

Administration unveils federal agencies' Equity Action Plans. Read further for more information in this week's *Washington Weekly*.



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF STATE HEAD INJURY
ADMINISTRATORS**

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by National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

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Administration

HRSA Announces Funding for Community Health Worker Training Program

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), today announced the availability of \$226.5 million in American Rescue Plan funding to launch the Community Health Worker Training Program. This new program will increase the number of community health workers who play a critical role in connecting people to care, including COVID care; mental health and substance use disorder prevention, treatment and recovery services; chronic disease care; and other important health services. Learn more [here](#). To learn about eligibility and to apply for the Community Health Worker Training Program, visit [Grants.gov](#). Applications are due June 14, 2022.

Biden Administration Unveils Federal Agencies Equity Action Plans

Yesterday, the White House held a virtual meeting on equity with more than 90 federal agencies—including all Cabinet-level agencies—releasing their first-ever Equity Action Plans, as called for in President Biden's [Executive Order](#) on "Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government." Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra and the co-chairs of the department's Health Disparities Council—Assistant Secretary for Health Admiral Rachel Levine and the Acting Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation Rebecca Haffajee—also released statements on HHS' [Equity Action Plan- PDF](#) to advance equity in the delivery of health and human services.

CMS Restores Certain Pre-COVID-19 Policies in Long-term Care Facilities

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is taking steps to continue to protect nursing home residents' health and safety by announcing guidance that restores certain minimum standards for compliance with CMS requirements. Restoring these standards will be accomplished by phasing out some temporary emergency declaration waivers that have been in effect throughout the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). These temporary emergency waivers were designed to provide facilities with the flexibilities needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Read more [here](#).

Federal Public Comment Opportunities

NIDILRR Entertains Comments on Peer Review Criteria for Grants Applicants

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) within the Department of Health and Human Service (HHS) is proposing to amend its regulations for the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR). These amendments to NIDILRR's peer review criteria will allow NIDILRR to better evaluate the extent to which grant applicants

conduct outreach to and hire people with disabilities and people from other groups that traditionally have been underserved and underrepresented, and emphasize the need for engineering research and development activities within NIDILRR's Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERC) program. To better promote applicants' hiring of people with disabilities, and people from other underserved communities, NIDILRR is proposing to revise to separate these populations into two distinct peer review subcriteria. This disaggregation of people with disabilities and people from underserved communities into separate subcriteria will allow peer reviewers to more directly evaluate and score the extent to which grant applicants encourage the hiring of people in each of these distinct groups.

The second update is to better emphasize the need for engineering research and development (R&D) activities in NIDILRR's Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERC) program funding opportunities. The update will add a subcriterion under both the "Design of Research Activities" (45 CFR 1330.24(c)) and "Design of Development Activities" (45 CFR 1330.24(d)) that allow reviewers to evaluate the extent to which applicants are proposing engineering knowledge and methods as part of their RERC applications. The absence of such engineering-focused criteria have led to some RERC grants that are not optimally using the engineering R&D methods envisioned in the program's title and statute.

Comments must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. April 18, 2022. You may submit comments through the Federal eRulemaking [portal](#). Follow the "Submit a comment" instructions.

Federal Funding Opportunities

CMS to Hold Next Webinar for MFP Applicants April 27

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) that will offer up to \$110 million to expand access to home and community-based services (HBCS) through Medicaid's Money Follows the Person (MFP) program. These funds will support States that have not previously participated during the initial planning and implementation of their programs.

CMS scheduled two webinars to provide details. The next webinar will be held April 27, 2022, to provide details about the MFP Demonstration Expansion, and to answer questions from potential applicants regarding this funding opportunity. Registration is required. Register [here](#). Please contact MFPdemo@cms.hhs.gov for any questions.

Reports and Resources

Journal Article Focuses on Assessing Trauma Centers with Regard to Pediatric Injury

In January, the *Journal of Pediatric Surgery* featured the article, "Assessing service quality and access in trauma centers through behavioral health screening, education, and treatment after pediatric injury," which reported that over 120,000 U.S. children are hospitalized annual for traumatic injury, with approximated 20% developing acute stress disorder (ASD), posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), or depression. The American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma (ACS COT) recommends that trauma centers address emotional recovery after injury; however, few pediatric trauma centers (PTCs) assess behavioral health symptoms. This study describes results from a survey with PTC providers assessing the landscape of behavioral health screening, education, and treatment. Read further [here](#).

KFF Publishes Article on Nursing Facility Staff Shortages

KFF has analyzed the most recent national and State-level data on nursing facility-reported staff shortages and describes the Biden Administration's new policy initiatives to address staffing and other quality issues in nursing facilities in the Brief, "Nursing Facility Staffing Shortages During the COVID-19 Pandemic," published April 4. National staff shortage trend data spans from May

2020, the first month when nursing facilities were required to report COVID-19 facility data to the CDC, through March 20, 2022, the most recent week of data available. Read more [here](#).

Upcoming Webinars and Conferences

NCAPPS Offers Webinar on Person-Centered Healthcare Delivery

On April 27, 2022, the National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems (NCAPPS) is offering the webinar, "Person-Centered Healthcare Delivery: Centering Patient Experience in Accessing Care from Home," from 3:30pm – 5:00pm (ET). In this webinar, people with lived experience of disability will interview a panel of physicians on the most person-centered ways of delivering healthcare to people with disabilities. The webinar will include tips for patients, their families, and healthcare providers on how to make the best of telehealth or home visit opportunities where they exist. Panelists will share examples from existing programs, reflect on their experiences and challenges, outline best practices, and identify strategies to ensure culturally responsive practices and equitable opportunities for access to person-centered healthcare through telehealth or home visits. Register [here](#).

SARTAC Offers Webinar Series on Writing Policy Information that is Easy to Understand

The Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center (SARTAC) is offering webinars to strengthen the self-advocacy movement by supporting self-advocacy organizations to grow in diversity and leadership, SARTAC provides training and technical assistance on techniques for writing, translation, graphic design and formatting; and other topics related to creating easily understandable materials. The upcoming series are:

- April 25, 2022, [4:00pm – 5:00pm \(ET\)](#), "Overview of Accessible Formats." Register [here](#).
 - May 10, 2022, 4:00pm – 5:00pm (ET), "Plain Language." Register [here](#).
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The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators assists State government in promoting partnerships and building systems to meet the needs of individuals with brain injuries and their families.

Support States. Grow Leaders. Connect Partners.

