



Washington Weekly!

September 9, 2022

Administration

ACL Awards TBI SPP Grant to South Carolina

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) has recently awarded the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (SCDDSN) a Traumatic Brain Injury State Partnership Program (TBI SPP) grant. The department plans to utilize the funding to conduct a needs assessment to identify gaps in data collection, services, and supports; update South Carolina's TBI strategic plan; and reinstitute the State's TBI registry. The TBI SPP grant program is funded with federal funding authorized by the TBI Program Reauthorization Act of 2018.

HHS Announces New Rule for Public Charge for Benefits for Noncitizens

Yesterday, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued a final rule applicable to noncitizens who receive or wish to apply for benefits provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and States that support low-income families and adults. The rule, which details how DHS will interpret the "public charge" ground of inadmissibility, will help ensure that noncitizens can access health-related benefits and other supplemental government services to which they are entitled by law, without triggering harmful immigration consequences.

The final rule applies to noncitizens requesting admission to the U.S. or applying for lawful permanent residence (a "green card") from within the U.S. When assessing whether a noncitizen is "likely to become primarily dependent on the government for subsistence," DHS will not penalize individuals who choose to access the vast majority of health-related benefits and other supplemental government services available to them, including most Medicaid benefits (except for long-term institutionalization – such as residing in nursing home – at government expense) and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). DHS will also not consider non-cash benefits provided by other government agencies including food and nutrition assistance such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); disaster assistance received under the Stafford Act; pandemic assistance; benefits received via a tax credit or deduction; and government pensions or other earned benefits. Receipt of cash-based benefits, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and other similar programs, will not automatically exclude an individual from admission or green card eligibility, and will instead be considered in a "totality of the circumstances" analysis.

The final rule does not expand eligibility for Medicaid, CHIP, or other benefits to more people but clarifies DHS policy regarding recipients. The final rule will be effective on December 23, 2022.

NOD Celebrates 40th Anniversary and Honors Governor Ridge

The National Organization on Disability (NOD) is hosting its 40th Anniversary celebration, "Honoring the Past; Innovating the Future" on September 29 from 3:30 - 8:00 pm at the Washington, DC. The [event](#) consists of two panel discussions highlighting the accomplishments of the disability community over the last 40 years and culminating in an evening reception, honoring Governor Ridge's leadership as outgoing Board Chair and Carol as outgoing President,

with Michael Smerconish as emcee. Please email Zaida Ricker at zricker@ridgepolicygroup.com by Friday, September 16th, if you are interested in attending.

CMS Simplifies Claims for Medicare Durable Medical Equipment

As part of its ongoing efforts to increase access to care and to reduce unnecessary administrative burden for stakeholders, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will be discontinuing the use of Certificates of Medical Necessity and Durable Medical Equipment Information Forms for claims with dates of service on or after January 1, 2023. This will make it easier for providers and suppliers to get beneficiaries the Durable Medical Equipment they need. For more information, see the CMS [Medicare Learning Network article](#).

NIDILRR Holds Stakeholder Listening Sessions for Long-Range Plan

[NIDILRR/ACL](#) is developing its 2024-2029 Long-Range Plan and has been seeking [input from key stakeholders, including people with disabilities and their families, researchers, service providers, and others](#) through a series of virtual listening sessions. The next session is September 13th, 1:00 – 4:00 pm (ET), for disability groups and advocacy organizations. Additional sessions will be held in late September and in October. Registration is free and required for these sessions. Stakeholders may also provide written feedback by email to NIDILRRfuture@neweditions.net. Comments must be submitted by November 21st.

RAISE Family Advisory Council Holds Joint Meeting

The second joint meeting of the [RAISE Family Caregiving Advisory Council](#) and the [Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren \(SGRG\)](#) will be held on September 21, 2022, to announce the release of the 2022 National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers, as required by the Recognize, Assist, Include, Support and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act.

The meeting will be virtual and open to the public. Pre-registration is not required to attend. The Zoom meeting link will be open for access (live) 5 minutes prior to the meeting start time. All information for this meeting, including an agenda, will be posted on the respective Councils' webpages in advance of the meeting: [RAISE](#) and [SGRG](#).

Proposed Federal Rules

CMS Proposes New Rule for Medicaid and CHIP Application and Verification

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is [proposing a new rule](#) designed to simplify the application and verification processes for people seeking coverage through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program known as CHIP. The regulation being published this week would standardize eligibility and enrollment for the programs, CMS officials said. Further, the rule would generally limit renewals to once a year, ensure that applicants have 30 days to respond to requests, create consistency in the renewal process across States and mandate that renewal forms be pre-populated.

Reports and Resources

NLIHC Issues New Report on State Housing Projects

The National Low Income Housing Coalitions (NLIHC) issued a new report this week, [The National Housing Trust Fund: An Overview of 2017 State Projects](#). Part of NLIHC's effort to document the impact of the national Housing Trust Fund (HTF), the report summarizes how each State and the District of Columbia planned to use \$219 million allocated in 2017 by the HTF. This report describes how States awarded their 2017 national Housing Trust Fund (HTF) allocations to projects requesting HTF funds. For 2017, \$219 million in HTF was available nationally. States in 2017 utilized most of their HTF resources to target projects that will serve people experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities, elderly people, veterans, or other special needs populations.

Rocky Mountain ADA Center Publishes Course on Assistive Technology.

The NIDILRR-funded [Rocky Mountain ADA Regional Center](#) published a course, [Introduction to Assistive Technology](#). The seven-module course focuses on understanding what assistive technologies (AT) are, including the types of AT available, their benefits, and how AT meets the needs of people with disabilities. The course includes a quiz, and users receive a certificate of completion upon passing. A free account is required to access this and more than 20 other courses covering an array of topics relating to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

NIDILRR Project Conducting Nontraditional Employment Participation Survey

The NIDILRR-funded [Field Initiated Project on Contingent Employment of Individuals with Disabilities \(FIP-CE\)](#) is conducting a [survey of nontraditional employment among persons with disabilities](#) to understand how people find and obtain nontraditional work, such as temping, contracting, and freelancing. Researchers also are interested in learning how these jobs affect everyday life, expectations for work, and sense of independence for these workers with disabilities. The survey is open to individuals with disabilities who are 18 or older and who are working or have worked within the last six months in a nontraditional job, such as a temp placement, freelance, contract, commission, piecemeal work, or app-based job (i.e., Uber, TaskRabbit, Handy, or Upwork).

Upcoming Webinars and Conferences

ADA Regional Center Offers Webinar on How to File an ADA Complaint

The NIDILRR-funded [Great Lakes ADA Regional Center](#) will host a webinar, [ADA Enforcement and Steps You Can Take Before You File an ADA Complaint](#), September 20th, 2 – 3:30 pm (ET). Presenters will share the steps that a person can take before filing an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complaint to resolve a disability discrimination issue and the process for filing an ADA complaint with the various federal agencies that enforce the law. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions after the presentation. Registration is free and required. Continuing education credits are available upon request.

AoD TA Center Offers Community of Practice Webinar

On Tuesday, September 13, the AoD Disability Employment TA Center's National Community of Practice webinar, "[Taking a Deeper Dive into a Project of National Significance: Community Collaborations for Employment \(CCE\)](#)", from 3:00 – 4:30pm (ET). In 2021, the Administration for Community Living awarded seven grants to support the Community Collaborations for Employment (CCE) Program to help increase and enhance collaborations across systems to maximize a seamless experience for youth with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) as they transition between school and work in the community. The program recognizes that multiple systems each play a role at the community level to ensure that youth with disabilities have the supports, services, and resources they need to successfully transition into their post-secondary lives. Please register for this webinar [here](#).

National Academy to Host Webinar on National Family Caregiving Strategy

On October 3, 2022, from 2:00-3:00pm (ET), the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) will host the webinar, "National Family Caregiving Strategy: A State Roadmap for Supporting Family Caregivers." NASHP is hosting this webinar to discuss the opportunities within the newly released National Family Caregiving Strategy and how it can provide a roadmap for States that are interested in developing and expanding supports for family caregivers. A federal official, State administrator, and philanthropic expert will give an overview of the first-of-its-kind National Family Caregiving Strategy and will highlight how the State of Delaware is listening to family caregivers to better support their needs. NASHP's RAISE Act Family Caregiver Resource and Dissemination Center is holding this webinar, with generous support from The John A. Hartford Foundation and RRF Foundation for Aging. [Register here](#).

CMS Offers Webinar on Implementing EVV for Home Health Services

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is hosting the webinar, “Building on Successes Toward Implementation of Electronic Visit Verification for Home Health Care Services,” on Sept. 14, 2022, from 1:30 – 3:00pm (EST). This training will build on promising practices for implementing Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) for Medicaid personal care services (PCS) to discuss considerations for States as they implement and adapt their EVV solutions to accommodate Medicaid home health care services (HHCS). Experiences shared in EV Learning Collaboratives, compliance surveys, and targeted interviews with States and stakeholders will inform recommendations in areas of system design and redesign, stakeholder engagement, compliance with the Cures Act, and more. Please register for this webinar [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.

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