

October 7, 2011

## In this Issue:

- [National Disability Employment Awareness Month](#)
- [CMS Proposes Improvements to Medicare](#)
- [More People Using Free Preventive Benefits Provided by Affordable Care Act](#)
- [CMS Immunization Guide and Flu Vaccine](#)
- [CBO Estimate: Effect of Economy on Deficit](#)
- [Job Opening: Aging and Physically Disabled Program Director](#)
- [Residents' Rights Month](#)
- [Local Health Department Job Losses and Program Cuts: Findings from July 2011 Survey](#)
- [Grants](#)

## NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

On October 3, President Obama issued a proclamation declaring October 2011 National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Observed each October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many skills that people with disabilities bring to the nation's workforce.

The theme for NDEAM 2011, *Profit by Investing in Workers with Disabilities*, promotes the valuable contributions that people with disabilities make to America's workplaces and economy. In supporting the 2011 campaign, Martha Roherty, NASUAD's Executive Director, said "The focus of this year's campaign perfectly highlights how improving employment opportunities for people with disabilities can benefit individual workers, employers, and society as a whole, as investing in workers with disabilities fosters individual economic security, national economic stability, and a more inclusive America."

This annual effort to educate the public about issues related to disability and employment began in 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week-long observance to one month, and changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month." In 2001, the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) within the U.S. Department of Labor assumed responsibility for NDEAM, and has worked to expand the reach and scope of the campaign ever since.

Although led by ODEP, NDEAM's true spirit lies in the many locally organized programs and events that will take place during the month of October to celebrate American workers with disabilities. To help employers, schools, and other organizations participate in NDEAM, ODEP created a variety of resources and outreach materials, which are available [here](#). NASUAD encourages you to utilize these resources and learn how you can play a role in affirming the intrinsic value of workers with disabilities within your community, throughout NDEAM and beyond.

---

## FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

---

### Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

#### CMS Proposes Improvements to Medicare

*October 3, 2011*

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has proposed revisions to the Medicare Advantage program and prescription drug benefit program (Part D) that would implement new benefits under the Affordable Care Act and increase patient protections. The proposals would codify provisions providing important new benefits including the 50% discount on covered brand name drugs in the Part D coverage gap known as the “donut hole” as well as new tools to fight fraud and abuse in Medicare and improve patient protections.

This proposed rule would implement the coverage gap discount program, expand Part D drug coverage, cut red tape for patients and providers, raise quality standards for plans, expand benefits for dual eligible patients, increase flexibility in Part D prescriptions, and fight fraud and streamline claims filing.

Once final, the proposed rule will be effective for Calendar Year 2013 operations. CMS is receiving public comments to these proposed program changes through the close of business 60 days following the publication of the proposed rule in the Federal Register.

Public comments on the proposed rule will be posted at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

#### More People Using Free Preventive Benefits Provided by Affordable Care Act

*October 6, 2011*

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) reported on Thursday that nearly 20.5 million people with Medicare reviewed their health status at a free Annual Wellness Visit or received other preventive services with no deductible or cost sharing this year. Additionally, nearly 1.8 million people with Medicare received discounts on brand-name drugs in the Medicare Part D coverage gap (the “donut hole”) between January and August. The total value of discounts to people with Medicare through Part D is nearly \$1 billion through August.

State-by-state information on the use of free prevention services and the Annual Wellness Visit is available [here](#).

State-by-state information on the number of people benefiting from discounts in the “donut hole” in 2011 is available [here](#).

### **CMS Immunization Guide and Flu Vaccine**

Flu and its complications affect young and old and result in thousands of hospitalizations and deaths each year. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released an [Immunization Guide](#) which includes information on Medicare and Medicaid coverage of flu vaccines and steps to promote wellness immunizations. They also released a [list of contacts in each region](#), who are available to help create events and programs to encourage hard-to-reach populations to get their annual flu vaccination.

The immunization guide is available [here](#).

The contact list is available [here](#).

---

## **FROM CONGRESS**

---

### **Congressional Budget Office**

#### **CBO Estimate: Effect of Economy on Deficit**

*October 4, 2011*

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released a letter which included an estimate of the portion of the federal deficit that is due to the current underutilization of capital and labor resources in the economy. The estimate is that if the economy was operating at its highest potential, the projected federal deficit under current law in fiscal year 2012 would be about a third lower, roughly \$630 billion instead of the \$973 billion projected.

To get this estimate, the CBO estimated what taxable income would be if output equaled its potential. Under their estimations, if output was equal to potential, taxable income would exceed the current taxable income by about \$850 billion. This estimate only includes cyclical factors, not including inflation and interest rates.

The full letter is available [here](#).

---

## FROM THE STATES

---

### Oregon Department of Human Services

#### **Job Opening: Aging and Physically Disabled Program Director**

The Oregon Department of Human Services is seeking a progressive and experienced professional to serve as the Aging and Physically Disabled (APD) Program Director. This is a full-time position based in Salem, Oregon.

To apply, or for more information, click [here](#).

---

## FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

---

### The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care

#### **Residents' Rights Month**

Residents' Rights Month is an annual event designated by the Consumer Voice and is celebrated in October to honor residents living in all long-term care facilities, including nursing homes, sub acute units, assisted living, board and care and retirement communities. It is a time for celebration and recognition offering an opportunity for every facility to focus on and celebrate awareness of dignity, respect and the value of each individual resident. The theme for Residents' Rights Month 2011 is, "Welcome Home: Creating Connections Between Residents and the Community" with the goal of educating the community about residents' rights and to increase community involvement with residents.

The Consumer Voice has assembled a great deal of information and promotional materials on Residents' Rights Month. Visit [here](#) to view the information and to order promotional materials.

---

### National Association of County and City Health Officials

#### **Local Health Department Job Losses and Program Cuts: Findings from July 2011 Survey**

The National Association of County and City Health Officials released their findings from a July 2011 survey on local health department job losses and program cuts. They found that more than half (55 percent) of all local health departments cut programs between July 2010 and June 2011. Of those programs, 11 percent entirely eliminated at least one program. Employee cuts were also prevalent: during the first half of 2011, 44 percent of local health departments lost at least one employee. Collectively, they lost 5,400 positions. Throughout

the nation, budgets are continuing to get cut; in July 2011, 45 percent of the departments reported reduced operating budgets compared to the previous fiscal year.

The survey findings are available [here](#).

---

## GRANTS

---

### Grant Title: Rural Health Care Services Outreach Grant Program

**Agency Issuing Grant:** HRSA

**Eligible Applicants:**

State governments

County governments

Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)

Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)

Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education

**Close Date:** 11/22/11

**Funding Opportunity Number:** HRSA-12-083

**CDFA Number:** 93.912

**Estimated Total Program Funding:** \$12,000,000

**Expected Number of Awards:** 80

**Description:** The Office of Rural Health Policy's Outreach Program supports projects that demonstrate effective models of outreach and service delivery through collaboration, adoption of an evidence-based or promising practice model, demonstration of health outcomes, replicability and sustainability. Proposed projects will have an outcomes-oriented approach that will enhance and sustain the delivery of effective health care in rural communities by tracking specific health indicators that will demonstrate the impact of their project at the end of their grant period. They will be based on evidence-based or promising practice models in order to avoid "reinventing the wheel" and demonstrate health status improvement in rural communities. Proposed Outreach projects can take the framework of an evidence-based or promising practice model and tailor it to their community's need and organization.

**[Click here for more info on this funding opportunity](#)**

**Applicants must apply for this grant through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)**

---

## Grant Title: Adult Immunization Seed Grant Program

**Agency Issuing Grant:** The National Business Coalition on Health (NBCH), in partnership with GlaxoSmithKline

**Eligible Applicants:** While only National Business Group on Health Coalitions are eligible to apply, immunizations advocates should feel free to reach out to the business coalitions in their area and work with them to create a proposal. The application can only be sent in by the NBCH member, but they can partner with anyone.

A list of the NBCH members can be found at <http://www.nbch.org/Membership>

**Close Date:** 11/4/11

**Total Program Funding:** NBCH will award \$120,000 to member coalitions to support Adult Immunization efforts within a given community.

Proposals should not exceed \$40,000.

**Description:** The Seed Grants will provide business coalitions (who are members of NBCH) the resources to drive innovative, community-focused adult immunization initiatives within the workplace. Assuming compliance with all federal and state laws, activities may:

- Provide adult immunization educational information derived from CDC's immunization schedule;
- Strengthen and support adult immunization infrastructure;
- Focus on advancing the employer/employee knowledge level of vaccine preventable diseases;
- Advance awareness and understanding of the role of adult immunizations in employer focused prevention efforts;
- Focus on systemic, sustainable, achievable, and measurable change related to adult immunization;
- Identify, measure, and remove barriers to access for adult immunization; and
- Build upon and/or collaborate with existing local community adult immunization initiatives.

Per GlaxoSmithKline guidelines, grant money awarded through these seed grants cannot be used to directly purchase vaccines; promote products by name; or pay health care practitioners. However, a Summit partner might already be doing something with the business health coalition in its area that these funds might provide addition support. It also provides an opportunity for pharmacists to reach out to business coalitions in the local area.

Business coalitions on health interested in applying, should send [Carly McKeon](mailto:cmckeon@nbch.org) ([cmckeon@nbch.org](mailto:cmckeon@nbch.org)) an email signaling interest by October 14.



## UPCOMING EVENTS FROM OUR PARTNERS

[The Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Meeting, October 25-28, 2011, Grand Rapids, Michigan.](#)

[National Association of Medicaid Directors Fall Conference, November 7-9, 2011, Washington, DC](#)

[Archived Friday Updates are available on NASUAD's website here.](#)