

January 1-15 2010

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.
1/7/10 HHS

Notice of Intent to publish grant and contract requests to support comparative effectiveness research (CER) projects (see the 8/19/09 “Funding Notices” section of the *Federal Register Summary* or go to: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-19758.htm>).

Estimated funding: \$400 million

Anticipated publication: “over the next several months”

CER, as defined by the Department of Health and Human Services’ Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), “compares treatments and strategies to improve health.” The funding is authorized in the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (ARRA) and will focus on one of the 14 priority conditions as authorized in the *Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003*. In addition, there is an “integral focus” on priority populations, such as low-income groups, women, children, the elderly, **individuals with special health care needs, including individuals with disabilities** and those who need care for chronic conditions. See the document at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/E9-31340.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 Dept.
1/14/10 ED

Request for comments on a proposed funding priority under the Department of Education’s National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research’s (NIDRR) Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTC) program.

Comment deadline: 2/16/10

NIDRR has proposed a funding priority entitled “Employer Practices Related to Employment Outcomes Among **Individuals with Disabilities**.” The RRTC program is charged with improving the effectiveness of services authorized under the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, as amended. Since individuals with disabilities have lower rates of employment than those without disabilities, NIDRR wants to establish a RRTC that will study the disparities in employment rates as well as the differences in retention rates, job satisfaction, and wages that may reflect differences in employer practices. See the document at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-480.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:

Date Dept.

1/11/10 SSA

Amended Supplemental Security Income (SSI) rules.

Effective date: 2/10/10

The Social Security Administration (SSA) has amended the rules on income and resources that are related to the SSI program. The SSI program, which is authorized in the *Social Security Act*, is a federal supplement program designed to aid **people who are aged, blind, disabled or who have no income**. SSA's final rules are authorized in several laws, the most recent being the *Social Security Protection Act of 2004*. The amendments provide that items such as the Child Tax Credit (CTC), will be excluded from income and resources as will the home of an SSI applicant or beneficiary who is the victim of domestic violence and who no longer lives in what had been his/her principle place of residence. The rules also cover ordinary resource rules related to the payment of SSI benefits when the applicant or beneficiary possesses excess non-liquid assets that are to be sold. See the document at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-241.htm>.

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:

Date Dept.

1/6/10 HHS

Administration
for Children and
Families' (ACF)
National
Commission on
Children and
Disasters

Meeting Date: 2/2/10 at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting Place: ACF, 901 D Street, SW, Washington, D.C. and via teleconference. Contact Jacqueline Haye at Jacqueline.haye@acf.hhs.gov or at 202-205-9560 by 1/19/10 to register for the meeting and for call-in information.

The Commission is charged with the responsibility for conducting a comprehensive study **related to the needs of children**, including preparation, response, and recovery issues. The Commission will submit a report to the President and to the U.S. Congress. On the agenda are discussions on the Long Term Disaster Recovery Work shop, the National Resource Center on Children and Disasters, and the Commissions' future work. A public comment period is planned. For more information on the Commission, go to:

<http://www.childrenanddisasters.acf.hhs.gov/>. For more information about the meeting, contact Roberta Lavin at 202-401-9306 or at Roberta.lavin@acf.hhs.gov.

- 1/7/10 HHS
Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) National Commission on Children and Disasters
Meeting Date: 2/1/10 at 9:00 a.m.
Meeting Place: The Renaissance Mayflower Hotel, 1127 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. Please register by 1/28/10 at <http://www.childrenanddisasters.acf.hhs.gov>.
The commission is charged with the responsibility of conducting a comprehensive study **related to the needs of children**, including preparation, response, and recovery issues. The commission is hosting a Long-Term Disaster Recovery Workshop “to explore challenges and solutions that impact the unique needs of children.” As the commission is preparing to publish its final report, it is looking for input from federal, state, and non-governmental entities. There will be a discussion of key issues such as children’s access to medical care and mental health services, and impediments to information and data sharing. For more information about the meeting, contact Roberta Lavin at 202-401-9306 or at Roberta.lavin@acf.hhs.gov.
- 1/7/10 CCR
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
Meeting Date: 1/15/10 at 9:30 a.m.
Meeting Place: 624 9th Street, NW, Washington, D.C.
CCR investigates complaints of civil rights violations based on race, color, religion, sex, age, **disability**, or national origin. The commission also writes reports and makes recommendations on civil rights issues to the President and the U.S. Congress. On the agenda are the Staff Director’s report, status report on 2010 enforcement, and an update on documents for the clearinghouse. For more information about the commission, go to: www.usccr.gov/. For more information about the meeting, contact Lenore Ostrowsky at 202-376-8591 or at 202-376-8116 (TDD).

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

Date Dept

- 1/6/10 The White House **The President has issued Executive Order 13527 entitled “Establishing Federal Capability for the Timely Provision of Medical Countermeasures Following a Biological Attack.”** The Executive Order contains five sections. They are: Section 1 – *Policy*, Section 2 – *United Postal Service Delivery of Medical Countermeasures*, Section 3 - *Federal Rapid Response*, Section 4 – *Continuity of Operations*, and Section 5 – *General Provisions*. See the document at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-38.htm>.