



# FAMILY VOICES<sup>®</sup>

Washington DC Update  
December 4, 2019

## GREETINGS FROM WASHINGTON!

Congress is struggling to agree on funding for the federal government beyond December 20, when the temporary funding measure expires. It is unclear whether there will be resolution on legislation to address the thorny issues of surprise medical billing and prescription drug prices. The Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee is looking for new non-federal members, and the Administration for Community Living (ACL) is seeking input on the challenges faced by family caregivers, which will be used to assist the RAISE [Family Caregiving Advisory Council](#) in developing its initial report to Congress and to inform the development of the national family caregiving strategy. (See “Your Input Sought” below.) Read about these topics and more in this week’s Update.

An article that you might want to share with policy-makers and others to help them understand the need for assistance in navigating the health care system: [Medicaid Covers Sick or Dying Children. But It Takes ‘Going to Battle’ to Get It](#) (STAT’s First Opinion, 12/2/19).

### NOTE:

- **Medicare’s Medical and Drug Open Enrollment Period ENDS ON SATURDAY, Dec. 7.** See [www.Medicare.gov](http://www.Medicare.gov).
- **The TRICARE and FEDVIP Open Season ENDS ON MONDAY, Dec. 9.**
- **The ACA 2020 Open Enrollment Period ENDS ON SUNDAY, Dec. 15.** See [www.HealthCare.gov](http://www.HealthCare.gov) and resources at the end of this Update.

## UPCOMING WEBINARS AND CALLS

### **NEW - TODAY** [Introduction to Children’s System of Care](#) (for mental health)

Wednesday, December 4, 12:00-1:30 pm ET

*New England Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC); Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)*

### **NEW SERIES – Webinar Wednesdays**

*From the National Family Support Network. The series aims to raise awareness of valuable work in the Family Support and Strengthening Field. More information about the NFSN’s virtual events may be found [here](#).*

- **TODAY - [Uncovering America’s Best Kept Secret: Family Resource Centers and Family Support & Strengthening Networks](#)**

Wednesday, December 4, 12:30-1:30 pm ET

- [Introduction to the Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening & Support](#)  
Wednesday, December 11, 12:30-1:30 pm ET

### **NEW SERIES – Common Threads**

*From the Center for the Study of Social Policy.* Learn about issues facing children and families; gain tools for supporting children and strengthening families; and connect with others interested in creating a racially, economically, and socially just society.

See October 2019 report: [Fostering Social and Emotional Health through Pediatric Primary Care: Common Threads to Transform Everyday Practice and Systems.](#)

- [Part I: Common Threads To Transform Everyday Practice](#)  
Thursday, December 5, 1:00PM-2:00 pm ET
- [Part II: Common Threads to Transform Systems](#)  
Tuesday, December 12, 1:00PM-2:00 pm ET

### [Stories from the Field – Building a Transformative Partnership with Families and Clinicians](#)

Wednesday, December 11, 1:30-2:30 pm ET

*Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health*

### **NEW** [New CCF Report: 50-State Data on Uninsured Young Children](#)

Wednesday, December 11, 2:00 pm ET

*Georgetown Center for Children and Families*

### **NEW** [Emergency Preparedness in Indian Country](#)

Wednesday, December 11, 2:00-3:00 pm ET

*Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)*

### **NEW** [Road Trip to Parity: Your Roadside Assistance](#)

Thursday, December 12, 12:00 pm ET

*National Academy for State Health Policy, and Mercer*

### **NEW** [Understanding your Leadership Style and the Value of Mentoring](#)

Thursday, December 12, 1:00-2:00 pm ET

*National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management, Utah State University, and Hands & Voices*

### **NEW** [Mental Health and Self-Care for Caregivers: Beyond Finding the Time](#)

Thursday, December 12, 2:00-3:00 pm ET

*The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation Paralysis Resource Center (PRC)*

## **NEW Transitioning from Pediatric to Adult Health Care for Youth with Autism**

**Friday, December 13, 2:00-3:00 pm ET**

*National Institute of Mental Health*

This webinar will feature a parent and daughter discussing their experiences and perspectives about making the health care transition. Topics will include: what information and help from your health care provider would be most useful; concerns about making the shift to adult care; and suggestions for health care providers for pediatric and adult patients to make the transition successful. The webinar will also provide new and useful resources available at Got Transition, the National Resource Center on Health Care Transition (supported by the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration).

### **Presenters:**

- Allysa and Lauren Ware, Family Voices
- Sarah McLellan, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS
- Peggy McManus, MHS, Got Transition/The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health

**Registration is not necessary.**

### **Join Webex meeting**

Meeting number (access code): 627 388 524

Meeting password: AutismServices

### **Join from a video system or application**

Dial [627388524@nih.webex.com](tel:627388524)

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.

### **Join by phone**

1-650-479-3208 Call-in toll number (US/Canada)

## **NEW Finding the Balance: Person-Centered Supports that Honor Both Safety and Dignity of Risk**

**Tuesday, December 17, 2:30 pm ET**

*National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems (NCAPPS)*

### **SERIES Person-Centered Planning and Practice**

*National Quality Forum/Administration for Community Living; Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services*

- **Friday, December 13, 2019, 1:00-3:30 pm ET**
- **Monday, January 6, 2020, 1:00-3:30 pm ET**
- **Monday, February 3, 2020, 12:30-3:00 pm ET**
- **Monday, June 1, 2020, 1:00-3:30 pm ET**
- **[past] Friday, September 6, 2019**

## **NEW Certification for I&R/A Specialists in Aging/Disabilities (CRS-A/D) Webinar Training**

**Tuesday, December 17, 1:00-4:30 pm ET (3 hours 30 minutes)**

*ADvancing States (formerly the National Association of States United on Aging and Disabilities)*

## **NEW Family Engagement and Leadership: Strengthening Systems, Services and Communities**

**Tuesday, December 17, 1:30-3:00 pm ET**

*TA Network of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)*

This webpage also lists other webinars of possible interest, including some taking place earlier.

## **Innovative Services in Home and Community-Based Services**

**Tuesday, December 17, 3:00-4:30 pm ET**

*Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)*

## **THE COURTS**

### **Judge Halts Trump's Insurance Mandate for Immigrants** (Politico, 11/26/19)

A federal judge stopped the State Department from suspending legal immigrants' entry to the United States if they don't provide evidence of health insurance coverage or ability to pay medical expenses.

***Texas v. United States.*** A decision from a federal appeals court is still being awaited In this case challenging the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The lower court found the entire ACA to be unconstitutional.

## **CONGRESS**

### **Budget and Appropriations**

The 2020 federal fiscal year began on October 1, but Congress has not yet agreed on funding legislation. After a "continuing resolution" (CR) to keep the government funded at the FY 2019 level expired on November 21, another CR was enacted to fund the government through December 20. In addition to regular appropriations for currently authorized programs, authorization and/or funding must be extended for some other important programs, including Community Health Centers, the Community Mental Health Services Demonstration program, the Money Follows the Person (MFP) demonstration program, and Medicaid spousal impoverishment rules for home- and community-based services (HCBS). Other important issues to be resolved include whether to extend the 100% Medicaid match for territories, and whether to further delay scheduled reductions in Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments.

### **Surprise Medical Billing and Prescription Drug Prices**

For many months, relevant House and Senate committees have been working on legislation to address surprise medical bills and high prescription drug prices. Although not strictly partisan – see [The Hill: It's Time for Congress to Protect Patients from Surprise Medical Bills](#), *Op-Ed by Reps. Greg Walden (R-OR) and Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ)* (The Hill, 11/21/19) -- these issues are nevertheless controversial. With respect to surprise medical billing, health insurers are pitted against providers (particularly private-equity firms that own some large physician practices). With respect to drug pricing, pharmaceutical manufacturers oppose both a bipartisan Senate bill and a Democratic House bill. Although it is not out of the question, it does not look like either issue will be resolved before the end of the year. See [The Health 202: Congress Might Buck Its Promises to Reduce Health-Care Costs](#) (Washington Post,

11/22/19); [Senate Quicksand Engulfs A Bipartisan Plan That Trump Backs](#) (Politico, 12/1/19). For more information on these issues, see the [November 20](#) and [November 13](#) Updates. See also [How Common Is Out-of-Network Billing?](#) (Health Cost Institute blog post, 11/21/19).

In related news, see [Trump's Drug Importation Plan Faces Resistance in US, Canada](#) (The Hill, 12/01/19).

## **MEDICAID/CHIP NEWS, INFORMATION, AND RESOURCES**

### **FY 2021 Medicaid and CHIP Matching Rates**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has released the FY 2021 Medicaid Federal Matching Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for each state, and federal matching rates for CHIP, TANF, and some other programs. See [Federal Financial Participation in State Assistance Expenditures; Federal Matching Shares for Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and Aid to Needy Aged, Blind, or Disabled Persons for October 1, 2020 Through September 30, 2021](#) (Federal Register, 12/3/19).

### **CMS Reorganization**

On Wednesday, November 20, CMS announced, in a [Federal Register Notice](#), a reorganization of staff overseeing Medicare and Medicaid. As reported in the [Nov. 22 ADvancing States Friday Update](#), staff in the 10 regional CMS offices will be organized into functional areas that support specific portions of the Medicaid program, which will be in closer alignment with CMS' Central Office functions and organization.

### **NAMD Inaugural Survey of Territory Medicaid Directors**

For the first time, in 2019, the National Association of Medical Directors (NAMD) administered a territory-specific survey to the five U.S. territories: American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The survey is "NAMD's first attempt to help elevate awareness and appreciation of the unique nature of the territories' programs as well as the unique financial challenges they face." Read the [report](#).

**Chart:** [36 States Saw Declines in Monthly Medicaid, CHIP Enrollment Since 2017](#) (Kaiser Family Foundation, 11/26/19)

### **Articles:**

- [More Kids on Medicaid to Get Health Care in School](#) (Pew Foundation's *Stateline*, 11/27/19)
- [Medicaid's Money Follows the Person Program: State Progress and Uncertainty Pending Federal Funding Reauthorization](#) (Kaiser Family Foundation, 11/25/19)
- [America's 'Shame': Medicaid Funding Slashed In U.S. Territories](#) (NPR's SHOTS, 11/20/19)

### **WORTH REPEATING: Updated "Core Set" for Child Quality Measures**

On November 19, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released an [Informational Bulletin](#) that describes the 2020 updates to the core set of children's health care quality measures (the Child Core Set) for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the core set of health care quality measures for adults enrolled in Medicaid (the Adult Core Set). [More information on Children's Health Care Quality Measures. Adult Core Set.](#)

## **WORTH REPEATING: 2018 EPSDT Dataset Released**

([Medicaid.gov Bulletin](#), 11/15/19):

On November 15, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the FFY 2018 [Form CMS-416 dataset](#). The dataset provides information on children’s receipt of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) services in all 50 states and Washington D.C. This data is reported by states to CMS. Send questions related to Form CMS-416 or the data to the EPSDT mailbox at [EPSDT@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:EPSDT@cms.hhs.gov).

## **WORTH REPEATING: Georgetown Center for Children and Families (CCF)**

CCF has information about the share of [children](#) and [adults](#) covered by Medicaid/CHIP *by Congressional district*. CCF has also developed an [interactive data hub](#) that provides state-specific information on how children are getting covered, their access to quality care, and policy options to improve enrollment and retention in Medicaid and CHIP.

## **MEDICAID WAIVERS**

Tennessee has submitted to CMS a waiver application to “block grant” its Medicaid program. See [Tennessee Becomes New Front in Fight to Overhaul Medicaid](#) (The Hill, 12/01/19).

**From CMS:** On November 20, 2019, the State of Tennessee submitted an amendment to their section 1115 demonstration, “TennCare II.” Tennessee proposes a per capita block grant with a shared savings model that requests enhanced state flexibilities in managing the TennCare II demonstration. The federal public comment period will be open from November 27, 2019 through **December 27, 2019**.

- [Pending Application](#)
- [View/Submit Public Comments](#)

In related news, see [Verma’s Nov. 12 speech](#) at the National Association of Medicaid Directors meeting (CMS, 11/15/2019) and [Verma Attacks Critics Of Medicaid Work Requirement, Pushes For Tighter Eligibility](#) (Kaiser Health News, 11/12/19).

## **WORTH REPEATING: Community-Based Care: How Medicaid Waivers Vary Across States**

(Lucile Packard Foundation for Children’s Health, Nov. 2019)

This report analyzes the scope of coverage offered under Medicaid home and community-based waivers and evaluates how states are using them to provide care for children with medical complexity. The researchers found great variability among states in services, and recommend some changes in age and diagnostic eligibility.

## **ACA NEWS, INFORMATION, AND RESOURCES**

**NOTE: The 2020 Open Enrollment Period ENDS ON Sunday, December 15, 2019.**

**FOR ENROLLMENT RESOURCES, PLEASE SEE THE END OF THIS UPDATE.**

## TRICARE

**NOTE:** Both the TRICARE and FEDVIP open seasons **END ON DEC. 9.**

Enrollment choices made during this period will take effect on January 1, 2020.

- [One Week until TRICARE, FEDVIP Open Seasons End on Dec. 9](#) (TRICARE Benefits Update, 12/2/19)
- [Get to Know Your TRICARE Reserve Select Plan](#) (TRICARE Benefits Update, 11/20/19)
- [Traveling Overseas This Holiday Season? TRICARE Travels With You](#) (TRICARE Benefits Update, 11/25/19)

For more information, please visit [www.tricare.mil/OpenSeason](http://www.tricare.mil/OpenSeason) or follow TRICARE on social media for regular updates:

- [www.facebook.com/TRICARE](http://www.facebook.com/TRICARE)
- [www.twitter.com/TRICARE](http://www.twitter.com/TRICARE)

[Sign up for TRICARE email updates.](#)

## OTHER NEWS, INFORMATION, AND RESOURCES

- [Social Security Field Office Hours will be expanded](#) (SSA blog post, 12/2/19)
- [FDA Approves First Targeted Therapy to Treat Patients with Painful Complication of Sickle Cell Disease](#) (FDA News Release, 11/15/19). On November 15, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved – for patients age 16 and older -- Adakveo (crizanlizumab-tmca). The drug reduces the frequency of vaso-occlusive crisis – a common and painful complication of sickle cell disease that occurs when blood circulation is obstructed by sickled red blood cells.

## **WORTH REPEATING:** [Proposed Rule Regarding the Frequency and Notice of Continuing Disability Reviews](#) (Social Security Administration, 11/18/2019)

This proposed rule would **affect SSI disability determinations**, including those for children.

See also:

- Background on the [Disability Determination Process](#) and [Disability Evaluation Under Social Security](#)
- [Child Disability Starter Kit](#)

## RESOURCES:

From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- **CDC Resources in Languages Other than English.** The CDC website ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)) provides numerous CDC resources translated into other languages. Topics include emergency preparedness and response, diseases and conditions, data and statistics, environmental health, healthy living, injury, violence and safety, life stages and populations, travelers' health, and workplace safety and health among others. The information comes in various formats available for sharing and downloading. All of the resources are free to print and share. Additional resources will be added periodically, so please visit often. **For information in Spanish only, please visit [CDC en Español](#).** *Information in other languages may also be available on other cdc.gov Web pages by specific topic or disease.*

- **Health Literacy Resources.** Community organizations are incorporating health literacy strategies to contribute to the well-being of their community. Check out our [website](#) for more resources community organizations offer for your communication needs.

**From the National Academy for State Health Policy:**

- In a [Health Affairs blog post, NASHP Helps States Advance Palliative Care with Hartford Foundation](#), NASHP outlines how it is using Hartford’s support to showcase what states have done to advance palliative care. More policy tools and resources can be found at NASHP’s [Palliative Care Resource Hub](#).
- [RAISE Family Caregiver Resource and Dissemination Center Highlights State Initiatives](#) (National Academy for State Health Policy, 11/25/19)

**From the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB):**

***Managing Someone Else’s Money.*** The federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), Office for Older Americans, along with the American Bar Association, has developed [four guides](#) for “lay fiduciaries” titled *Managing Someone Else’s Money*. The guides cover four types of fiduciaries: 1) Agents under power of attorney; 2) Guardians of property (sometimes known as conservators); 3) Trustees under revocable living trusts, and 4) Government benefits fiduciaries (Social Security representative payees and VA fiduciaries). See also [Create Managing Someone Else’s Money guides for your state](#).

**Also of interest:**

[No Good Deed Goes Unpunished: What Your Client Needs to Know about Crowdfunding if Your Client has SSI or Medicaid](#) (The Legal Examiner, 11/18/19)

**WORTH REPEATING: The Catalyst Center’s State Data Chartbook Has Been Updated**

The Catalyst Center’s [State Data Chartbook](#) presents selected indicators from all 50 states as well as Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. It includes data from the National Survey of Children’s Health, the Kaiser Family Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, and other trusted sources, providing data on demographics, economics, child health services, insurance availability, and factors impacting health coverage and financing of care for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN). Users can compare this data between states or against the national average for each indicator. A [tip sheet](#) outlines what the Chartbook has to offer and how the data may be used. The [Catalyst Center Glossary](#) offers a user-friendly introduction to key health care financing strategies and related terms. With questions about using the State Data Chartbook, glossary, or other Catalyst Center resources, contact the Catalyst Center at [CYSHCN@BU.EDU](mailto:CYSHCN@BU.EDU).

Another useful resource: [Data in Action](#), from the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children’s Health, which includes tips on using data to craft a message or tell a story, and tips for identifying good data.



## YOUR INPUT SOUGHT

**[Nominations for Membership on the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee](#)** (IACC) – **due January 24, 2020**. This [committee](#), which was reauthorized by the Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education, and Support (CARES) Act of 2019, is seeking nominations of individuals to serve as non-federal public members. The call for nominations is open through Friday, January 24, 2020. For more information on the IACC, see the [News Release](#) calling for nominations.

### **[Input Sought from Family Caregivers](#)** – **due January 31, 2020**

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) is seeking input on the challenges faced by family caregivers from individuals and organizations that capture the breadth of the family caregiving experience. This information will be used to assist the RAISE [Family Caregiving Advisory Council](#) in developing its initial report to Congress and to inform the development of the national family caregiving strategy. It also will be used to help the Council plan future activities, including public listening sessions that will begin in 2020. **To provide your input, please complete the [form](#)** no later than 5:00 pm EST on Friday, January 31, 2020.

### **FDA Patient Representatives**

Are you a patient or caregiver who wants to get involved at FDA? Contact [the Patient Affairs Staff \(PAS\)](#) or follow them on Twitter [@FDAPatientInfo](#).

## OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

- [Medicaid Covers Sick or Dying Children. But It Takes ‘Going to Battle’ To Get It](#) (STAT’s First Opinion, 12/2/19)
- [No Good Deed Goes Unpunished: What Your Client Needs to Know about Crowdfunding if Your Client has SSI or Medicaid](#) (The Legal Examiner, 11/18/19)

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## ACA OPEN SEASON RESOURCES

**NEW:** [Navigator Guide FAQ of the Week: What Does My Plan Cover?](#) (Georgetown Center on Health Insurance Reforms, 11/19/19)

**NEW: NEW RESOURCES ABOUT HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ARRANGEMENTS (HRA)** (CMS)  
The October 4, 2019 Assister Webinar featured a presentation on individual coverage health reimbursement arrangements (HRAs), sometimes referred to as “ICHRA (Individual Coverage Health Reimbursement Arrangements),” which employers may begin offering as of January 1, 2020. The slides from this webinar are available here: [HRA slides](#).

**If the individual coverage HRA is affordable**, consumers won’t be eligible for the premium tax credit for their Marketplace coverage (and possibly their household members’ coverage), even if they opt out of the individual coverage HRA.

**If the individual coverage HRA isn’t affordable**, consumers must opt out of the individual coverage HRA to qualify for the premium tax credit if they’re otherwise eligible.

For 2020, an individual coverage HRA isn't considered affordable for an employee if the monthly premium for the lowest-cost Silver plan for self-only coverage in the employee's area, minus the monthly amount made available to the employee under the individual coverage HRA, is more than 9.78% or 1/12 of the employee's household income for the tax year.

The Individual Coverage Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) Worksheet is a tool to help determine if the individual coverage HRA is considered affordable. [HRA Worksheet](#)

**Featured:**

**Community Catalyst:** The [Outreach Hub](#) (Google Drive) provides graphics, scripts and videos which cover open enrollment, special enrollment periods and health insurance literacy. There are also resources available in multiple languages, including Chinese, Korean, Marshallese, Spanish, Tagalog, Tongan and Vietnamese.

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- [What Young Adults Should Know About Open Enrollment](#) (The Commonwealth Fund)
  - The audio and slides from the webinar - "[Best Practices When Assisting People with Disabilities Enroll in Health Coverage](#)" – part of the "Beyond the Basics" webinar series from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP), is now archived. The program's other resources can be found [here](#).
  - [Community Outreach Collaboratives](#) (COCs) work to increase collaborations in the community, dissemination and outreach efforts, and enrollment of people with disabilities in the ACA marketplace. [Look for a COC](#) in your area.
  - Numerous enrollment resources are available on the website of the National Disability Navigator Resource Collaborative [here](#). at <https://nationaldisabilitynavigator.org/resources-links/#overview>.

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- [What's New for 2020 Marketplace Enrollment?](#) (Georgetown University Center on Health Insurance Reforms , 10/17/19) – provides an overview of several developments that affect this coming open enrollment.
  - [CMS FACT SHEET: FEDERAL HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE 2020 OPEN ENROLLMENT](#) (describes new features of website)
  - [List of 2019 CMS Navigator grantees](#)
  - **The Georgetown Center on Health Insurance Reforms [Navigator Guide for Plan Year 2020](#).** The Guide helps answer questions about eligibility for insurance coverage or subsidies, health plan choices on- and off-marketplace, issues for small employers, coverage post-enrollment, and more.

**Enrollment Assistance Materials from the Kaiser Family Foundation:**

**FAQs.** To help consumers, navigators, brokers and other assisters, the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) has updated and expanded its database of more than 300 [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about

open enrollment, the health insurance marketplaces, and the ACA. More than 180 of the FAQs are [available in Spanish](#). This year, there are new sections about immigration status, enrollment options for those affected by Hurricane Dorian, and the [sale of Marketplace plans on private websites](#), also known as “direct enrollment” sites or “certified enrollment partner” sites.

**Fact Sheets.** KFF also offers short, printable fact sheets on four common scenarios:

- [If You Shop on Private Websites Instead of HealthCare.gov](#)
- [If You Buy Health Coverage in the Individual Market](#)
- [For Consumers Considering Short-Term Policies](#)
- [If You Are Low-Income](#)

**Calculator.** KFF’s Health Insurance Marketplace Calculator will soon be updated with 2020 premium data. Check [here](#) for KFF’s most current resource.

### Young Invincibles:

- [OE7 Resources and Suggested Messaging](#) (Scroll down for customizable materials, email message, FB posts, and Tweets.)
- [YI OE7 Materials Folder](#)
- [Connector tool](#) - find local help

**Community Catalyst:** [Outreach Hub](#) Google Drive

### Center for Budget and Policy Priorities:

[5 Good Reasons to Visit HealthCare.gov During Open Enrollment](#) (full article) In sum:

1. Financial help is available to reduce the cost of coverage and care.
2. Plans are more affordable than people think.
3. Consumers can save money by comparison shopping on HealthCare.gov.
4. Plans purchased on HealthCare.gov are comprehensive and guaranteed to cover the essentials.
5. Beware of insurance plans sold outside of HealthCare.gov.

### Assister Readiness Resources

Modules for the first week of the 2020 Assister Readiness Webinar Series are now posted and ready to view. These modules cover topics relating to Helping Consumers Apply for Marketplace coverage.

Modules for the first week of the *Helping Consumers Apply* 2020 Assister Readiness Webinar Series are now posted and ready to view:

- **Preparing to Apply**
  - [Recording \(mp4\)](#) | [Transcript](#)
- **Creating and Submitting Applications**
  - [Recording \(mp4\)](#) | [Transcript](#)
- **Application Assistance Simulation**
  - [Recording \(mp4\)](#) | [Transcript](#)

We at Family Voices would love to hear any suggestions you might have about how to make the Update more useful to you. Does it provide the right amount of information? What parts are helpful and not so helpful? Please let us know! Comments and questions can be directed to [jguerney@familyvoices.org](mailto:jguerney@familyvoices.org).

Yours truly,  
Janis Guerney  
Director of Public Policy  
Family Voices

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