



Wyoming Hospital Association

Wyoming Hospital Association

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 52, Number 15

April 23, 2021

HHS Announces Funding Allocation for Navigators

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that to continue its efforts to increase access to enrollment assistance for consumers, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will make \$80 million available in grants to Navigators in Federal Marketplaces for the 2022 plan year.

The funding, which will be used for outreach and education efforts, is the largest allocation CMS has made available for Navigator grants to date and represents an eight fold increase in funding from the previous year. CMS invested \$10 million annually in the Navigator program beginning with funding awarded in 2018 for the 2019 plan year. CMS awarded \$36.2 million in 2017 for the 2018 plan year, down from a high of \$63 million awarded in 2016 for the 2017 plan year.

The Department also released the 2021 Marketplace Open Enrollment report, which shows over 12 million consumers nationally selected a Marketplace plan during the 2021 Open Enrollment Period (OEP), a 5% increase from the 2020 OEP.

The Biden Administration opened a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) in response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency from February 15 to August 15, 2021. The SEP, along with the additional financial assistance afforded by the American Rescue Plan, offers the opportunity for individuals and families to take advantage of significantly reduced premiums, increased savings, and quality, affordable health coverage

through the Marketplaces using the Federal Platform right now. More than 500,000 Americans have signed up for Marketplace coverage through HealthCare.gov during the SEP.

Navigators are a network of trained individuals that help consumers review their health coverage options as well as complete eligibility and enrollment forms. They serve an important role in connecting communities that historically have experienced lower access to health coverage and greater disparities in health outcomes to health coverage. Their mission focuses on assisting the uninsured and other vulnerable communities. The funds will provide vital support and resources to these communities once awarded.

In addition to the increase in number of overall plan selections, the 2021 Marketplace Open Enrollment report also reveals an increase in the number of returning customers continuing their coverage relative to new consumers enrolling in a Marketplace plan. This is primarily due to higher enrollment through special enrollment periods in 2020 and a larger percentage of enrollees with 2020 coverage remaining in their plans for the full year. Nationally, returning consumers made up 79% of consumers with a plan selection during the 2021 OEP, compared to 75% in the 2020 OEP.

Additional data on demographics, including income, premiums and financial assistance for the states with Marketplaces that use the HealthCare.gov platform are also included in the 2021 Marketplace Open Enrollment Report.

Details about the Navigator grant funding, including eligibility requirements and required Navigator duties, are available through the 2021 Navigator Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Forecast. The 2021 Navigator NOFO will be released later this spring as indicated in the NOFO Forecast. All information contained in the forecast is subject to change, including the availability of funding. No applications are being accepted at this time.

To view the 2021 Marketplace Open Enrollment Report, visit: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/health-insurance-exchanges-2021-open-enrollment-report-final.pdf> - PDF.

To view the Navigator Notice of Funding Opportunity Forecast, visit: <https://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Programs-and-Initiatives/Health-Insurance-Marketplaces/assistance>.

For more information on the 2021 Marketplace Open Enrollment Public Use Files, visit: <https://www.cms.gov/research-statistics-data-systems/marketplace-products/2021-marketplace-open-enrollment-period-public-use-files>.

For more information about the Health Insurance Marketplace@1, visit: <https://www.healthcare.gov/quick-guide/getting-marketplace-health-insurance/>.

WHA Calendar	
National Hospital Week	5/9-5/15
WHA Golf Tournament Casper	9/7 2021
Annual Meeting & Convention Casper	9/8-9/9 2021



2021 Contributions

Barry Burkart
Tim Thornell
Robin Roling
Carol Solie

MHSC Mobile Lab

A new mobile laboratory is just a small part of Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County's effort to bring healthcare directly to those who need it.

The 37-foot mobile laboratory into the hospital campus on Tuesday afternoon. Including a mobile lab in the hospital's available resources to the community will allow an increase in collection availability and improve accessibility for patients, "Sweetwater Memorial is thrilled to be able to provide the community with a mobile laboratory to service many of their healthcare needs," said Laboratory Director Mary Fischer.

For the short-term, it will be parked on the hospital campus. Staff expect to have it ready to

use as a COVID-19 swabbing station by the end of May. It will house staff and swabbing equipment and supplies for the drive-thru in front of the hospital's main entrance at 1200 College Drive. The main entrance continues to be closed to the public, with access into the hospital diverted to the Emergency Room entrance.

MHSC was able to purchase the \$262,200 mobile lab and a smaller mobile lab through a Wyoming State Loan and Investment Board grant.

CEO Irene Richardson expressed her gratitude for all of the funding when it was approved last summer.

"Our No. 1 goal has always been to keep our patients, staff and community safe," she said at the time. "This grant funding will help us tremendously in enhancing our efforts to help manage COVID-19. We are truly grateful to Gov. Mark Gordon, his team, the Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investments, and the SLIB for their careful evaluation and approval of our requests."



Helpline for COVID-19 Funeral Expenses

Wyoming residents who lost a loved one to COVID-19 may apply for federal reimbursement of funeral expenses to help ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the pandemic.

A dedicated toll-free phone number to call is 844-684-6333. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) representatives are available to assist callers from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday.

To be eligible for COVID-19 funeral assistance the applicant

must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after Jan. 20, 2020 for a death related to COVID-19.

This assistance is limited to a maximum financial amount of \$9,000 per funeral and a maximum of \$35,500 per applicant. Funeral assistance is intended to help with expenses for funeral services and interment or cremation.

Funeral assistance may not duplicate benefits received from

burial or funeral insurance, financial assistance received from voluntary agencies, federal/state/local/tribal/territorial government programs or agencies, or other sources.

For more information about this assistance, visit COVID-19 Funeral Assistance FEMA.gov.

Individuals who feel they need crisis counseling are encouraged to call Wyoming 2-1-1. This service provides free, confidential, health and human services information and referrals.

Educational Opportunity for Critical Access Hospitals

WHA Resources, in partnership with the Wyoming Office of Rural Health, will be providing our CAH hospitals with complimentary year long access to iProtean.

Join us for an exclusive virtual talk hosted by the Wyoming Hospital Association on Monday, May 03, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

Join Jamie Orlikoff, Barbara Sowada and Jeffery Adler for an exclusive virtual talk on board education. This will be your opportunity to listen, discover, and interact with our speakers in this live event.

Jeffery Adler of iProtean is the CEO of a virtual board education company that focuses on governance information for hospital leadership.

Jamie Orlikoff of Orlikoff & Associates, Inc specializes in health care governance and leadership, strategy, quality, organizational development, and risk management.

Barbara Sowada is an independent hospital & health care professional. Currently she is a trustee at Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County in Wyoming.

We would like to thank Kyle Cameron for her partnership and making Flex funding available for this program. To register visit <https://www.iprotean.com/wha-event>

iProtean

