

FEDERAL REGISTER

SUMMARY

April 1-15 2009

Funding Notices - These funding initiatives warrant your IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. Nonprofits or other entities must submit applications by a specific deadline and meet program criteria to be eligible for the following:

Date Dept. None

Other Notices – Requests for Comments/Nominations that require a response by a specific date and/or corrections to previously published notices, guidance information, or adjusted federal funding for states (i.e. The Developmental Disabilities Act), along with other interesting funding information. Please take note of the following:

<p><u>Date</u> 4/1/09</p>	<p><u>Dept.</u> HHS</p> <p>Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)</p>	<p>Request for nominations for study section members who will review health research applications. Deadline for nominations: 5/1/09 AHRQ, which is authorized in the <i>Public Health Service Act</i>, supports health services research initiatives that are geared toward improving the quality of health care. The Peer Review Study Section’s research descriptions include: <i>Health Systems Research, Health Care Technology and Dissemination Sciences, Health Care Quality and Effectiveness Research, and Health Care Research and Training</i>. AHRQ is looking to fill 20 to 30 percent of its study section membership positions. Members meet three times a year and are appointed for four years. For more information on AHRQ, go to: http://www.ahrq.gov/about/budgtix.htm#background. See the document at: http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-7070.htm.</p>
<p>4/7/09</p>	<p>HHS</p> <p>Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP)</p>	<p>Request for comments on a guidance document entitled, “Guidance on the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act: Implications for Investigators and Institutional Review Boards.” Comment deadline: None <i>The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA)</i>, which was enacted in 2008, is designed to protect against discrimination related to health insurance and employment based on genetic information. The guidance document provides background information on the protections contained in GINA and discusses the implications for investigators and those that review genetic research, especially the requirements for obtaining informed consent. See the document at: http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-7782.htm.</p>

- 4/8/09 HHS
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Request for comments on proposed criteria related to vaccines that should be required for immigrants.**
Comment deadline: 5/8/09
Based on requirements contained in the *Immigration and Nationality Act* (INA), medical examinations are authorized for immigration purposes, including vaccination for preventable diseases for immigrants seeking admission to the U.S. and those lawfully admitted but who are seeking an adjustment in their status. Since 1996, all vaccinations recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for the general U.S. population have been required for immigrants. CDC is now requesting comments on “specific criteria to determine which ACIP recommended vaccines are appropriate as a requirement at the time and place of medical examination for immigration.” For example, the proposed criteria would consider the age appropriateness and the potential for disease given the area of immigration. See the document at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-7934.htm>.
- 4/10/09 Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships
- Establishment of the President’s Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships.**
This Council is charged with bringing together various leaders and experts to “identify best practices and successful modes of delivering social services; evaluate the need for improvements in the implementation and coordination of public policies related to faith-based and other neighborhood organizations; and make recommendations for changes in policies, programs, and practices. This Council will advise the Executive Director of the White Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships. See the document at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-7872.htm>.
- 4/13/09 HHS
Office of the Secretary
- Request for comments on the National Vaccine Advisory Committee’s (NVAC) Vaccine Safety Working Group’s draft recommendations to the Immunization Safety Office (ISO) related to vaccine safety.**
Comment deadline: 5/13/09
The National Vaccine Program Office (NVPO) is responsible for coordinating and ensuring collaboration among the many Federal agencies that are involved in vaccine immunization activities. In addition, NVPO provides support services to the NVAC. The ISO is responsible for monitoring and studying the safety of vaccines. NVPO is requesting comments on NVAC’s working group draft (<http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/nvac>) and on ISO’s Scientific Agenda (http://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/00_pdf/draft_agenda_recommendations_080404.pdf). In addition to the general public, advocacy groups, and others are encouraged to comment. See the document at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-8399.htm>.

Proposed Rules – Requests for comments that require a response by a specific date. Please take note of the following:

Date Dept.

None

Final Rules – Comments have been received, processed and program implementation policies have been finalized or withdrawn. Please take note of the following:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Dept.</u>	
4/3/09	HHS Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)	<p>Delayed effective date and reopened comment period for the Medicaid Benefit Packages rule (see the 12/2/08 and 2/2/09 “Final Rules” sections of the <i>Federal Register Summary</i> or go to: http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-28330.htm. and to: http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-2186.htm).</p> <p>Comment deadline: 5/4/09</p> <p>Effective date further delayed until 12/31/09</p> <p>This final rule discusses giving states flexibility to offer coverage for “benchmark or benchmark-equivalent benefit packages” (mainstream benefit packages) to certain Medicaid beneficiaries instead of regular Medicaid optional or mandatory coverage. See the document at: http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-7505.htm.</p>

Meeting Notices – Important information about upcoming federal agency meetings, audio conferences, and web casts. If you are unable to attend a meeting, most panels, committees, etc. will provide a transcript or other documents upon request. Use the contact information provided to request materials. Please take note of the following:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Dept.</u>	
4/6/09	HHS National Biodefense Science Board (NBSB)	<p>Meeting Dates: 4/22/09 at 1:00 p.m. and 4/23/09 at 8:30 a.m.</p> <p>Meeting Place: Hyatt Regency Crystal City, 2799 Jefferson-Davis Highway, Arlington, VA</p> <p>NBSB advises the Secretary of HHS on scientific and technical matters related to present and future chemical, biological, nuclear, and radiological agents, naturally occurring or deliberate. On the agenda is a presentation on the National Commission on Children and Disasters and an update from the Personal Preparedness Working Group, just to name a few. The full agenda and other materials will be posted at: http://www.hhs.gov/aspr/omsph/nbsb before the meeting. For more information, contact CAPT. Leigh A. Sawyer, D.V.M., M.P.H., at 202-205-3815 or at leigh.sawyer@hhs.gov.</p>
4/9/09	HHS Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) – Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children (ACHDNC)	<p>Meeting Date: 5/12/09 at 1:00 p.m. (Eastern time)</p> <p>Meeting Place: via Webcast. Go to: http://altarum.na3.acrobat.com/achdnc/. Select “enter as a guest,” then type in your full name, and click on “enter room.” Participants must also dial in for audio – 1-877-551-8166. Participants are also asked to register by 5/11 at: http://events.SignUp4.com/achdnc0509. If you wish to make comments during the meeting, indicate this at the sign up address given above.</p> <p>ACHDNC provides advice to the Secretary of HHS on newborn and childhood screening and technical information for policy development. On the agenda are various reports and a discussion of the present economy on state newborn screening programs. For more information, contact Alaina M. Harris at 301- 443-9721 or at aharris@hrsa.gov.</p>

4/13/09	Dept. of Commerce 2010 Census Advisory Committee	<p>Meeting Dates: 5/7-8/2009, at 8:30 a.m. Meeting Place: The Census Bureau Auditorium and Conference Center, 4600 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, Maryland</p> <p>This committee is responsible for considering the goals of the decennial census. On the agenda are research, policy, and technical issues. <u>Note:</u> In 1990, the decennial census included questions about housing for persons with disabilities; in 2000, questions were included to identify people with disabilities to obtain data on disability status. For more information, contact Jeri Green at 301-763-6590.</p>
4/15/09	NIH Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development (NICHD)	<p>Meeting Date: 5/7/09 at 1:00 p.m. Meeting Place: National Institutes of Health, 6100 Executive Boulevard, Room 2A03, Rockville, MD</p> <p>NICHD, which was established in 1962, supports and conducts research related to the health of children, adults, families and populations. On the agenda are the director's report and various reports on Medical Research Initiatives. Written comments may be filed with the committee by sending them to Ralph M. Nitkin, Ph.D. at nitkin@mail.nih.gov. For more information about the meeting contact Dr. Nitkin at the e-mail address given above or call 301-402-4206.</p>

Presidential Documents – These documents are statements, messages, remarks, and other materials released by the White House.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Dept</u>	
4/6/09	White House	<p>The President has proclaimed April 2009 as “National Child Abuse Prevention Month, 2009.” In his proclamation, the President discussed the “tragedy of child” abuse and stressed the importance of “a well-informed and strong family,” through community efforts, and the work of civic organizations and government. See the document at: http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-7925.htm.</p>
4/13/09	White House	<p>The President has established the White House Office of Health Reform. In his remarks, the President emphasized reform of the health care system as a “key goal” of his administration. In addition, the Department of Health and Human Services is charged with establishing an Office of Health Reform that will work closely with the White House Office of Health Reform. See the document at: http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-8572.htm.</p>