



FEDERAL REGISTER

SUMMARY

August 16-31 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
8/19/09

Dept.
HHS

Agency for
Healthcare
Research and
Quality (AHRQ)

Notice of Intent to publish grant and contract requests to support comparative effectiveness research (CER) projects.

Estimated funding: \$300 million

Anticipated dates: Requests beginning in the fall 2009; funding by spring 2010.

CER, as defined by HHS, “compares treatments and strategies to improve health.” The funding is appropriated in the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)*, and will focus on 14 priority conditions as authorized in the *Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003*. The list of conditions was developed after discussions involving federal agencies and the public. The list of priority conditions is relevant to the Medicare, Medicaid, and State Children’s Health Insurance programs. See the document at:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-19758.htm>.

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:

Date
8/17/09

Dept.
DHS & EPA

Request for comments on a draft document entitled “Planning Guidance for Recovery Following Biological Incidents.”

Comment deadline: 11/16/09

The Homeland Security Act of 2002 directs the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in conjunction with other federal agencies, to “develop and implement countermeasures to prepare for and respond to chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats.” The draft describes a “risk management framework” for federal, state, local, and tribal decision-makers at all levels and is intended to provide uniform federal guidance to protect the public, responders, and nearby environments. The draft was developed by the Biological Decontamination Standards Working Group of The White House National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) and is available for immediate use. Revisions, if any, will be made available once public comments are analyzed. See the document at:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-19688.htm>.

8/21/09 LSC **Request for comments on the Legal Services Corporation's (LSC) fiscal year 2011 budget amount.**
Comment deadline: 9/4/09
 The Legal Services Corporation (LSC) provides civil legal services to low-income individuals by funding 137 legal aid programs in over 900 offices across the nation. Every year, LSC submits an annual budget request directly to the U.S. Congress after notifying the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in September about the amount to be requested. LSC is currently in the process of putting together its fiscal year 2011 budget request and is asking for comments on what budget amount to request. See the document at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-20136.htm>.

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Dept.</u>	
8/19/09	DOL Employment and Training Administration (ETA)	Withdrawal of the proposed rule related to the <i>Workforce Investment Act (WIA)</i> (see the 12/20/06 “Proposed Rules” section of the <i>Federal Register Summary</i> or go to: http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/E6-21766.htm). DOL is withdrawing the proposed rule for WIA because “The Department no longer considers this proposed rule viable for final action at this time.” WIA, which replaced the <i>Job Training Partnership Act</i> , provides employment and training services to many groups, including persons with disabilities. The proposal addressed the size of state and local Workforce Investment Boards; core, intensive, and training services; the governor’s authority over training providers; and the availability of individual training accounts for youth. See the document at: http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-19801.htm .
8/31/09	DoD Office of the Secretary	Request for comments on a proposal for the TRICARE Extended Care Health Option. Comment deadline: 10/30/09 Based on provisions contained in the <i>Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act of 2009</i> , the Secretary has proposed changes in the federal government’s share of the costs for providing benefits through the Extended Care Health Option (ECHO), as well as other changes. ECHO, which replaced the Program for Persons with Disabilities, provides an eligible beneficiary, with “qualifying conditions,” with health services that are not provided by the TRICARE Basic Program. An eligible beneficiary is a dependent of an Active Duty Service Member (ADSM) or one who is a survivor of a deceased ADSM. Qualifying conditions are “moderate or severe mental retardation, serious physical disability, or an extraordinary physical or psychological condition.” The benefits include “training, rehabilitation, special education, assistive technology devices, institutional care in private, nonprofit public, and state institutions, and transportation.” See the document at: http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-20685.htm .

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>	
8/26/09	CPSC	<p>Revised rules governing lead content limits on certain children’s materials or products (see the 1/15/09 “Proposed Rules” section of the <i>Federal Register Summary</i> or go to: http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-714.htm). Effective date: 8/26/09 Based on provisions contained in the <i>Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008</i> (CPSIA), the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has revised the rule governing lead content and testing for materials or products that are “untreated and unadulterated with respect to the addition of materials or chemicals, including pigments, dyes, coatings, finishes or any other substance, and that did not undergo any processing that could result in the addition of lead into the product or material.” These materials or products include: precious/semiprecious gemstones, wood, natural fibers. See the document at: http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-20589.htm.</p>
8/28/09	HUD Office of the Secretary	<p>Delayed effective date for the final rule governing income and rent determination requirements in public and assisted housing programs (see the “Final Rules” section of the 1/17/09 <i>Federal Register Summary</i> or go to: http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-1248.htm). New effective date: 1/31/10. Today’s delay will give the department additional time to review income and rent determination requirements for those who apply for assistance under HUD’s public housing or Section 8 (voucher) programs. The rules would have amended HUD’s public and assisted housing programs by implementing the upfront income verification (UIV) process and requiring public housing agencies (PHAs) and multifamily housing owners and management agents to use the Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) system. See the document at: http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-20879.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>	
8/17/09	HHS Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health, and Society (SACGHS)	<p>Meeting Dates: 10/8/09 at 8:30 a.m. and on 10/9/09 at 8:00 a.m. Meeting Place: Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. And via web cast at http://oba.od.nih.gov/SACGHS. SACGHS serves as a public forum for deliberations on a wide range of issues related to genetics. On the agenda are draft reports on gene patents, genetic education, and direct-to-consumer genetic testing. Those wishing to provide public comments should contact Sarah Carr at 301-496-9838 or at carrs@od.nih.gov. For more information about SACGHS and a full agenda, use the web address given above.</p>

- 8/19/09 DOL **Meeting Date: 9/15/09 at 1:00 p.m.**
Meeting Place: DOL, 200 Constitution Avenue, Rooms N-4437 B/C/D, NW, Washington, DC.
 Federal Advisory Council on Occupational Safety and Health (FACOSH)
 FACOSH advises the Secretary on issues related to the occupational safety and health of federal employees. On the agenda is a draft report from the FACOSH Emerging Issues Workgroup on issues related to federal agency pandemic H1N1 (swine flue) influenza preparedness planning. FACOSH invites public comments at <http://www.regulations.gov> or via fax at 202-693-1648 or during the meeting. For more information about FACOSH, go to: <http://www.osha.gov>.
- 8/20/09 HHS **Meeting Dates: 9/17 and 9/18/09 at 8:00 a.m.**
Meeting Place: Holiday Inn Capitol, 550 C Street, SW, Washington, D.C.
 Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's (AHRQ) Subcommittee on Children's Healthcare in Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Programs (CHIP)
 The subcommittee was established to provide advice to AHRQ's National Advisory Council (NAC) related to identifying "initial core quality measure set for use by Medicaid and CHIP programs for children's healthcare." On the agenda is the selection of an initial core set of children's healthcare quality measures. For more information AHRQ and for a specific agenda, go to: <http://www.ahrq.gov/>.
- 8/25/09 EAC **Meeting Dates: From 9/9/09 at 9:00 a.m. through 9/18/09 at 9:00 p.m.**
Meeting Places: 1) Virtual Public Forum for EAC Standards Board at <http://www.eac.gov>. Click on the link to the Standards Board Virtual Meeting Room. 2) Virtual Public Forum for EAC Board of Advisors at <http://www.eac.gov>. Click on the link to the Board of Advisors Virtual Meeting Room.
 The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) serves as a clearinghouse on federal election administration and oversees voting system guidelines. The agenda for both of these meetings includes a review and comment of five draft chapters of the "Election Management Guidelines." The draft chapters contain best practices and recommendations related to community partnerships, certifying an election, communications, and conducting a recount. For more information about EAC, go to: <http://www.eac.gov>.
- 8/26/09 ATBCB **Meeting Dates: 9/9 at 10:30 a.m., 9/10 (closed session), and 9/11/09 at 9:30 a.m.**
Meeting Place: Embassy Suites D.C. Convention Center Hotel, 900 10th Street, NW, Washington, D.C.
 The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (ATBCB) oversees the development of accessibility guidelines as they relate to the *Americans with Disability Act* and other laws. On the agenda for 9/9/09 is a report on the board's rulemaking process. On the agenda for 9/11/09 are reports on accessible design in education, emergency transportable housing, the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, and the *Americans with Disabilities Act* (ADA) guidelines/updates. For more information about the meeting, contact David Capozzi at 202-272-0010 (voice) or at 202-272-0082 (TTY).

- 8/26/09 HHS
National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC)
- Meeting Dates: 9/15/09 at 9:00 a.m. and 9/16/09 at 8:30 a.m.**
Meeting Place: Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 800, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C.
NVAC provides advice and recommendations to the director of the National Vaccine Program on the program's responsibilities. On the agenda are discussions on the vaccine safety working group's activity, the National Vaccine Plan, adult immunizations, and the H1N1 influenza response and vaccine development. For more information about NVAC and prior meeting materials, go to: <http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/nvac/>. For more information about the meeting, contact Andrea Krull at 202-690-5566 or at nvpo@hhs.gov.
- 8/28/09 SSA
Occupational Information Development Advisory Panel (OIDAP)
- Meeting dates: 9/16 and 9/17/09 at 8:30 a.m.**
Meeting Place: Westin Bonaventure Hotel and Suites, 404 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA. And via teleconference by dialing 1-866-283-8246 and entering the leader/host as Debra Tidwell-Peters.
OIDAP provides advice and recommendations on ways to replace the Dictionary of Occupational Titles that is now used in SSA's disability determination process. On the agenda are presentations on a proposed occupational information system, outreach plans, and discussions related to core recommendations. For a complete agenda, documents, and more meeting information, go to: http://www.socialsecurity.gov/oidap/meeting_information.htm. For additional information, contact Panel Staff at 410-965-9617 or at OIDAP@ssa.gov.

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

Date Dept

- 8/28/09 The White House **The President has issued a Proclamation on the death of Senator Edward M. Kennedy.** In his remarks, the president acknowledged Senator Kennedy's half century of service to the nation that included his work on "nearly every major piece of legislation that has advanced the civil rights, health, and economic well-being of the American People..." In conclusion, the President ordered the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff throughout the nation and in its Territories and possessions until sunset on 8/30/09. See the document at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-21029.htm>.