



FEDERAL REGISTER

SUMMARY

October 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:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Dept.</u>	
		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:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Dept.</u>	
10/22/09	HHS	

Revised premiums, deductibles, and co-insurance amounts under the Medicare Program for calendar year 2010, as published by the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Effective date: 1/1/2010.

Based on provisions contained in the *Social Security Act*, CMS is authorized to revise premiums, deductibles, and co-insurance amounts as follows:

- 1) Part A (covers inpatient hospital services) monthly premium for the uninsured aged (persons who are not otherwise eligible for Part A) and for certain persons with disabilities - \$461.00; reduced monthly premium for individuals who meet certain criteria - \$254.00.
- 2) Part B (covers physicians' services, outpatient hospital services, home health services) monthly actuarial rates for aged (over 65) enrollees - \$221.00; for persons with disabilities - \$270.40; Part B monthly premium - \$110.50; and Part B deductible for all participants - \$155.00.
- 3) Inpatient hospital deductible - \$1,100.00; daily co-insurance amounts - \$275.00 for the 61st through the 90th day of hospitalization; \$550.00 for lifetime reserve days; and \$137.50 for the 21st through the 100th day of extended care services in a skilled nursing facility.

See the documents at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-25371.htm> (Part A); <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-25370.htm> (Part B); and <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-25372.htm> (inpatient hospital).

- 10/28/09 SSA **The Social Security Administration (SSA) has announced that there will be no cost-of-living increase in 2010.**
 The following programs of interest will remain at their 2009 levels: Title II (disability insurance) benefit amount; Title XVI (Supplemental Security Income) benefit amount; and the dollar fee limit for a representative payee's services. There is no cost-of-living increase for these programs because the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the calendar quarter ending 9/30/09 is not greater than the CPI for the previous calendar quarter ending 9/30/08. In addition, as affected by the national average wage index for 2008, the monthly amount that constitutes substantial gainful activity for non-blind persons with disabilities will be \$1,000 in 2010. For more information on the CPI and SSA's programs, go to: <https://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/ssb/v67n3/v67n3p73.html>. See the document at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-25930.htm>.
- 10/28/09 EPA **Request for nominations for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) Lead Review Panel. Deadline for nominations: 11/18/09**
 CASAC advises and makes recommendations to EPA on the scientific and technical issues related to air quality criteria and the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Lead falls under the heading of one of the six criteria air pollutants. EPA is looking for experts who can review the agency's technical and policy assessments as they relate to lead. Lead poisoning is a leading known cause of learning disabilities, behavioral problems, and, at very high levels, seizures, coma, and even death in young children. See the document at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-25987.htm>.
- 10/29/09 CPSC **"Statement of Policy" – The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has released its "Statement of Policy: Testing and Certification of Lead Content in Children's Products."**
 Based on provisions contained in the *Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008* (CPSIA), CPSC has set lead limits for products that are designed primarily for children 12 years old and younger. Unless CPSC finds that it is not technologically possible to have the lower lead limits, products that contain more lead than is acceptable are "considered to be banned hazardous substances under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act (FHSA)." In addition, children's products that have not been given a specific exclusion are subject to the lead limits and to testing and certification requirements. This may be of interest to chapters who operate thrift stores that resell children's toys that have lead in them. See the document at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-26080.htm>.

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

Date Dept.

10/22/09 HHS

Request for comments on the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) proposed changes to the Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit programs.

Comment deadline: 12/8/09

The *Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003* (Part D) also made changes to the Medicare Advantage Program (Part C). Medicare Advantage plans are private insurance options, most of which operate as health maintenance organizations (HMOs). The proposed changes would: clarify program participation requirements; strengthen beneficiary protections; ensure meaningful plan offerings; improve payment rules; improve data collection; and implement new formulary policy for Part D (see the eight goals section of the proposal). See the document at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-24756.htm>.

10/30/09 HHS

Request for comments on a proposal by the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to temporarily delay the effective date of two final rules under the Medicaid Program (see the 11/25/08 "Final Rules" section of the *Federal Register Summary* or go to: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-27717.htm>, and see the 12/3/08 "Final Rules" section of the *Federal Register Summary* or go to: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-28330.htm>).

Comment deadline: 11/19/09.

The 11/25/08 rule deals with giving states increased flexibility to impose premium and cost sharing requirements on certain Medicaid recipients. The 12/3/08 rule covers 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. Because of new provisions in the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*, the *Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009*, plus public comments received, CMS needs more time to revise many of the provisions in both rules. See the document at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-26297.htm>.

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

Date Dept.

None.

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>	
10/22/09	SSA Social Security Administration's Future Systems Technology Advisory Panel (FSTAP)	<p>Meeting dates: 11/5/09 at 10:00 a.m. and 11/6/09 at 8:30 a.m. Meeting Place: The Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert Street, NW, Washington, D.C. This panel provides advice and recommendations to the SSA Commissioner on the future of systems technology and electronic services. On the agenda, are experts who will address relevant topics. For a full agenda, go to: http://www.ssa.gov/fstap/index.htm. Public comments are scheduled for 11/5 at 4:30 p.m. Those interested in making comments at the meeting should contact panel staff at 410-966-4150 or at FSTAP@ssa.gov. For more information about the panel, go to: http://www.ssa.gov/fstap/index.htm. For more information about the meeting, contact panel staff at the e-mail address given above.</p>
10/26/09	HHS National Commission on Children and Disasters (NCCD)	<p>Meeting date: 11/10/09 at 9:30 a.m. Meeting Place: Administration for Children and Families, 901 D Street, SW, Washington, D.C. and via teleconference. To attend either in person or via teleconference, participants must register by 11/6/09 at Jacqueline.have@acf.hhs.gov. or call 202-205-9560. NCCD is an independent commission responsible for conducting a comprehensive study related to the needs of children and their needs before, during, and after a disaster. On the agenda are discussions on the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) efforts to support children in disaster situations and future work plans of the commission. Public comments will be accepted during the meeting. Written comments may be sent to: roberta.lavin@acf.hhs.gov with "Pubic Comment" in the subject line. For more information on NCCD, including prior meeting minutes, go to: http://www.childrenanddisasters.acf.hhs.gov/. For more information about the meeting, contact Jacqueline Have using the e-mail address given above.</p>
10/29/09	CCR U.S. Commission on Civil Rights	<p>Meeting Date: 11/6/09 at 9:30 a.m. Meeting Place: CCR, 624 9th St., NW, Room 540, Washington, D.C. In addition to writing reports and making recommendations on civil rights issues to the President and the U.S. Congress, CCR also investigates complaints of civil rights violations based on race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin. On the agenda are reports from the Staff Director and the status of 2010 enforcement, and program planning issues, just to name a few. For more information about CCR, go to: http://www.usccr.gov/. For more information about the meeting, contact Lenore Ostrowsky at 202-376-8591 (voice) or 202-376-8116 (TDD).</p>

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

Date Dept

None

