medicaid agencies provide needed relief to Medicaid providers and protect access to health care coverage.

*March 16- [HHS Secretary Becerra and U.S. Trade Representative Tai Commemorate Third Anniversary of Atlanta Spa Murders](#). *Co-Chairs of the White House Initiative and President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders issue joint statement to underscore the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to combat anti-Asian hate and gender-based violence three years since the tragic shootings in Georgia.* WASHINGTON – Today, Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra and U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai issued a joint statement on the third anniversary of the 2021 Atlanta spa murders, in which eight people – including six women of Asian descent – lost their lives at the hands of a gunman who targeted three separate Asian-owned businesses in Georgia.

*March 16- [Secretary Becerra Delivers Remarks at Howard University, HHS Principals Visit 11 Medical Schools to Celebrate Match Day](#). *HHS Principals visited 11 medical schools marking Match Day in Washington, D.C., Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Tennessee, Connecticut, California, the Cherokee Nation, Georgia, Wisconsin, and New Mexico.* Secretary Xavier Becerra delivered remarks and celebrated students at Howard University's College of Medicine marking the 71st anniversary of Match Day – the annual nationwide event where medical students learn which residency program they will be attending.

*March 19- [Readout of Biden-Harris Administration's Follow Up Meeting with Insurers Concerning Cyberattack on Change Healthcare](#). *Leaders from HHS, White House, and health insurance companies convened to discuss ways to mitigate harms to patient and providers caused by the cyberattack.* On Monday, March 18, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra and Deputy Secretary Andrea Palm led a convening of

payors to discuss concrete actions to mitigate harms to patients and providers caused by the cyberattack on Change Healthcare. White House Domestic Policy Advisor Neera Tanden and White House Deputy National Security Advisor (DNSA) for Cyber and Emerging Technologies Anne Neuberger, and others from the federal government, also participated. This was a follow-up to [last week's meeting](#).

*March 19- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Initiative to Increase Investments in Person-Centered Primary Care](#). *ACO Primary Care Flex Model aims to improve access to high-quality primary care for underserved Medicare populations.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), announced a new voluntary model that empowers primary care providers in eligible Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) to treat people with Medicare using innovative, team-based, person-centered proactive care. A key part of the [Biden-Harris Administration's efforts](#) to further promote competition in health care, the [ACO Primary Care Flex Model \(ACO PC Flex Model\)](#) will provide a one-time advanced shared savings payment and monthly prospective primary care payments (PPCPs) to ACOs.

*March 19- [Biden-Harris Administration Launches Clean Energy Connector to Bring Nearly \\$15 Million in Annual Energy Savings To Up To 40,000 Low-Income Households](#). *Families in New Mexico, Illinois, and Washington D.C. will now Have Access to Community Solar Through HHS' Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.* Today, the Biden-Harris Administration, through a partnership between the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), launched the pilot of the [Clean Energy Connector](#), a tool that connects families to solar energy through HHS' Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The first-of-its-kind software can now be used by local LIHEAP program administrators in Illinois, Washington, D.C., and New Mexico to connect community solar subscriptions to as many as 40,000 households with low incomes. Connecting LIHEAP-eligible households with community solar subscriptions will lower energy bills for families, increase access to clean energy among underserved communities, and increase equitable solar energy deployment, in support of President Biden's ambitious clean energy and Justice40 goals.

*March 21- [HHS Releases Large Scale Water Utility Affordability Survey Report as Part of the First-Ever Federal Water Assistance Program](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Administration of Children and Families (ACF), released the *Understanding Water Affordability Across Contexts, LIHWAP Water Utility Affordability Survey Report*. This [report - PDF](#) provides an analysis of the largest survey documenting rates, arrears, disconnections and fees in one dataset in the country. As ACF prepares to celebrate World Water Day 2024 this month, the release of this report intends to fill a gap in current knowledge related to water and wastewater affordability in the United States.

Blogs

*March 15- [Reflections from the Deputy Director of the HHS Office of Long COVID Research and Practice](#). By: [Allison O'Donnell](#), Deputy Director, Office of Long COVID Research and Practice,

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Department of Health and Human Services

Summary: Reflections from the Deputy Director of the HHS Office of Long COVID Research and Practice. Every day I receive e-mails from people with Long COVID desperate for help. I have friends, family, and colleagues who have Long COVID or similar conditions. My mother has lived with POTS (Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome) for over a decade-it often dictates what we can and cannot do as a family. I personally know what it feels like for a medical diagnosis to suddenly upend one's life for an undetermined amount of time.

*March 21- [Find out if you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period](#). You may be able to enroll in or change your Marketplace plan outside of Open Enrollment. Life events or changes may open a Special Enrollment Period for you.