

NASHIA opens registration for the 33rd Annual State of the States Conference; announces Legacy Scholarship availability. Read further for more information in this week's *Washington Weekly*.



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF STATE HEAD INJURY
ADMINISTRATORS**

Washington Weekly!

by National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

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Administration

CMS Releases State Health Official Letter on Stand-alone Vaccine Counseling

Yesterday, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a [State Health Official Letter](#) to provide guidance to States on coverage and payment for stand-alone vaccine counseling in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). CMS is interpreting the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit in the Social Security Act to require the provision of stand-alone vaccine counseling to eligible beneficiaries. This mandatorily applies to both Medicaid and Medicaid-expansion CHIP beneficiaries eligible for EPSDT. States have the option to cover stand-alone vaccine counseling for adult Medicaid beneficiaries and beneficiaries in separate CHIPs.

This guidance links the mandatory COVID-19 vaccine and vaccine administration coverage and reimbursement under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) with the "health education" requirement under Medicaid's EPSDT benefit. The health education requirement under EPSDT mandates states to provide coverage of stand-alone vaccine counseling related to all vaccines for Medicaid beneficiaries under the age of 21 who are eligible for EPSDT. Learn more [here](#).

HRSA Releases ARP Payments to Providers Who Serve Rural Areas

On Tuesday, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), released over \$450 million in American Rescue Plan (ARP) Rural payments to 2,200 providers and suppliers who served rural Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and Medicare beneficiaries from January 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020. A total of \$7.9 billion ARP Rural payments has now been distributed to more than 46,000 providers in all 50 States, Washington D.C., and five territories. This is in addition to HRSA's distribution of Provider Relief Fund Phase 4 General Distribution payments totaling nearly \$13.5 billion in funding to approximately 86,000 providers since November 2021.

HHS has updated the [state-by-state table](#) detailing all ARP Rural payments made to date. The ARP Rural [public dataset](#) reflects the names, locations (city, State, and zip code), and payment amounts of all recipients at the applicable subsidiary or billing TIN level. Data does not indicate recipients' attestation status, returned payments, or unclaimed funds.

Federal Funding Opportunities

ACL Announces Funding Opportunity Related to No Wrong Door System

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) has announced a Funding Opportunity related to No Wrong Door system to fund up to 10 States to undergo a two-year process where in the first year the States will assess individual and family caregiver access to long-term services and supports (LTSS). This includes the mapping of key coordination referral sources such as Social Health Access Referral Platforms (SHARPs) sometimes used by health care providers and payers to refer patients to CBOs for services to address their health-related social needs.

After completing the access analysis in the first year of the grant, the State's NWD System governing body will use the second year of the grant to develop a plan to address the identified caregiver access challenges and service or population gaps. Applicants eligible to apply for this Funding Opportunity are the following: domestic public or private non-profit entities including State and local governments, Indian tribal governments and organizations (American Indian/Alaskan Native/Native American), faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, hospitals, and institutions of higher education.

On Wednesday, May 18, 2022, ACL will hold an informational call to discuss the recent Notice of Funding Opportunity and the call will be held from 2:00 to 3:00pm (ET). The Toll-Free Number: is 800-619-8521; Passcode: 3358777. A recording will be available approximately one hour after the call concludes at the following number: 800-597-8358. No registration is required.

The estimated total of funding to be awarded is \$4,000,000 and the expected number of awards is 10. For more information go to [No Wrong Door System Governance: Improving Access to LTSS for Individuals and Family Caregivers Funding](#). Opportunity Number: [HHS-2022-ACL-CIP-NWGV-0067](#). Primary CFDA Number: 93.048. The due date for Letter of Intent is 05/27/2022. The due date for the application is 07/05/2022.

Reports and Resources

NIDILRR Releases Report on Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on People with Disabilities

The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) has released a report, "[Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on People with Disabilities](#)," (PDF) that highlights examples of key research findings on the impact of the pandemic on people with disabilities, as well as available resources from the NIDILRR grantee community. The report includes findings from studies focusing on specific groups that were particularly hard hit, such as people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, people from marginalized communities, and people with mental health disorders. The report also highlights findings and resources in specific areas of community engagement and participation, rural communities, education services, telehealth, and employment and return-to-work accommodations. Finally, the report identifies research gaps and opportunities for further research. [View additional information and resources related to the COVID-19 pandemic from the NIDILRR grantee community](#).

CDC Vital Signs Focuses on Firearm Deaths

The latest CDC *Vital Signs* report focuses on firearm deaths, which continue to be a significant and growing public health problem in the United States. In 2020, 79% of all homicides and 53% of all suicides involved firearms. The substantial increase in the firearm homicide rate, along with notable increases in firearm suicide rates for some groups, has widened racial, ethnic, and other disparities. For example, young people, males, and Black people have the highest firearm homicide rates and experienced the largest increases in 2020. Read the [final report](#).

Upcoming Webinars and Conferences

[ADA Regional Center Offers Webinar on Barriers and Section 508 Solutions](#)

The NIDILRR-funded [Great Lakes ADA Regional Center](#) will host a webinar, [Accessible Data Visualization: Addressing Barriers and Implementing Section 508 Solutions](#), May 24th,

1:00 – 2:30 pm (ET). Presenters will introduce the concept, development, tools, and benefits of data visualizations, including making them accessible. Presenters will review some barriers, solutions, and implications for making data visualization accessible. Continuing education credits are available upon request. [Registration](#) is free and required.

NASHIA Opens Registration for SOS: Announces Legacy Scholarship

The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) has opened registration for the 33rd Annual State of the States (SOS) Conference to be held virtually Sept. 9-13, 2022. Registration is \$300 for members and \$350 for guests. You may register [here](#). NASHIA is offering the Legacy Scholarship to cover SOS fees. Go [here](#) for more information. You may also contact Haleigh Cushen for more information regarding the scholarship at hcushen@nashia.org. Information regarding sponsorships may be found [here](#).

Southeast ADA Center Hosts Webinar on Employment for Long Haulers and COVID

On May 25th, the NIDILRR-funded [Southeast ADA Regional Center](#) will host a webinar, [Employment: Long Haulers and COVID](#) from 2:00 – 3:30pm (ET). Presenters will explore the residual effects of having COVID-19, whether COVID long haulers meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) definition, and accommodations that may enable COVID long haulers to return to work. This webinar is the last of a three-part series on employment and the ADA. Attendance for the first two webinars is not required to attend this webinar. [Registration](#) is free and required.

CASE to Host Training on Section 504

The Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) is hosting a comprehensive training on Section 504 virtually this summer, featuring Julie Weatherly, Esq. On June 13, 2022, the presentation will be geared toward participants who want the basics - including 504 general provisions, Child Find under Section 504, contents of a 504 plan, evaluation and eligibility, and more. Those who want more advanced training can join on June 14 to learn about topics including 504 safeguarded rights, extended school year services, COVID-19 and 504, service animals, and other important information. Participants can register for one or both days. For more information and to register, please go [here](#).

Registration is Open for Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation Association Conference

Registration is now open for the Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation Association, International (NORA) 32nd annual conference, September 8-11, 2022, at the Hyatt Regency Columbus, Columbus, Ohio. The NORA annual conference is a premier event for eye care and other health care professionals who provide rehabilitative services to individuals who have suffered a traumatic brain injury. The 2022 conference will provide a variety of continuing education presentations with key opinion leaders from optometry and other specialties offering a combination of hands-on and lecture style presentations. Further information may be found [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.

